



Interoffice Memorandum

APPROVED  
BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUG 19 2014 NP/KH

August 4, 2014

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs  
-AND-  
County Commissioners

FROM: Christopher R. Testerman, AICP   
Assistant County Administrator

SUBJECT: August 19, 2014 – Consent Agenda Item  
Orange County Public Schools Referendum Request

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On July 29, 2014, the Orange County School Board (OCSB) passed the attached Resolution pursuant to Section 1011.73(2) Florida Statutes (F.S.), calling for a referendum election to determine whether to authorize the School Board to levy an additional one mill ad valorem tax. The millage would be in effect for four years and used for essential operating expenses. In 2010, Orange County electors approved a similar referendum allowing the increased ad valorem millage.

The referendum would be placed on the ballot for the November 4, 2014 General Election. Section 1011.73(2) F.S. authorizes district school boards, by resolution to, "direct the county commission to call an election". This action by the Board of County Commissioners does not infer support or opposition to the millage increase, but is purely a procedural matter required by law.

**Action Requested:** Approval of a Resolution of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Resolution of the Orange County School Board directing the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to call an election for a referendum to be placed on the ballot of the November 4, 2014 General Election. ALL DISTRICTS.

CRT/maf

Attachments

c: Jeff Newton, County Attorney  
Lila McHenry, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Woody Rodriguez, District General Counsel, Orange County Public Schools

APPROVED  
BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUG 19 2014 NP/KH

# RESOLUTION

of the  
**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
regarding the

**RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
DIRECTING THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS TO CALL AN ELECTION FOR A  
REFERENDUM TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT OF THE  
NOVEMBER 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION**

**Resolution No. 2014-M-48**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Orange County, on July 29, 2014, passed a Resolution Providing for the Holding of a Referendum Election to Determine if the Electors of the School District of Orange County, Florida Authorize the School Board to renew the current One Mill for Four Years for essential operating expenses (Exhibit A); and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board Resolution directs the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to call for the election, as provided under Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

1. That a referendum is hereby called pursuant to Section 1011.73(2) Florida Statutes, on the question set forth in the attached Resolution of the School Board of Orange County and the Orange County Supervisor of Elections is hereby directed to place such question on the Ballot of the November 4, 2014 General Election.

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF AUG 19 2014, 2014.

**ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
By: Board of County Commissioners

BY: Teresa I. [Signature]  
Teresa I. [Signature] County Mayor

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller  
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners  
By: [Signature]  
Deputy Clerk



**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ORANGE, FLORIDA, ORDERING AND PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM ELECTION TO DETERMINE IF THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL BOARD TO RENEW THE ONE MILL FOR FOUR ADDITIONAL YEARS FOR ESSENTIAL OPERATING EXPENSES.**

**WHEREAS**, economic circumstances have required significant budget reductions to the education funding formula since the 2007-08 fiscal year; and,

**WHEREAS**, all School Boards have experienced drastic funding reductions in recent years while operating expenses continue to rise; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County School District has and continues to experience operating budget shortfalls impacting the instructional needs of our students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County School District has experienced a decline in funding of \$426 per student, or 5.86%, since fiscal year 2007-08; and,

**WHEREAS**, when inflation is factored in, the Orange County School District has actually experienced a decline in funding of \$1,499 per student or about a 20.51% decrease in purchasing power per student since fiscal year 2007-08; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County School District relies on the total taxable property values to generate additional local funds for operating expenses; and,

**WHEREAS**, there has been a 10.4% decrease in total taxable property values when compared to the 2007-08 total taxable property values; and,

**WHEREAS**, while property values are beginning to stabilize, there is no assurance that this steep decline in property values when compared with 2007-08 will be overcome in the next four years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County School District also received nearly \$60 million per year for fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11 in Federal Stimulus dollars to partially offset the loss in local and state revenues; and,

**WHEREAS**, those non-recurring revenues were not renewed after 2010-11 and there is no indication that any such funds will be available in the next four years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County School District has needed sufficient revenues to maintain and improve its high quality schools; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, authorizes a school district to levy, by local referendum or in a general election, additional millage for school operational

purposes up to an amount that, when combined with the non-voted millage levied, does not exceed the 10 mill limit established under the Florida Constitution; and,

**WHEREAS**, the electors of Orange County approved a similar referendum in 2010 allowing for an increase in the ad valorem millage for operating purposes for four (4) years pursuant to Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes; and,

**WHEREAS**, that increase in the ad valorem millage for operating purposes was able to generate approximately \$344 million through the four year period ending in fiscal year 2014-15; and,

**WHEREAS**, that increase in the ad valorem millage for operating purposes was able to help preserve academic programs, retain highly qualified teachers, and protect arts, athletics and student activities for the past four years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the School Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the students of Orange County to submit to the voters the question of approving a renewal of the ad valorem millage increase of one mill for four (4) years for essential operating expenses in order to preserve academic programs, retain highly qualified teachers, and protect arts, athletics and student activities necessary to maintain high quality educational opportunities for all students;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the School Board of Orange County, Florida, in a public meeting duly called and assembled this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2014, that the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida, is hereby directed to call an election in conjunction with the general election of November 4, 2014, at which the electors within the school district may vote on approving the renewal of the ad valorem millage increase of one mill for four years as authorized under section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes and the substance of the measure and ballot title shall be as follows:

**BALLOT TITLE:**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AD VALOREM MILLAGE ELECTION

**BALLOT QUESTION:** Shall the School Board of Orange County, Florida renew the current one mill ad valorem millage for essential operating expenses in order to preserve academic programs, retain highly qualified teachers, and protect arts, athletics and student activities beginning July 1, 2015, and ending four (4) fiscal years later on June 30, 2019, with annual reporting to ensure proper fiscal stewardship of these funds to the citizens of Orange County?

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES FOR APPROVAL**

\_\_\_\_\_ **NO FOR REJECTION**

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED** this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.

ATTEST:

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Barbara Jenkins,  
Ex-Officio Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kat Gordon,  
School Board Vice Chair

**BALLOT TITLE:**

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**TÍTULO EN LA PAPELETA DE VOTO:**

**LA JUNTA ESCOLAR DEL CONDADO DE ORANGE, FLORIDA  
ELECCIÓN SOBRE LA TASA DEL IMPUESTO “AD VALOREM”**

¿Deberá la Junta Escolar del Condado de Orange, Florida renovar la corriente tasa del impuesto “ad valorem” de una milésima para gastos esenciales de operación de manera que se preserven programas académicos, se retengan maestros altamente calificados y se protejan las artes, atletismo y actividades estudiantiles; comenzando el 1ro de julio del 2015 y culminando cuatro años después el 30 de junio del 2019, con informes anuales para asegurar la administración apropiada de estos fondos a los ciudadanos del Condado Orange?