

1 Introduced by the Council President at the request of the School
2 Board of Duval County, Florida:

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4
5 **ORDINANCE 2026-387**

6 AN ORDINANCE CALLING AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3,
7 2026, TO HOLD A REFERENDUM OF THE QUALIFIED
8 ELECTORS RESIDING IN DUVAL COUNTY ON THE
9 QUESTION OF WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE CURRENT ONE
10 MILL AD VALOREM TAX TO BE USED FOR SCHOOL
11 OPERATIONAL PURPOSES FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR
12 YEARS BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2027, AND ENDING ON
13 JUNE 30, 2031; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

14
15 **WHEREAS**, on May 5, 2026, the School Board of Duval County,
16 Florida ("School Board") adopted a Resolution calling for a referendum
17 of the qualified electors residing in Duval County, Florida, directed
18 by the City Council to be held at the general election on November
19 3, 2026, on the question of whether to approve the continuation of
20 the current one mill ad valorem tax for school operational purposes
21 for an additional four year period; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Section 9, Article VII of the Florida Constitution
23 authorizes Florida district school boards to levy ad valorem taxes
24 of up to ten mills for all school purposes within the district; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Section 1011.71(9), *Florida Statutes*, further
26 authorizes school boards to levy additional millage for school
27 operational purposes, including charter schools, upon approval of a
28 majority of the electors of the county voting in a referendum; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the School Board has complied with all requirements set
30 forth in Section 1011.73(2), *Florida Statutes*, including adopting the
31 Resolution attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** (the "Resolution"); and

1 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 1011.73(2), *Florida*
2 *Statutes*, and pursuant to the Resolution, the City Council is directed
3 to call an election at which the electors within the school district
4 may approve the continuation of the ad valorem tax millage for school
5 operational purposes; now therefore,

6 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

7 **Section 1. Findings.** The City Council finds as follows:

8 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated
9 herein by this reference. In particular, the City Council finds that
10 the School Board, pursuant to its authority under Section 9, Article
11 VII, Florida Constitution, and Sections 1011.71(9) and 1011.73(2),
12 *Florida Statutes*, has adopted a Resolution requesting that the City
13 Council call an election on November 3, 2026, to hold a referendum
14 of the qualified electors residing in Duval County on the question
15 of whether to approve a continuation of the current ad valorem tax
16 mill to be used for school operational purposes for an additional
17 four years beginning on July 1, 2027, and ending on June 30, 2031.
18 The Resolution is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and is incorporated
19 herein by this reference.

20 **Section 2. Referendum.**

- 21 (a) At the request of the School Board, the ad valorem tax millage
22 referendum shall be placed on the ballot for the general election
23 to be held on November 3, 2026.
- 24 (b) The referendum election shall be held and conducted in the manner
25 prescribed by law for holding referenda elections.
- 26 (c) All qualified electors in Duval County shall be entitled and
27 permitted to vote in the referendum election.
- 28 (d) The Supervisor of Elections is authorized and directed, when
29 printing the mail-in ballots and ballot strips for use in the
30 voting machines for the referendum called for in this Section
31 2, to print the referendum question set forth in Section 4 hereof

1 on said mail-in ballots and ballot strips at the appropriate
2 place therefore.

3 **Section 3. Notice of Referendum.** The Supervisor of
4 Elections shall provide notice of the referendum according to law and
5 in the manner provided in Section 100.342, *Florida Statutes*.

6 **Section 4. Referendum Question.** The form of the title and
7 question for the referendum shall be substantially as follows:

8
9 DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
10 AD VALOREM MILLAGE ELECTION

11
12 Shall the Duval County School District continue the current
13 one (1) mill ad valorem millage for essential operating
14 expenses, shared proportionately with charter schools,
15 including compensating teachers, security, and support
16 staff; preserving academic programs, and protecting arts,
17 athletics, and student activities beginning July 1, 2027,
18 and ending four (4) fiscal years later on June 30, 2031,
19 with annual reporting to ensure proper fiscal stewardship
20 of these funds to the citizens of Duval County?

21
22 _____ YES, for continuation

23
24 _____ NO, against continuation

25
26 **Section 5. Referendum Results.** If a majority of the votes
27 cast in the referendum shall be for continuation of the ad valorem
28 tax to be used for school operational purposes, continuation of the
29 one additional mill shall take effect as provided in the Resolution.
30 If less than a majority of the votes cast at the referendum shall be
31 for continuation of the ad valorem tax to be used for school

1 operational purposes, continuation of the one additional mill shall
2 be defeated.

3 **Section 6. Separate School Board Action.** If a majority of
4 the votes cast in the referendum shall be for continuation of the one
5 mill ad valorem millage, the School Board, by separate action, shall,
6 consistent with law, implement and specify how the proceeds of the
7 continued additional millage shall be used.

8 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become
9 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
10 without his signature.

11
12 Form Approved:

13
14 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

15 Office of General Counsel

16 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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