

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - ____

AN ORDINANCE OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF AN ADDITIONAL ONE (1) MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT AD VALOREM MILLAGE TAX IN LAKE COUNTY FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PURPOSES FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED FOUR (4) YEARS; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF THE LEVY BY VOTERS IN A REFERENDUM; PROVIDING THAT THE IMPOSITION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE BEGINNING JULY 1, 2027 AND ENDING FOUR (4) YEARS THEREAFTER PURSUANT TO SECTION 1011.71(9), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR THE REFERENDUM TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING BALLOT LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF THE ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR NOTIFICATION TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; PROVIDING A CONFLICT CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, allows the district school board of a county to impose, in addition to other taxes allowed by law, an ad valorem tax millage for school operational purposes up to an amount, that combined with the nonvoted millage levied under this section, does not exceed the 10-mill limit; and

WHEREAS, Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, authorizes the district school board to adopt a resolution at a regular meeting which shall direct the county commissioners to call an election in which the electors within the school district may approve an ad valorem tax millage as authorized under Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the School Board did approve a resolution on February 23, 2026, making such request of the Board of County Commissioners.

NOW THEREFORE be it ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida as follows:

Section 1. Referendum. Pursuant to Sections 1011.71(9) and 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, a referendum shall be held on November 3, 2026, in which the electors of Lake County may vote on the imposition of a levy up to an additional one (1) mill school district ad valorem millage tax. The form of ballot for said special election shall be as follows:

1 **BALLOT TITLE: LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AD VALOREM**
2 **TAX FOR TEACHER PAY AND SCHOOL SAFETY**

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4 **BALLOT QUESTION:** To increase teacher pay, recruit and retain teachers,
5 enhance school safety in compliance with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act,
6 and improve student mental health services, shall the School District levy up to
7 one mill of ad valorem taxes for four years with funds shared with eligible charter
8 schools based on each charter school’s proportionate share of the District’s
9 enrollment, and with all expenditures staying local and monitored by an
10 independence citizen review committee?

11
12 ___ YES

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14 ___ NO

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17 **Section 2. Notice of Election.** A notice of the special election shall be published in a
18 newspaper of general circulation in Lake County at least twice, once in the fifth week and once
19 in the third week prior to the week of November 2, 2026.

20 **Section 3. Notice of Passage.** The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is
21 directed to notify the Supervisor of Elections and the State of Florida, Department of Revenue
22 (“Department”) immediately upon the passage of this Ordinance. The Clerk of the Board of
23 County Commissioners is further directed to notify the Department of the outcome of the
24 referendum election within ten (10) days of the date of said election. Said notice shall include
25 the time period during which the levy will be in effect, a copy of this Ordinance, and such other
26 information as the Department shall require by rule.

27 **Section 4. Supervisor of Elections; Authority.** The Supervisor of Elections is
28 hereby granted the authority to correct any scrivener errors associated with the ballot language so
29 long as the intent and substance of the same is not changed.

30 **Section 5. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase or word of this
31 Ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be invalid, unconstitutional, inoperative or void
32 by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the
33 remaining portion of this Ordinance; and it shall be construed to have been the intent of the
34 Board of County Commissioners to pass this Ordinance without such unconstitutional, invalid or
35 inoperative part therein; and the remainder of this Ordinance, after the exclusion of such part or
36 parts shall be deemed and held to be valid, as if such parts had not been included herein; or if this
37 Ordinance or any provisions thereof shall be held inapplicable to any person, groups of persons,

Ordinance 2026-__ School District Ad Valorem Millage Tax

1 property, kind of property, circumstances or set of circumstances, such holding shall not affect
2 the applicability thereof to any other person, property or circumstances.

3 **Section 6. Conflict.** Any ordinance or part thereof in conflict with this Ordinance or
4 any part hereof is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict unless otherwise addressed herein.

5 **Section 7. Filing with the Department of State.** The Clerk shall be and is hereby
6 directed forthwith to send an electronic copy of this Ordinance to the Secretary of State for the
7 State of Florida in accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes.

8 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect as provided for by law.
9

10 **ENACTED** this day of _____ day of _____, 2026.

11 **FILED** with the Secretary of State the ____ day of _____, 2026.

12 **EFFECTIVE** _____, 2026.

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14

15 ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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20 _____
21 Gary J. Cooney , Clerk
22 Board of County Commissioners
23 of Lake County, Florida

Leslie Campione, Chairman

This ____ day of _____, 2026.

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Approved as to form and legality:

Melanie Marsh, County Attorney