

RESOLUTION NO. 24-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING ITS INTENT TO PLACE ON THE AUGUST 20, 2024 BALLOT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE ELECTORATE A REFERENDUM QUESTION OF WHETHER THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THIS COUNTY WILL BE RE-AUTHORIZED TO GRANT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 3, ARTICLE VII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTIONS TO NEW BUSINESSES AND EXPANSIONS OF EXISTING BUSINESSES THAT ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE NEW, FULL-TIME JOBS IN THE COUNTY; PROVIDING A BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF THE REFERENDUM ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution and Section 196.1995, Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida (the “Board”) is authorized to call a referendum within its jurisdiction to determine whether the Board may grant economic development ad valorem (property) tax exemptions to qualifying new businesses and expansions of qualifying existing businesses in Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, by a referendum held on August 26, 2014, the electors of Pinellas County authorized the granting of ad valorem tax exemptions, which may be renewed for a subsequent ten-year period if approved by subsequent referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 2014-56 on December 16, 2014, establishing the County’s authority to establish and grant Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions to certain new businesses and expansions of certain existing businesses; and

WHEREAS, granting such exemptions to qualifying businesses will continue to provide Pinellas County with an additional economic development investment tool which will enhance the desirability of Pinellas County as a location for new businesses and expansions of existing businesses; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County’s authority to grant exemptions will expire on August 27, 2024, unless renewed for another 10-year period by a referendum called and held in accordance with Section 196.1995(7), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to continue offering ad valorem tax exemptions to new qualifying businesses relocating to Pinellas County and to expansions of qualifying businesses already located within Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is adopted pursuant to the Pinellas County Charter, Sections 101.161 & 196.1995, Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, and any other applicable provisions of law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, that:

Section 1. The recitals set forth above are adopted by the Board as the findings of the County and are incorporated herein.

Section 2. A referendum is hereby called in Pinellas County to be held in conjunction with the election of August 20, 2024, to determine whether the Board should be authorized to grant economic development ad valorem (property) tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution, to encourage economic development and establish new jobs.

Section 3. The ballot title and question for the referendum will be in the following form:

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR NEW
BUSINESSES AND EXPANSIONS OF EXISTING BUSINESSES**

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida be authorized to grant, pursuant to s. 3, Art. VII of the State Constitution, property tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in Pinellas County?

_____ **Yes – For authority to grant exemptions**

_____ **No – Against authority to grant exemptions**

Section 4. The Clerk will publish notice of the referendum in accordance with Section 100.342, Florida Statutes.

Section 5. Upon completion of the referendum election called for in this Resolution, the results of such election will be certified in accordance with Chapter 100 and Chapter 102, Florida Statutes, to the Department of State.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

In a regular meeting duly assembled on the 21st day of May, 2024, Commissioner Flowers offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Long, and upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Peters, Scott, Eggers, Flowers, Justice, Latvala, and Long.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: None.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Cody J. Ward
Office of the County Attorney