

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-046

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A BOND REFERENDUM ELECTION RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$65,000,000, PAYABLE FROM AD VALOREM TAX REVENUES TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGACY TRAIL EXTENSION AND ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING SAFE CROSSINGS, OVERPASSES, AMENITIES, AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY WITH ENHANCED CONNECTIVITY FROM NORTH PORT; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR BOND REFERENDUM; CALLING FOR A BOND REFERENDUM ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR POLLING PLACES; PROVIDING FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR DATES AND HOURS FOR VOTING; PROVIDING FOR THE BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR NOTIFICATION BY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

- A. Sarasota County purchased approximately 10.6 miles of railroad corridor in 2004. The railroad corridor has been converted to recreational use serving nearly 200,000 users on an annual basis. The recreation trail is known as the Legacy Trail.
- B. Sarasota County desires to extend the Legacy Trail northward. Sarasota County entered into two contracts with the Trust for Public Land for the acquisition of additional railroad corridor. One contract concerned the purchase of approximately 2.6 miles of railroad corridor and spur lying north of the existing Legacy Trail. The other contract concerns the purchase of 6 miles of railroad corridor and spurs lying from just north of Clark Road to downtown Sarasota.
- C. Sarasota County desires to convert the additional railroad corridor to a safe trail for walking, running, and cycling with additional improvements, including safe crossings, overpasses, amenities, and increased accessibility with enhanced connectivity from North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota.
- D. The Board of County Commissioners desires to submit to a voter referendum the question of whether to authorize the issuance of General Obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed

BOARD RECORDS
FILED FOR THE RECORD
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KAREN J. WOODS
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
SARASOTA COUNTY, FL

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\$65 million at rates not exceeding the maximum lawful rate, maturing within 20 years, payable from ad valorem taxes on taxable property located within Sarasota County, Florida.

- E. Proceeds of the issuance of one or more series of General Obligation bonds will be used to acquire the segment of railroad lying from Ashton Road to Fruitville Road of approximately 6 miles in length and to pay the costs of converting the Legacy Trail Extension to the recreational use described in paragraph C. above.
- F. Proceeds of the issuance of one or more series of General Obligation bonds may also be issued to pay costs of safe crossings, overpasses, amenities and increased accessibility providing enhanced connectivity from North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY. This Resolution is enacted pursuant to the Sarasota County Charter; Article VII, Section 12 of the Florida Constitution; Section 125.013, Florida Statutes; Chapter 100, Florida Statutes; and other applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 3. BOND REFERENDUM. A bond referendum election of the qualified electors residing in Sarasota County is hereby called to be held on November 6, 2018, to determine whether Sarasota County shall be authorized to issue General Obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount of not exceeding Sixty-Five Million Dollars (\$65,000,000), in one or more series, each such series to have a maximum maturity of 20 years from the date of issuance payable from the levy of ad valorem taxes imposed to pay the debt service on any such general obligation bonds for the purpose of acquiring and improving the Legacy Trail Extension with additional improvements including safe crossings, overpasses, amenities, and increased accessibility providing enhanced connectivity from North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota.

SECTION 4. BOND REFERENDUM ELECTION CALLED. A bond referendum election is called to be held on November 6, 2018, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of Sarasota County the question of whether General Obligation bonds may be issued to finance the cost of the acquisition and improvement of the Legacy Trail Extension and additional improvements described in Section 3 hereof.

SECTION 5. POLLING PLACES. The election shall be held at the polling places designated by the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections (the "Supervisor of Elections").

SECTION 6. ELECTION OFFICIALS. The election officials to conduct the election shall be appointed and certified by the Supervisor of Elections pursuant to applicable general law.

SECTION 7. DATES AND HOURS FOR VOTING. All qualified electors residing within Sarasota County may vote in the bond referendum election. Absentee voting shall be permitted upon compliance with applicable provisions of general law.

- A. Early Voting: Designated early voting sites shall be open in accordance with Section 101.657, Florida Statutes.

B. Election Day (November 6, 2018): The polls shall be open on the date of the bond referendum election from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

SECTION 8. BALLOT QUESTION. The ballot question to be voted upon in the election shall be in substantially the following form:

SARASOTA COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR LEGACY TRAIL EXTENSION WITH ENHANCED SAFETY AND CONNECTIONS

To acquire and improve the Legacy Trail Extension railroad corridor as a safe trail for walking, running, and cycling with enhanced connectivity from North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota, with additional improvements including safe crossings, overpasses, amenities, and increased accessibility, shall Sarasota County issue General Obligation bonds, not exceeding the maximum lawful interest rates, maturing within 20 years from each issuance, not exceeding \$65 million payable from ad valorem taxes restricted to these purposes?

_____ YES, FOR BONDS

_____ NO, AGAINST BONDS

SECTION 9. NOTICE OF ELECTION. The Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners shall publish a notice of the referendum election in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, a newspaper of general circulation published in Sarasota County, Florida, said notice shall be published once in the fifth week prior to the week of the election and once in the third week prior to the week of the election with the first publication to be at least thirty (30) days before the date of the election. The notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION

SARASOTA COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR LEGACY TRAIL EXTENSION WITH ENHANCED SAFETY AND CONNECTIONS

To acquire and improve the Legacy Trail Extension railroad corridor as a safe trail for walking, running, and cycling with enhanced connectivity from North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota, with additional improvements including safe crossings, overpasses, amenities, and increased accessibility, shall Sarasota County issue General Obligation bonds, not exceeding the maximum lawful interest rates, maturing within 20 years from each issuance, not exceeding \$65 million payable from ad valorem taxes restricted to these purposes?

_____ YES, FOR BONDS

_____ NO, AGAINST BONDS

The polls will be open at the voting places on the date of such election from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All qualified voters residing within Sarasota County may vote in the election. Early voting and vote-by-mail voting will be permitted upon compliance with the applicable provisions of general law.

Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of
the Circuit Court and the
Ex-Officio Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners
of Sarasota County, Florida.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared severable.

SECTION 11. NOTIFICATION BY CLERK. The Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners shall immediately notify the Supervisor of Elections of the adoption of this Resolution and transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Supervisor of Elections.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, this 14th day of March, 2018.

ATTEST:

KAREN E. RUSHING, Clerk of Circuit
Court and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners of Sarasota County,
Florida

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: [Signature]
Chair