

# Board of County Commissioners

## Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: August 2, 2010

Date Submitted: July 23, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Becky Cook, Chairman, Wakulla County School Board  
David Miller, Superintendent, Wakulla County School District

Subject: Request Board Approval to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Supervisor of Elections to Place a Referendum on the November 2, 2010 General Election

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests the Board to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Supervisor of Elections to place on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot a referendum which would allow the School District of Wakulla County, by an annual super majority vote, to continue to levy the .25 Critical Needs Millage for critical operating needs for the district in the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 fiscal years in an effort to preserve critical operating needs of the District while enduring declining state revenues.

### **Background:**

The Florida legislature reduced the discretionary millage the School Board could levy from 1.75 mills to 1.5 mills. The .25 mills was available if the School Board approved the levy by super-majority vote and declared weather it was for critical operating needs or critical capital outlay needs.

All School Boards in the State of Florida, including this Board, have experienced drastic funding reductions in recent years while operating expenses continue to rise.

In the School District of Wakulla County, currently recognized revenue losses from the 2007-2008 fiscal year to the 2009-2010 fiscal year are equivalent to a per pupil decrease of more than 5.9 percent in total funding, and a decline of \$4,210,906 million in state revenues, and additional reductions are anticipated for the 2010-2011 and subsequent fiscal years.

As authorized by Section 1011.71(3)(b), Florida Statutes, as amended by Ch. 2009-59, § 33, at 35, Laws of Fla., this School Board determined, by an annual super majority vote, to levy an additional 0.25 mills for critical operating needs of the District (or “Critical Needs Millage”) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year in an effort to preserve critical operations of the District while enduring declining state revenues.

This School Board has also expressed its intent to levy the Critical Needs Millage for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, again endeavoring to preserve critical operations of the District while enduring declining state revenues.

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Section 1011.71(3)(b), F.S., as amended during the 2010 Legislative Session (CS/HB 5101) provides that in order to levy such millage in any year after the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the authority of the school board, by a super majority vote, to levy the 0.25 Critical Needs Millage must be approved by the voters of the school district at the 2010 general election or at a subsequent election held at any time, for a period not in excess of two years or until changed by another millage election, whichever is earlier.

**Analysis:**

The Legislature by amending Section 1011.71(3)(b), F.S. took 0.25 mills of the 1.75 mills the School Board had the discretion to levy and required a super-majority vote to continue to levy in fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11. The School Board levied the 0.25 mills for both fiscal years. On July 19, 2010, the School Board passed a Resolution (Attachment #1) to place a referendum on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot to determine if the voters approve the School Board to continue to levy 0.25 Critical Operating Needs Millage for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-2013. Florida Statute 1011.73 states “The district school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a regular meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call an election”.

**Options:**

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the Supervisor of Elections to place the 0.25 Critical Operating Needs Millage on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution authorizing the Supervisor of Elections to place the 0.25 Critical Operating Needs Millage on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot.
3. Board direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1

**Attachment:**

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Adopted School Board Resolution