



November 18, 2025

Representative Jennifer H. Canady  
State Representative, District 50  
Post Office Box 5211  
Lakeland, FL 33807

Dear State Representative Canady,

The Polk County Board of County Commissioners (Polk County BoCC) encourages the Florida state legislators to take action to amend Section 1011.73, Fla. Stat. to allow district school boards to call elections pursuant to a resolution adopted at a regular meeting. Currently, Section 1011.73, Fla. Stat., requires that the district school board direct the county commissioners to call for a referendum at which the electors within the school districts may approve an additional ad valorem tax millage. The Second District Court of Appeal of Florida in the case of Hillsborough County v. School Board of Hillsborough, 395 So3d 1116 (Fla. 2d DCA 2024), held that a board of county commissioners' duty to set a referendum directed by a school board pursuant to the School Board Millage Statute is purely a ministerial task and the county commissioners have no discretion in calling for the referendum. Accordingly, the requirement for the county commissioners to call for a referendum is unnecessary and inefficient. One possible solution would be to add language that allows a district school board to direct the supervisor of elections to place the referendum on the ballot pursuant to an adopted resolution.

Best Regards,

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Becky Troutman  
Commissioner, District 1

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Rick Wilson  
Commissioner, District 2

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Bill Braswell  
Commissioner, District 3

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Martha Santiago, Ed.D.  
Commissioner, District 4

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Michael Scott  
Commissioner, District 5