



November 25, 2025

John Bohde
Deputy County Manager
Polk County Board of County Commissioners
330 W. Church Street
Bartow, FL 33830

Re: Lobbyist/Consultant Agreement

Dear Mr. Bohde:

Capital City Consulting, LLC, (hereinafter “CCC”) welcomes the opportunity to represent Polk County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (hereinafter “Polk County”) as consultants/lobbyists before Florida’s legislative and executive branches. Given our government affairs experience, we believe we are well equipped to enhance your efforts in Tallahassee. This letter of agreement is intended to set forth our understanding as to the nature, scope and terms of professional consulting services CCC has agreed to provide to Polk County.

SCOPE OF SERVICES. CCC agrees to represent Polk County during legislative sessions and committee weeks to monitor all actions of the legislative and executive branches that could impact Polk County. In addition, CCC agrees to lobby all branches of government to assist Polk County in securing appropriations for local projects.

TERM. The term of this relationship shall begin on January 1, 2026, and continue until September 30, 2026.

FEES. CCC will provide the above referenced professional services for monthly fee of \$7,500. In addition to our fee for services. CCC may charge separately for out-of-pocket expenses such as travel required in your representation and lobbyist registration, CCC will discuss such expenditures with Polk County and receive prior authorization from the County Manager for Polk County before incurring them.

CONFIDENTIALITY. CCC will treat any and all information, communications, or materials of Polk County as confidential and will not disclose or divulge same unless otherwise directed or authorized by Polk County or ordered to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction.

REPORTING. CCC will monitor all relevant actions of the Legislature and provide oral and written reports. CCC will be available to meet or discuss the status of any activities undertaken on behalf of

Polk County. At mutually convenient times, CCC will schedule periodic meetings or conference calls at Polk County's direction to review progress of any given task or project. CCC members will be continuously available by telephone, email and cell phone to serve your communication needs.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. CCC and its employees, independent contractors and agents are independent contractors in the rendition of the services under this agreement and shall not hold itself out nor permit its employees, independent contractors or agents to hold themselves out, nor claim to be officers or employees of Polk County.

ETHICAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS. CCC agrees to comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations in its representation of Polk County under this agreement. In accordance with Florida reporting obligations required of lobbying firms, the firm must report percentages of this fee allocated to the legislative and executive branch services. Based on our previous experience and the nature of your issues, we project the work to be allocated 25% toward executive branch lobbying efforts and 75% toward legislative.

PUBLIC RECORDS. As a vendor to a government entity, CCC is mindful of the obligations of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes ("Public Records Law"). At times, CCC can be called upon to assist Polk County in fulfilling its obligations under the Public Records Law. In that event, CCC will separately charge the Polk County for CCC's costs in complying with such a request, including any out-of-pocket costs incurred by CCC's counsel or technology vendor. Polk County agrees to pay CCC for those additional items, should CCC be called upon to assist Polk County in complying with requests under the Public Records Law.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. CCC does not foresee any potential conflicts of interest with current clients. However, in the event that a conflict does occur with a future client, CCC agrees to disclose the conflict to both parties as soon as practical. CCC will attempt to resolve such conflict to the satisfaction of both parties. If a resolution agreeable to both parties is not achievable, then CCC must resolve the conflict in favor of any client represented prior to Polk County's initial retention of CCC.

ISSUANCE OF PAYMENTS AND NOTICE: Polk County can remit payment by check or wire. Checks should be made payable to "Capital City Consulting, LLC", and sent to Capital City Consulting, LLC at 124 W. Jefferson St., Tallahassee, Florida 32301. All written notices from Polk County to CCC shall also be sent to this address. Wire payment information will be provided at the bottom of all invoices.

Notices shall be provided to **Polk County** through direct mail at:
County Manager
P.O. Box 9005
Bartow, Florida 33831-9005

Billing online shall be directed to **Polk County** via email to the following authorized accounting representative at the following email address: **billbeasley@polkfl.gov**

GENERAL PROVISIONS: CCC acknowledges and agrees to the Polk County General Terms and Conditions attached hereto as exhibit "A."

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS. This agreement constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the parties hereto. It supersedes all prior negotiations, discussions, correspondence, communications, understandings, and agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter of this agreement. If any portion of this agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable, all other terms,

provisions and covenants shall remain in full force and effect. Any amendment hereto must be in writing and signed by the parties. Although multiple members of our firm, including myself (Chris Schoonover), are Florida licensed attorneys, this representation is not for legal services.

Chris Schoonover will have primary responsibility for this engagement.

If you agree with the terms contained in this letter of agreement, please sign and date this document and return it to our office. We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Christopher Schoonover

I agree with the terms of this letter contract on behalf of the Polk County Board of County Commissioners.

Signed on this _____ day of _____ 20____.

Signature

Title

Affidavit Regarding the Use of Coercion for Labor or Services

In compliance with Section 787.06(13), Florida Statutes, this attestation must be completed by an officer or representative of a nongovernmental entity that is executing, renewing, or extending a contract with Polk County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida.

The undersigned, on behalf of the entity listed below (the "Nongovernmental Entity"), hereby attests under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.
2. I currently serve as an officer or representative of the Nongovernmental Entity.
3. The Nongovernmental Entity does **not** use coercion for labor or services, as those underlined terms are defined in Section 787.06, Florida Statutes.
4. This declaration is made pursuant to Section 92.525, Fla. Stat. and Section 787.06, Fla. Stat. I understand that making a false statement in this declaration may subject me to criminal penalties.

Under penalties of perjury, I Christopher Schoonover, Partner (Signatory Name and Title), declare that I have read the foregoing Affidavit Regarding the Use of Coercion for Labor and Services and that the facts stated in it are true.

Further Affiant sayeth naught.

Capital City Consulting, LLC
NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY


SIGNATURE

Christopher Schoonover
PRINT NAME

Partner
TITLE

12/08/2025
DATE

Exhibit “A”
Polk County General Terms and Conditions

For purpose of these general terms, the person or entity entering into the contract with Polk County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida shall be referenced as “Contractor” and by entering into an agreement with Polk County, the Contractor agrees to these general terms.

I. **Sovereign Immunity**. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of POLK COUNTY’S sovereign immunity or an increase in the limits of liability pursuant to Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, regardless of whether any such obligations are based in tort, contract, statute, strict liability, negligence, product liability or otherwise.

II. Certification of Non-Scrutinized Company

A. Contractor hereby certifies the following to Polk County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, by and on behalf of the Contractor in accordance with the requirements of Section 287.135, Florida Statutes:

(i) The Contractor is not on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, created pursuant to Section 215.4725, Florida Statutes, nor is the Contractor engaged in a boycott of Israel, nor was the Contractor on such List or engaged in such a boycott at the time it submitted its bid to the County with respect to the Contract.

(ii) Additionally, if the value of the goods or services acquired under the Contract are greater than or equal to One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), then the Contractor further certifies to the County as follows:

(a) the Contractor is not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, created pursuant to Section 215.473, Florida Statutes; and

(b) the Contractor is not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, created pursuant to Section 215.473, Florida Statutes; and

(c) the Contractor is not engaged in business operations (as that term is defined in Florida Statutes, Section 287.135) in Cuba or Syria; and

(d) the Contractor was not on any of the Lists referenced in this subsection (ii), nor engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria when it submitted its bid to the County with respect to the Contract.

(iii) The Contractor is fully aware of the penalties that may be imposed upon the Contractor for submitting a false certification to the County regarding the foregoing matters.

(iv) The Contractor hereby acknowledges that, in addition to any other termination rights stated in the Contract, the County may immediately terminate the Contract upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

(a) The Contractor is found to have submitted a false certification to the County with respect to any of the matters set forth in subsection (i) above, or the Contractor is found to have been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List or is engaged in a boycott of Israel.

(b) The Contractor is found to have submitted a false certification to the County with respect to any of the matters set forth in subsection (ii) above, or the Contractor is found to have been placed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, or has been engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria, and the value of the goods or services acquired under this Contract are greater than or equal to One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000).

(v) The undersigned is duly authorized to execute this Certification by and on behalf of the

Contractor.

III. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND RECORDS.

A. CONTRACTOR acknowledges the COUNTY's obligation under Article I, Section 24, of the Florida Constitution and under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, to release public records to members of the public upon request and comply in the handling of the materials created under this Contract. CONTRACTOR further acknowledges that the constitutional and statutory provisions control over the terms of this Contract. In association with its performance pursuant to this Contract, CONTRACTOR shall not release or otherwise disclose the content of any documents or information that is specifically exempt from disclosure pursuant to all applicable laws.

B. Without any manner limiting the generality of the foregoing, to the extent applicable, CONTRACTOR acknowledges its obligations to comply with Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes, with regard to public records, and shall:

(i).keep and maintain public records required by the COUNTY to perform the services required under this Contract;

(ii).upon request from the COUNTY's Custodian of Public Records or his/her designee, provide the COUNTY with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, or as otherwise provided by law;

(iii).ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the term of this Contract and following completion of this Contract if CONTRACTOR does not transfer the records to the COUNTY; and

(iv).upon completion of this Contract, transfer, at no cost, to the COUNTY all public records in possession of CONTRACTOR or keep and maintain public records required by the COUNTY to perform the service. If CONTRACTOR transfers all public records to the COUNTY upon completion of this Contract, CONTRACTOR shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If CONTRACTOR keeps and maintains public records upon completion of this Contract, CONTRACTOR shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the COUNTY, upon request from the County's Custodian of Public Records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the COUNTY.

C. IF CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE COUNTY'S CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT:

RECORDS MANAGEMENT LIAISON OFFICER

POLK COUNTY

330 WEST CHURCH ST.

BARTOW, FL 33830

TELEPHONE: (863) 534-7527

EMAIL: RMLO@POLK-COUNTY.NET

IV. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION (E-VERIFY).

- A. Unless otherwise defined herein, terms used in this Section which are defined in Section 448.095, Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, shall have the meaning ascribed in said statute.
- B. Pursuant to Section 448.095(5), Florida Statutes, the contractor hereto, and any subcontractor thereof, must register with and use the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all new employees of the contractor or subcontractor. The contractor acknowledges and agrees that (i) the County and the contractor may not enter into this

Agreement, and the contractor may not enter into any subcontracts hereunder, unless each party to this Agreement, and each party to any subcontracts hereunder, registers with and uses the E-Verify system; and (ii) use of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify System and compliance with all other terms of this Certification and Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., is an express condition of this Agreement, and the County may treat a failure to comply as a material breach of this Agreement.

- C. By entering into this Agreement, the contractor becomes obligated to comply with the provisions of Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., "Employment Eligibility," as amended from time to time. This includes but is not limited to utilization of the E-Verify System to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees, and requiring all subcontractors to provide an affidavit attesting that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with, an unauthorized alien. The contractor shall maintain a copy of such affidavit for the duration of this Agreement. Failure to comply will lead to termination of this Agreement, or if a subcontractor knowingly violates the statute or Section 448.09(1), Fla. Stat., the subcontract must be terminated immediately. If this Agreement is terminated pursuant to Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., such termination is not a breach of contract and may not be considered as such. Any challenge to termination under this provision must be filed in the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida no later than 20 calendar days after the date of termination. If this Agreement is terminated for a violation of Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., by the contractor, the contractor may not be awarded a public contract for a period of 1 year after the date of termination. The contractor shall be liable for any additional costs incurred by the County as a result of the termination of this Agreement. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to allow intentional discrimination of any class protected by law.

V. Annual Appropriations

Contractor acknowledges that during any fiscal year the County shall not expend money, incur any liability, or enter into any agreement which by its terms involves the expenditure of money in excess of the amounts budgeted as available for expenditure during such fiscal year. Accordingly, any agreement, verbal or written, the Commission may make in violation of this fiscal limitation is null and void, and no money may be paid on such agreement. The Commission may enter into agreements whose duration exceeds one year; however, any such agreement shall be executory only for the value of the services to be rendered which the County agrees to pay as allocated in its annual budget for each succeeding fiscal year. Accordingly, the Commission's performance and obligation to pay the Contractor under this Agreement is contingent upon annual appropriations being made by the County for that purpose.

VI. Non-Discrimination

The Contractor warrants and represents that all of its employees are treated equally during employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age or national origin.

VII. Contingent Fees

The Contractor warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Contractor to solicit or secure this Agreement and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual or firm, other than bona fide employee working solely for the Contractor, any fee, commission, percentage, gift or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement.

VIII. Public Entity Crimes

The Contractor understands and acknowledges that this Agreement with the County will be voidable by the County, in the event the condition under Section 287.133, Florida Statutes applies to the Contractor, relating to conviction for a public entity crime.