RESOLUTION NO. 2020-111

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF THE REFERENDUM SLATED FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION FOR THE ELECTORS WITHIN NASSAU COUNTY TO VOTE ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE COUNTY TO ISSUE UP TO $30 MILLION IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR A CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, beginning in 2018, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners requested staff to begin researching the creation of a Countywide conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2018, County staff researched multiple Florida county conservation land programs and presented findings to the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2018, County staff convened a Technical Advisory Group consisting of land conservation professionals and associated fields to aid in identifying best practices and steps to move forward with a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, in February 2019, the Board of County Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Trust for Public Land to conduct a financial feasibility analysis to consider funding options for a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, the completed Financial Feasibility report was shared with the Board of County Commissioners in August 2019; and

WHEREAS, at a Workshop held on October 16, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners directed a Resolution be created to place a referendum on the ballot of the 2020 Election to allow the County to issue up to $30 million on general obligation bonds, not

exceeding lawful interest rates, payable from ad valorem taxes and not to exceed 30 years for a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2019-17 was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on December 9, 2019, authorizing placement of the referendum on the 2020 Ballot; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had great impact on Nassau County families and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the challenges Nassau County residents have faced during the unprecedented times and feels that it would be in the best interest of the citizens to remove the referendum from the 2020 Ballot;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners feels that a Conservation Land Acquisition and Management Program is still a need in Nassau County and will proceed with creation of the Program, with the intent of adding the referendum to the 2022 Ballot for the Electors in Nassau County to vote on.

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

1) The Board authorizes removal of the referendum authorizing the County to issue up to $30 million in General Obligation Bonds for a Land Conservation Acquisition and Management Program.

2) The Board will continue with creation of the Land Conservation Acquisition and Management Program, with the intent to place a referendum on the 2022 Ballot for consideration by the Electors of Nassau County.

DULY ADOPTED this 17th day of June, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

DANIEL B. LEEPER
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's Signature:

P.P JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

MES 06.18.20

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:

MICHAEL S. MULLIN

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-176

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING PLACEMENT OF A REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION FOR THE ELECTORS WITHIN NASSAU COUNTY TO VOTE ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE COUNTY TO ISSUE UP TO $30 MILLION IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR A CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Florida local governments are authorized to issue debt for capital improvement purposes including conservation land, parks, and open space in the form of general obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2018, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners requested staff to start researching the creation of a Countywide conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, in Summer 2018, County staff researched multiple Florida county conservation land programs and presented findings to the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in Fall 2018 County staff convened a Technical Advisory Group consisting of land conservation professionals and associated fields to aid in identifying best practices and steps to move forward with a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the Board of County Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Trust for Public Land to conduct a financial feasibility analysis to consider funding options for a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, the completed Financial Feasibility report was shared with the Board of County Commissioners in August 2019 and the Commissioners requested a workshop to be scheduled in October 2019 to further discuss future funding; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners held a workshop on October 16, 2019 with Trust for Public Land representation present; and

WHEREAS, at the meeting held on October 16, 2019, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners directed a resolution be created for review to place the conservation land acquisition and management program referendum on the ballot for the November 2020 Election; and

WHEREAS, the ballot language discussed on October 16, 2019 asks voters to consider allowing Nassau County to issue up to $30 million in general obligation bonds, not exceeding lawful interest rates, payable from ad valorem taxes and not to exceed 30 years for a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed conservation land acquisition and management program would be subject to citizen oversight and full public disclosure of all bond spending.

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

1. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners hereby directs placement of a referendum on the ballot for the November 2020 election, whereby the electors within Nassau County may vote on the authorizing the County to issue general obligation bonds for a Countywide conservation land acquisition and management program.

2. The substance and title of the referendum shall be as follows:

> **BALLOT TITLE: NASSAU COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR LAND TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND RIVERS**
>
> **BALLOT QUESTION:** To acquire land to improve water quality in rivers, creeks, and drinking water sources; to protect natural areas to prevent flooding, the St. Mary's, Nassau and Amelia Rivers, and beaches; and conserve wildlife habitat; shall Nassau County be authorized to issue General Obligation Bonds, not exceeding maximum lawful interest rates, maturing within 30

years, not exceeding 30 million dollars payable from ad valorem taxes, with citizen oversight and full public disclosure of all bond spending?

DULY ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

JUSTIN M. TAYLOR
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's Signature:

JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

MES
12.10.19

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:

MICHAEL S. MULLIN