

RESOLUTION 2017-038

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE 2017-2018 BUDGET; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, there are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout Volusia County and Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida's remarkable biological diversity and its natural systems are the fundamental basis of its quality of life and economy; and

WHEREAS, population and development impacts are expected to grow over the next two decades and conservation is an accepted way to buffer the impacts of growth on natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection states: "Florida Forever is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage"; and

WHEREAS, 73.07% of Volusia County voters and 75% of Florida voters (4.2 million citizens) voted on November 4, 2014, to approve an Amendment to Article X, section 28 of the Florida Constitution to acquire and manage environmentally sensitive lands; and

WHEREAS, it is the request of Volusia County that the legislature fulfill its obligation to the people to provide significant funding of conservation land acquisition as called for in the 2014 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, these lands need to be acquired and preserved by fee simple acquisition, conservation easement, or purchase of development rights to protect our future prosperity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN OPEN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED IN THE THOMAS C. KELLY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, DELAND, FLORIDA THIS 6TH DAY APRIL, 2017, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. Declaration of Support: The County Council of Volusia County considers the acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands to be a crucial public benefit to the future of this county and the State of Florida. The County Council therefore declares its support to the Florida Legislature for significantly increased funding of Florida Forever in fiscal


year 2017-2018 for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation easements, and requests that Volusia County's legislative delegation advocate for increased funding.


SECTION II: Transmittal: A copy of this Resolution is to be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Florida, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and members of the Volusia County legislative delegation.


SECTION III. Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED IN OPEN MEETING

COUNTY COUNCIL
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: 
Ed Kelley
County Chair



ATTEST: 
James T. Dinneen
County Manager