

WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners

William "Bill" Chapman, District 1, Vice-Chair



Cecilia Jones, District 2, *Chair*

Melanie Nipper, District 3

Sara Comander, District 4

Tony Anderson, District 5

RESOLUTION 2017-29

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE 2017-2018 BUDGET.

WHEREAS, there are environmentally sensitive natural areas and conservation lands necessary to protect our water resources, fish and wildlife, and recreational access throughout Walton 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 land 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, 54.3% of Walton 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 Walton County that the legislature fulfill its obligation to the people to provide significant funding for 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 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that: Walton County respectfully requests that the Florida state legislature significantly increase funding for the acquisition of conservation lands and conservation easements in the 2017-2018 budget.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that Walton 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.

THIS RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED after motion, second and majority vote favoring the same, this 11th day of April, 2017.

Dani Conde

Alex Alford, Clerk of Court
And County Comptroller



Cecilia Jones

Cecilia Jones, Chairwoman
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS