

**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 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

*Dani Conde*

Alex Alford, Clerk of Court  
And County Comptroller



*Cecilia Jones*

Cecilia Jones, Chairwoman  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS