Agenda Item # TIME CERTAIN 11:00

### PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	July 1, 2014	[] Consent	[X] Regular	
Department		[] Public Hearing		
Submitted By:	COUNTY ATTORNEY			
Submitted For:	School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida			
and the second secon				

## I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: a resolution calling for a referendum to be held on November 4, 2014 for the purpose of submitting to the duly qualified electors of Palm Beach County, Florida a question regarding the School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida's authority to continue an annual levy of 0.25 mills for operational purposes of non-charter District schools for the next four fiscal years beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2019; providing for notice of election; providing for an official ballot; providing for absentee voting and early voting; providing for referendum results; providing for severability and providing an effective date.

Summary: Section 1011.71, Florida Statutes, permitted the School Board, by super majority vote, to levy an annual 0.25 mills for school operational purposes. That statute requires a referendum to be held before that 0.25 mills levy may be extended. The .25 mills levy will be spent on non-charter District schools within the District. The School Board adopted a resolution on June 18, 2014, under Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, to direct that this referendum be held on November 4, 2014. Adoption of this resolution will allow the referendum to be held. <u>Countywide</u> (PFK)

### **Continued on Page 3**

### Attachments:

1. Resolution.

Recommended by:

Approved b

Date

# II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<b>Fiscal Years</b>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs External Revenues Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County)					
*NET FISCAL IMPACT * No Fiscal Impact					
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative	)				
Is Item Included in Curren	t Budget?	Yes_	No	-	
Budget Account No.:	und	Department_	Unit	Object_	
I	Reporting C	ategory	_		
B. Recommended Sou	rces of Fun	ds/Summary	of Fiscal Im	pact:	
C. Departmental Fisca	l Review:				
	III. <u>REVI</u>		NTS		
A. OFMB Fiscal and/or	Contract D Dulation	DH Ear	have W	۲۰۰۰ (ال	<u>-∂3</u> -⁄y itrol
B. Legal Sufficiency:					
Assistant Count		20/14			
C. Other Department R	eview:				

**Department Director** 

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.

### Background continued:

**Background and Policy Issues**: Subject to approval by the duly qualified electors of Palm Beach County at a referendum held as provided in Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, the School Board has the authority to continue a levy of 0.25 mills for school operational purposes of non-charter District schools for the School District 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years in an effort to preserve school operational needs of the School District. The School Board has adopted a Resolution making the findings above and has requested the Board of County Commissioners to authorize the referendum referenced in that School Board resolution.

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#### RESOLUTION NO. R-2014-\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A **REFERENDUM TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 FOR THE** THE DULY QUALIFIED PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO OF ELECTORS PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA QUESTION REGARDING THE SCHOOL BOARD'S AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE AN ANNUAL LEVY OF 0.25 MILLS FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES OF NON-CHARTER DISTRICT SCHOOLS FOR THE NEXT FOUR FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR AN OFFICIAL BALLOT; PROVIDING FOR ABSENTEE VOTING AND EARLY PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM VOTING; **RESULTS:** PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, all School Boards in the State of Florida, including the School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida (the "School Board"), have experienced drastic funding reductions in recent years while operating expenses continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, per student funding provided through the Florida Education Finance Program has not returned to the level of pre-recession funding in Fiscal Year 2008. Additionally, property taxable values have not returned to pre-recession levels; and

WHEREAS, for the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida (the "School District") Education Finance Program revenue is equal to \$7,160.86 per pupil for 2013-2014 fiscal year, compared with \$7,593.77 at the start of 2007-2008 fiscal year. The diminished per pupil revenue equates to approximately \$78.0 million in unrealized annual revenue for the 2013-2014 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, as authorized by Section 1011.71(3)(b), Florida Statutes, as amended by Ch. 2009-59, §33, Laws of Fla. the School Board determined, by an annual

super majority vote, to levy an additional 0.25 mills for critical operating needs of the District for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Subsequently, with approval of the duly qualified electors of Palm Beach County, at a referendum held in November 2010, as provided in Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, the School Board continued to levy 0.25 mills for critical operating needs for 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, since 2010-2011, the 0.25 mills levied has generated an average of \$33 million in annual revenue that has been used to fund over 500 classroom teachers in non-charter District schools. An Independent Oversight Referendum Committee, comprised of independent citizens, reviews expenditures to ensure the proceeds are expended in non-charter District schools as specified in the ballot approved by voters; and

WHEREAS, the authority to levy 0.25 mills for critical operating needs expires at the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year, and therefore the School Board must either (i) make severe cuts to its operating budget, including significant reductions to arts, music, physical education, career and academic programs at non-charter District schools, or (ii) seek approval of the electors to continue the levy of an additional 0.25 mills for operational needs of the non-charter District schools for a period of four additional years, commencing on July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2019, as authorized by Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2014, the School Board adopted a Resolution making the findings above and requesting the Palm Beach County Board of County

Commissioners (the "Board") to authorize the referendum referenced in that School Board Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to satisfy the request of the School Board that this referendum shall be authorized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1. REFERENDUM; NOTICE OF ELECTION. The Board hereby calls a referendum to be held throughout Palm Beach County, Florida on November 4, 2014, for the purpose of submitting to the duly qualified electors of Palm Beach County the question set forth herein. The Board hereby approves the date for the referendum to be November 4, 2014 and directs the Supervisor of Elections of Palm Beach County to place on the ballot the statement(s) contained in the "Notice of Referendum Election" attached hereto as Exhibit "A," and to conduct said election pursuant to the provisions of the election laws of the State of Florida. Not less than thirty (30) days notice of said election shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the School District. Such publication shall be made at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week prior to the week of November 4, 2014 which notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "A" together with such additional information as the Supervisor of Elections of Palm Beach County shall require. Any reasonable costs associated with the publication of the Notice of Referendum Election shall be paid by the School Board.

**SECTION 2. OFFICIAL BALLOT.** The ballots to be used in the referendum election shall contain a statement relating to the authority of the School

Board to continue levy of 0.25 mills for school operational purposes of the School

District for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 fiscal years and shall

be in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

School District of Palm Beach County, Florida Referendum Election – November 4, 2014

REFERENDUM REGARDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL BOARD TO CONTINUE LEVY FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PURPOSES

Shall the School Board of Palm Beach County have the authority to continue to levy 0.25 mills of ad valorem millage dedicated for operational needs of non-charter District schools to fund teachers, as well as arts, music, physical education, career and academic programs for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2019, with oversight by an independent finance committee of citizens and experts?

\_\_\_\_\_YES

\_\_\_\_NO

SECTION 3. ABSENTEE VOTING; EARLY VOTING. Absentee and early electors participating in said referendum shall be entitled to cast their ballots in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the State of Florida with respect to absentee and early voting, which shall have printed thereon the question hereinabove set forth, with proper place for voting either "YES" or "NO" following the statement of the question aforesaid.

**SECTION 4. REFERENDUM RESULTS.** If a majority of the ballots cast at such elections shall be "YES", the School Board shall have the authority to continue levy of 0.25 mills for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 fiscal years.

**SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.** In the event that any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this Resolution shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect any other word, clause, phrase, sentence, or paragraph.

**SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_\_, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Priscilla A. Tayl	or, Mayor -
Commissioner Paulette Burdick	, Vice Mayor -
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche	-
Commissioner Shelley Vana	-
Commissioner Steven L. Abrar	ns -
Commissioner Mary Lou Berge	÷r –
Commissioner Jess R. Santam	aria -

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK & COMPTROLLER

Ву:\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: 0 County Attorney

### EXHIBIT "A"

# NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A REFERENDUM ELECTION has been called by the School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida and will be held from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. on November 4, 2014, in Palm Beach County, Florida, at which time there shall be submitted to the duly qualified electors of Palm Beach County, Florida, as more specifically described and provided for in a Resolution of the School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida, adopted June 18, 2014, the following question published below.

REFERENDUM TO CONTINUE AN AD VALOREM LEVY FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONAL NEEDS

Shall the School Board of Palm Beach County have the authority to continue to levy . 0.25 mills of ad valorem millage dedicated for operational needs of non-charter District schools to fund teachers, as well as arts, music, physical education, career and academic programs for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2019, with oversight by an independent finance committee of citizens and experts?

YES

NO

SCHOOL BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:\_\_\_

Chuck Shaw, Chairman

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