



## COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. The first meeting of every month is at 9:30AM while the second meeting of every month takes place at 5:30PM. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: 7/25/2024 Meeting Date: 8/1/2024

Department: County Attorney

### 1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

Non-binding referendum concerning dissolution of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority

### 2. Recommended Motion/Action:

To adopt resolution setting referendum concerning dissolution of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority

### 3. Fiscal impact on current budget.

This item has no effect on the current budget.

Office of the County Attorney

Joel F. Foreman  
County Attorney

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board Agenda, August 1, 2024

From: Joel F. Foreman

Re: **Non-binding referendum concerning dissolution of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority**

Date: July 25, 2024

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At the July 18, 2024 meeting of the Board, a motion passed to place the following question on the 2024 General Election ballot as a non-binding referendum.

“Do you support the dissolution of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority?  
This is a non-binding opinion poll.”

The attached resolution meets the requirements of Florida Statutes sections 100.342 and 125.01(1)(y) for the inclusion of non-binding referenda on the ballot. If adopted, the County Manager is charged with publishing required notices in a newspaper of general circulation and this office is charged with coordinating delivery of the resolution to the Supervisor of Elections. This is the only action required of the Board to place the referendum.

Recommended motion: To adopt resolution.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2024R-27**

**AN RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM TO OBTAIN AN EXPRESSION OF VOTER SENTIMENT AS TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LAKE SHORE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM RESULTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Section 1. PURPOSE.**

The Board of County Commissioners is expressly authorized by Florida law to “[p]lace questions or propositions on the ballot at any primary election, general election, or otherwise called special election, when agreed to by a majority vote of the total membership of the legislative and governing body, so as to obtain an expression of elector sentiment with respect to matters of substantial concern within the county”. The question of the dissolution of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority is a matter of substantial concern to the electorate and citizens of Columbia County.

**Section 2. AUTHORITY OF THIS RESOLUTION.**

This Resolution is enacted pursuant to the Home Rule Charter for Columbia County, Florida and Section 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes.

**Section 3. REFERENDUM CALLED.**

A referendum of the qualified electors residing in Columbia County is hereby called to be held concurrently with the General Election of Tuesday, November 5,

2024, to obtain an expression of elector sentiment with respect to the ballot question below.

**Section 4. BALLOT QUESTION.**

The ballot question to be voted upon in said election shall be in the following form:

**NON-BINDING STRAW BALLOT CONCERNING DISSOLUTION OF  
THE LAKE SHORE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.**

Do you support the dissolution of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority?  
This is a non-binding opinion poll.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 6. NOTICE OF ELECTION.**

The County Manager shall publish notice of this referendum in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. This publication must be made at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week before the week in which the election or referendum is to be held. Said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL REFERENDUM ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that a special referendum election will be held throughout Columbia County, Florida, concurrently with the November 5, 2024 General Election at the polling places designated within the voting precincts of the County for the purpose of determining the following question:

**NON-BINDING STRAW BALLOT CONCERNING  
DISSOLUTION OF THE LAKE SHORE HOSPITAL  
AUTHORITY.**

Do you support the dissolution of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority?  
This is a non-binding opinion poll.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

All qualified voters residing within Columbia County may vote in this election. Absentee voting and early voting will be permitted in accordance with applicable provisions of general law.

#### **Section 7. REFERENDUM RESULTS.**

Referendum results shall be non-binding but shall be announced to the Board of County Commissioners in regular session following the certification of results from the Supervisor of Elections Office.

#### **Section 8. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared severable.

#### **Section 9. FILING WITH THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.**

The County Attorney shall notify the Columbia County Supervisor of Elections of the adoption of this Resolution and file a copy with the Supervisor of Elections within five business days of adoption. The Supervisor of Elections is requested to provide and include the required Spanish language translations of the referendum question for the ballot, all as required by law.

#### **Section 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

**DULY ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida, this \_\_\_\_ day of August 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**RON WILLIAMS, Chair**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and legality:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joel F. Foreman, County Attorney