

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2009- 18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FUNDING BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OF THE FLORIDA FOREVER LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 AND URGING THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO VIGOROUSLY SUPPORT FUNDING OF FLORIDA FOREVER; DIRECTING THE CLERK TO FORWARD A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever Program and its predecessor Preservation 2000 Program have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired over 1.3 million acres throughout Florida since 2000 and allocates \$300 million annually to purchase environmentally sensitive and other lands, and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water managements districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others in achieving its conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through its partnerships with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Districts, and others, produces benefits that include clean air and water; healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat; improved water supply protection; and protected open spaces including greenway corridors, park lands, forests, water bodies, and preserved working landscapes that sustain the state's \$59 billion agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, directing development away from coastal high hazard areas and floodplains; fostering a healthier lifestyle for Floridians; and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays,

forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our \$65 billion tourism industry that attracts more than 80 million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 Florida local governments have enacted land acquisition financing programs in the past decades, and these conservation finance programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of State land conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, Floridians demand a high quality of life that includes green space, access to water, pastoral settings and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever and other land conservation programs must compete in a land and housing market that escalated over the past two decades, while annual Florida Forever funding has remained at \$300 million; and

WHEREAS, research by the Florida Forever Coalition has documented that over \$20 billion is currently needed to purchase parks and recreational facilities, wildlife and wilderness areas, and open space for our state's increasing population; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that more than 70% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program; and

WHEREAS, Floridians' support for land conservation is further evidenced by the 68% of voters who voted in favor of Amendment 4, the land conservation constitutional amendment, on November 4, 2008, including more than 60% in 57 of 67 counties and more than 70% in Broward, Clay, Duval, Hillsborough, Lee, Monroe, Nassau, Orange, Palm Beach, and Sarasota counties; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of Florida Forever have included the purchase in such valuable local resources as the American Beach Historic Park project, the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project, the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve project, and the Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, this 21st day of January, 2009, as follows:

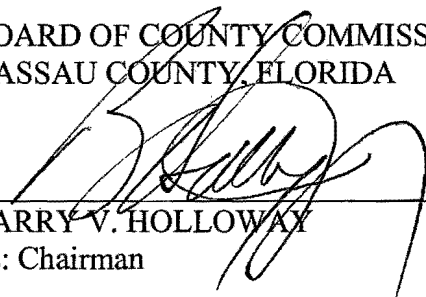
Section 1. That the County hereby declares its support to the Florida Legislature for the annual funding of Florida Forever in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and requests

Nassau County's legislative delegation to advocate for the funding of the Florida Forever.

Section 2. The Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Governor Charlie Crist, and to the members of the Nassau County Legislative Delegation.

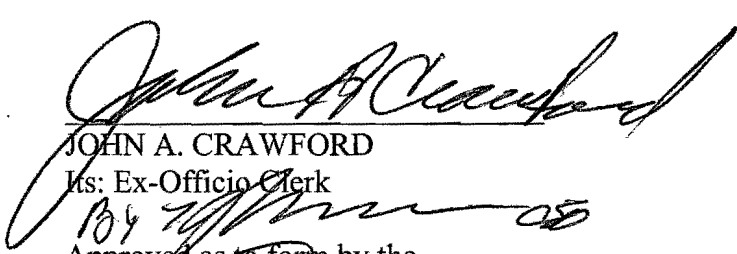
Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective upon its being signed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

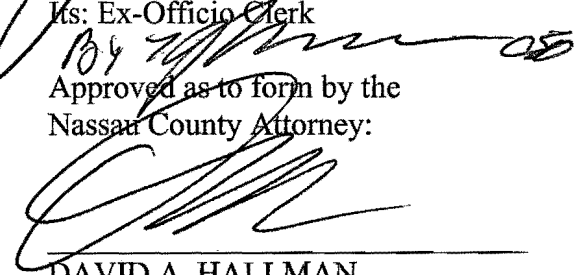


BARRY V. HOLLOWAY
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's Signature:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk



DAVID A. HALLMAN

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney: