Franklin County Tourist Development Council Board Meeting

SPECIAL MEETING

County Commission Meeting Room

Agenda

Wednesday, July 8th, 2026 ,5:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Call to Order **Commissioner Jones**
2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Quorum Announcement **Solomon**

New business

A. The Franklin County Commission has requested for the TDC Board to review and weigh-in on the proposed ballot language for the 4th & 5th penny increase of the Tourism Development Tax.

1. Whether the Franklin County Tourist Development Council Recommends that the Board of County Commissioners levy the 4th cent (1 %) Tourist Development Tax allowed by Florida Statute 125.0104(3)(l). The uses of the 4th cent (1%) are stated below:

s.125.0104(3)(l), Fla. Stat. (2025): In addition to any other tax which is imposed pursuant to this section, a county may impose up to an additional 1-percent tax on the exercise of the privilege described in paragraph (a) by ordinance approved by referendum pursuant to subsection (6) to:
1. Pay the debt service on bonds issued to finance the construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a professional sports franchise facility, or the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a retained spring training franchise facility, either publicly owned and operated, or publicly owned and operated by the owner of a professional sports franchise or other lessee with sufficient expertise or financial capability to operate such facility, and to pay the planning and design costs incurred prior to the issuance of such bonds.
2. Pay the debt service on bonds issued to finance the construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a convention center, and to pay the planning and design costs incurred prior to the issuance of such bonds.
3. Pay the operation and maintenance costs of a convention center for a period of up to 10 years. Only counties that have elected to levy the tax for the purposes authorized in subparagraph 2. may use the tax for the purposes enumerated in this subparagraph. Any county that elects to levy the tax for the purposes authorized in subparagraph 2. after July 1, 2000, may use the proceeds of the tax to pay the operation and maintenance costs of a convention center for the life of the bonds.
4. Promote and advertise tourism in the State of Florida and nationally and internationally; however, if tax revenues are expended for an activity, service, venue, or event, the activity, service, venue, or event shall have as one of its main purposes the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the promotion of the activity, service, venue, or event to tourists.

The provision of paragraph (b) which prohibits any county authorized to levy a convention development tax pursuant to s. 212.0305 from levying more than the 2-percent tax authorized by this section, and the provisions of paragraphs (4)(a)-(d), shall not apply to the additional tax authorized in this paragraph. The effective date of the levy and imposition of the tax authorized under this paragraph is the first day of the second month following approval of the ordinance by referendum or the first day of any subsequent month specified in the ordinance. A certified copy of such ordinance shall be furnished by the county to the Department of Revenue within 10 days after approval of such ordinance.

2._Whether the Franklin County Tourist Development Council Recommends that the Board of County Commissioners levy the 5th cent (1 %) Tourist Development Tax allowed by Florida Statute 125.01049(3)n) . The uses of the 5th cent (1%) are stated below:

s.125.0104(3)(n) (2025): In addition to any other tax that is imposed under this section, a county that has imposed the tax under paragraph (l) may impose an additional tax that is no greater than 1 percent on the exercise of the privilege described in paragraph (a) by ordinance approved by referendum pursuant to subsection (6) to:
1. Pay the debt service on bonds issued to finance:
a. The construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a facility either publicly owned and operated, or publicly owned and operated by the owner of a professional sports franchise or other lessee with sufficient expertise or financial capability to operate such facility, and to pay the planning and design costs incurred prior to the issuance of such bonds for a new professional sports franchise as defined in s. 288.1162.
b. The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or renovation of a facility either publicly owned and operated, or publicly owned and operated by the owner of a professional sports franchise or other lessee with sufficient expertise or financial capability to operate such facility, and to pay the planning and design costs incurred prior to the issuance of such bonds for a retained spring training franchise.
2. Promote and advertise tourism in the State of Florida and nationally and internationally; however, if tax revenues are expended for an activity, service, venue, or event, the activity, service, venue, or event shall have as one of its main purposes the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the promotion of the activity, service, venue, or event to tourists.

B. **Information Only **The Ribbon Cutting for the Maritime Heritage Museum has been rescheduled do to scheduling conflict with the Commission.

Upcoming meetings

TDC Grant Meeting Wednesday, August 12th @ 5:00pm at TDC Office Meeting Room
TDC Board Meeting Wednesday, August 12th @ 5:30pm at TDC Office Meeting Room

Zoom webinar
When: Jul 8, 2026 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: TDC Special Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82441261194

ORDINANCE 2026- ___

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND IMPOSING A ONE CENT TOURIST DELOPMENT TAX PURSUANT TO SECTION 125.0104(3)(L), FLORIDA STATUTES (2025); PROVIDING FOR USE OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; REQUIRING A REFERENDUM; DIRECTIONS TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS; PROVIDING A BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR VOTER APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2004, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2004-45 levying and imposing a two-percent Tourist Development Tax pursuant to 125.0104, Fla. Stat.; and,

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2021-06 levying and imposing an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax (the 3rd penny) pursuant to 125.0104(3)(d) (2020), Fla. Stat.; and

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. section 125.0104(3)(l) authorizes an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax, (the 4th penny), subject to voter approval at a referendum, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, ("Franklin County") has determined that it is in the best interests of the residents and citizens of Franklin County that the Board levy and impose an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax (the 4th penny) pursuant to section 125.0104(3)(l), Fla. Stat. (2025);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED THAT:

1. **Preamble:** The preamble of this ordinance is incorporated herein.
2. **Levy of Additional One-Percent Tourist Development Tax:** Subject to voter approval, Franklin County hereby levies and imposes an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax pursuant to Fla. Stat. 125.0104(3)(l) (2025).
3. **Use of Proceeds:** The proceeds of the Tourist Development Tax shall be used solely for the purposes authorized by law.
4. **Referendum:** Franklin County directs that a referendum be held at the next general election on November 3, 2026. This ordinance shall only take effect if approved by a majority of the electors voting in the referendum.
5. The Supervisor of Elections is directed to place the following on the ballot for the general election to be held on November 3, 2026:

   Ballot Title: Shall the Tourist Development Tax be increased by one-percent for a total of four percent?

Ballot Summary: Referendum election to consider approving Ordinance 2026-___ increasing the Tourist Development Tax by one-percent pursuant to 125.0104(3)(l), such that the total Tourist Development Tax shall be four percent, with the proceeds to be strictly limited to the uses allowed by law?

Ballot Question: Shall Franklin County ordinance 2026-__ increasing its Tourist Development Tax by one percent be approved, such that the total Tourist Development tax is 4 percent?
___FOR the Tourist Development tax.
___AGAINST the Tourist Development tax.

6. **Severability:** It is declared to be the intent of Franklin County that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is held unenforceable or unconstitutional by a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such final judgment shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.
7. **Effective Date:** Pursuant to Fla. Stat. 125.0104(6) (2025), this ordinance levying and imposing the Tourist Development Tax shall only take effect if it is approved by a majority of the electors voting at a referendum scheduled for the general election on November 3, 2026.

   If so approved, the levy and tax authorized by this ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

Adopted on this the _ day of _, 2026.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida

By:______________________________________
Ricky D. Jones, Its Chairman

Attest:

____
Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

____

Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney

4TH penny ballot draft 6.25.26

RESOLUTION 2026- ___

APPROVING BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR 4TH PENNY OF

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX PURSUANT TO 125.0104(3)(L)

AND DIRECTING REFERENDUM ELECTION

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2004, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2004-45 levying and imposing a two-percent Tourist Development Tax pursuant to 125.0104, Fla. Stat.; and,

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2021-06 levying and imposing an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax (the 3rd penny) pursuant to 125.0104(3)(d) (2020), Fla. Stat.; and

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. section 125.0104(3)(l) authorizes an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax, (the 4th penny), subject to voter approval at a referendum held during a general election, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, ("Franklin County") has determined that it is in the best interests of the residents and citizens of Franklin County that the Board levy and impose an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax (the 4th penny) pursuant to section 125.0104(3)(l), Fla. Stat. (2025),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVEDTHAT:

1. **<u>Direction to Supervisor of Elections:</u>** The supervisor of elections is directed to conduct a referendum at the general election on November 3, 2026, and to place the following question on said ballot:

   <u>Ballot Title:</u> Shall Franklin County's Tourist Development Tax be increased by one-percent such that the total Tourist Tax shall be 4 percent?

   <u>Ballot Summary:</u> Referendum election to consider approving Ordinance 2026-___ increasing the Tourist Development Tax by one-percent pursuant to 125.0104(3)(l), such that the total Tourist Development Tax shall be 4 percent, with the proceeds to be strictly limited to the uses allowed by law?

   <u>Ballot Question:</u> Shall Franklin County ordinance 2026-__ increasing its existing Tourist Development Tax by one percent be approved, such that the total Tourist Development Tax is 4 percent?
   ___FOR the Tourist Development tax.
   ___AGAINST the Tourist Development tax.

2. The Supervisor of Elections shall report the official results of the election to the Board no later than December 2, 2026.

Adopted on this the _ day of _, 2026.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida

By:______________________________________
Ricky D. Jones, Its Chairman

Attest:

____
Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

____
Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney

ORDINANCE 2026- ___

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND IMPOSING A ONE CENT TOURIST DELOPMENT TAX PURSUANT TO SECTION 125.0104(3)(N), FLORIDA STATUTES (2025); PROVIDING FOR USE OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX; REQUIRING A REFERENDUM; DIRECTIONS TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS; PROVIDING A BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR VOTER APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2004, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2004-45 levying and imposing a two-cent tourist development tax pursuant to 125.0104, Fla. Stat.; and,

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2021-06 levying and imposing an additional one-cent tourist tax (the 3rd penny) pursuant to 125.0104(3)(d) (2020), Fla. Stat.; and

WHEREAS, on _, 2026, Franklin County adopted ordinance 2026-___, levying and imposing an additional one-cent tourist development tax (the 4th penny), subject to referendum approval of the ordinance at the general election on November 3, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. section 125.0104(3)(n) authorizes an additional one-cent tourist development tax, (the 5th penny), subject to voter approval at a referendum, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, ("Franklin County") has determined that it is in the best interests of the residents and citizens of Franklin County that the Board levy and impose an additional one-cent tourist development tax (the 5th penny) pursuant to section 125.0104(3)(n), Fla. Stat. (2025);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED THAT:

1. **<u>Preamble:</u>** The preamble of this ordinance is incorporated herein.
2. **<u>Levy of Additional One-Percent Tourist Development Tax:</u>** Subject to voter approval, Franklin County hereby levies and imposes an additional one-percent tourist development tax pursuant to Florida Statute 125.0104(3)(n) (2025).
3. **<u>Use of Proceeds:</u>** The proceeds of the tax shall be used solely for the purposes authorized by Florida Statute 125.0104 (2025).
4. **<u>Referendum:</u>** Franklin County directs that a referendum be held at the next general election on November 3, 2026. This ordinance shall only take effect if approved by a majority of the electors voting in the referendum.

The Supervisor of Elections is directed to place the following on the ballot for the general election to be held on November 3, 2026:

Ballot Title: Shall the Tourist Development Tax be increased by one-percent for a total of five percent?

Ballot Summary: Referendum election to consider approving Ordinance 2026-___ increasing the Tourist Development Tax by one-percent pursuant to 125.0104(3)(n), such that the total Tourist Development Tax shall be 5 percent, with the proceeds to be strictly limited to the uses allowed by law?

Ballot Question: Shall Franklin County's ordinance 2026-___ increasing its existing Tourist Development Tax by one percent be approved, such that the total Tourist Development Tax is five percent?
___FOR the Tourist Development tax.
___AGAINST the Tourist Development tax.

5. **Severability:** It is declared to be the intent of Franklin County that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is held unenforceable or unconstitutional by a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such final judgment shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.
6. **Effective Date:** Pursuant to Fla. Stat. 125.0104(6) (2025), this ordinance levying and imposing the tax shall only take effect if it is approved by a majority of the electors voting at a referendum scheduled for the general election on November 3, 2026.

If so approved, the levy and tax authorized by this ordinance shall take effect on February 1, 2027.

Adopted on this the _ day of _, 2026.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida

By:______________________________________
Ricky D. Jones, Its Chairman

Attest:

____

Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

____

Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney

RESOLUTION 2026- ___

APPROVING BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR 4TH PENNY OF

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX PURSUANT TO 125.0104(3)(L)

AND DIRECTING REFERENDUM ELECTION

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2004, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2004-45 levying and imposing a two-percent Tourist Development Tax pursuant to 125.0104, Fla. Stat.; and,

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, Franklin County, Florida, adopted ordinance 2021-06 levying and imposing an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax (the 3rd penny) pursuant to 125.0104(3)(d) (2020), Fla. Stat.; and

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. section 125.0104(3)(l) authorizes an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax, (the 4th penny), subject to voter approval at a referendum held during a general election, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, ("Franklin County") has determined that it is in the best interests of the residents and citizens of Franklin County that the Board levy and impose an additional one-percent Tourist Development Tax (the 4th penny) pursuant to section 125.0104(3)(l), Fla. Stat. (2025),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVEDTHAT:

1. **<u>Direction to Supervisor of Elections:</u>** The supervisor of elections is directed to conduct a referendum at the general election on November 3, 2026, and to place the following question on said ballot:

   Ballot Title: Shall Franklin County's Tourist Development Tax be increased by one-percent such that the total Tourist Tax shall be 4 percent?

   Ballot Summary: Referendum election to consider approving Ordinance 2026-___ increasing the Tourist Development Tax by one-percent pursuant to 125.0104(3)(l), such that the total Tourist Development Tax shall be 4 percent, with the proceeds to be strictly limited to the uses allowed by law?

   Ballot Question: Shall Franklin County ordinance 2026-__ increasing its existing Tourist Development Tax by one percent be approved, such that the total Tourist Development Tax is 4 percent?
   ___FOR the Tourist Development tax.
   ___AGAINST the Tourist Development tax.

2. The Supervisor of Elections shall report the official results of the election to the Board no later than December 2, 2026.

Adopted on this the _ day of _, 2026.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida

By:____________________________________
Ricky D. Jones, Its Chairman

Attest:

____
Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

____
Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney