

CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 16 – 26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA, RELATED TO THE REFERENDUM ITEM FOR CONSERVATION 20/20 IN THE NOVEMBER 2016 GENERAL ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program is a willing-seller environmental land acquisition and stewardship program dedicated to preserving ecosystems for their natural resource value and providing environmentally compatible recreation opportunities for current and future generations, and

WHEREAS, conservation lands provide quality of life and environmental and economic benefits – such as protecting water resources, drinking water supplies and wildlife habitat- in addition to offering ecotourism and nature recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation and tourism are two of Lee County's most significant industries; with tourism having a 2.99 billion dollar economic impact in 2015, and

WHEREAS, a “clean, unspoiled environment” is considered one of the top five reasons tourists choose to visit Lee County, and

WHEREAS, the Conservation 20/20 land acquisition and stewardship program has acquired 24,930 acres since the program began in 1996, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the current and future citizens of the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County that Conservation 20/20 continue in order to protect the natural resources of Lee County by continuing to acquire, improve, restore and manage environmentally significant lands, and

WHEREAS, Lee County and the City of Bonita Springs have benefited from land conservation, management, and restoration programs funded through the Conservation 20/20 program, and

WHEREAS, the continued acquisition, management, and restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands should be a priority for Lee County, and

WHEREAS, Lee County has put the continuation of the Conservation 20/20 program to a referendum vote in the November 2016 general election asking for either “Yes-For” or “No-Against” votes, and

WHEREAS, the “Conservation 20/20 Non-Binding Referendum” ballot language reads as follows:

DO YOU APPROVE OF LEE COUNTY CONTINUING TO USE GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS TO ACQUIRE, RESTORE, IMPROVE, AND MANAGE LAND FOR CONSERVATION, SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT, WATER QUALITY, WATER RECHARGE AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, WILDLIFE HABITAT, PASSIVE PUBLIC RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES, PURSUANT TO LEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 15-08 (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION 20/20 LAND PROGRAM)?

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Bonita Springs, Lee County, Florida as follows:

Section 1. The Council of the City of Bonita Springs recognizes that lands in Lee County that have greenspace and environmentally important features are critical to the quality of life, general welfare and environmental and economic sustainability of the City of Bonita Springs and Lee County.

Section 2. The Council of the City of Bonita Springs finds that Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program has enhanced the quality of life throughout Lee County by preserving and protecting conservation lands, recreational lands, water resources and drinking water sources; and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams.

Section 3. The City Council of Bonita Springs hereby states its approval for the continuance of the Lee County Conservation 20/20 Program as contemplated by the aforementioned Conservation 20/20 Referendum.


Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Bonita Springs, Lee County, Florida, this 6th day of July, 2016.

AUTHENTICATION:




Mayor



City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney

Vote:

DeWitt	Aye	Quaremba	Aye
Forbes	Aye	Simmons	Aye
Gibson	Aye	Slachta	Aye
O'Flinn	Aye		

Date filed with City Clerk:

7/8/16