

Franklin County Tourist Development Council Board Meeting

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**County Commission Meeting Room**

Agenda

Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 ,5:30 P.M.

**AGENDA**

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

**Commissioner Jones**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> penny increase of the Tourism Development Tax.
- 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 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm at TDC Office Meeting Room**

**TDC Board Meeting Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 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 DEVELOPMENT 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)(1), 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:

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Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 2026- \_\_\_\_  
APPROVING BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> penny) pursuant to section 125.0104(3)(l), Fla. Stat. (2025),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. Direction to Supervisor of Elections:** 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

DRAFT

ORDINANCE 2026- \_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND IMPOSING A ONE CENT TOURIST DEVELOPMENT 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> penny) pursuant to section 125.0104(3)(n), 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 Florida Statute 125.0104(3)(n) (2025).
3. **Use of Proceeds:** The proceeds of the tax shall be used solely for the purposes authorized by Florida Statute 125.0104 (2025).
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.

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:

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Michele Maxwell, Clerk of Court

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

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Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney

DRAFT

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**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?

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