

RESOLUTION 23-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED RIGHT TO CLEAN AND HEALTHY WATERS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners understands the fundamental right to clean and healthy waters; and

WHEREAS, healthy and clean wetlands, surface waters, and groundwater are vital to the maintenance of water quality, to a diversity of aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, to recreational opportunities, property rights, economic interests, and to the quality of life in Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners supports equitable remedies to protect water within Alachua County, including enshrining the right to clean and healthy waters in the Florida Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, Newnan's Lake, Lake Wauburg, Alachua Sink, Bivens Arm Lake and Orange Lake and the Santa Fe River (an Outstanding Florida Water worthy of special protection because of its natural attributes) were designated as impaired for nutrients (nitrogen and/or phosphorus) by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and,

WHEREAS, the Basin Management Action Plans for the implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads adopted by Secretarial Order in the Orange Creek Basin and the Santa Fe River Basin set goals for nutrient reductions; and,

WHEREAS, surface water and groundwater protection is a paramount concern in the Orange Creek and Santa Fe River basins, and Alachua County has the desire to protect these natural resources; and

WHEREAS, an important benefit that wetlands provide is their capacity to maintain and improve water quality by functioning as filtering systems, removing sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from water; recharging groundwater; and reducing impacts from flooding events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. By adoption of this resolution, the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, hereby expresses support for equitable solutions to protecting our vital water resources.

Section 2. Alachua County acknowledges the importance of clean and healthy waters in the State of Florida and supports enshrining the right to clean and healthy waters in the Florida Constitution.

Section 3. Alachua County supports the efforts of concerned citizens and advocacy groups who are working towards ensuring clean and healthy waters for future generations of Floridians.

Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Prizzia, Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
J.K. "Jess" Irby, Clerk  
(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Torres  
Alachua County Attorney