

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: School District Bond Tax Levy Resolution

DATE: October 13, 2026

☒ (X) RECOMMENDATION

☐ () POLICY DISCUSSION

BUDGET INFORMATION:

☐ () STATUS REPORT

ANNUAL – N/A-Board of Education

☐ () OTHER

CAPITAL - N/A- Board of Education

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: October 19, 2026

PURPOSE: To request adoption of a resolution levying a direct annual School District tax, if needed, to provide for principal and interest payments on the Habersham County School District General Obligation Sales Tax Bond, Series 2026, in the principal amount of \$15,000,000.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY

- On May 19, 2026, voters approved reimposition of the one-percent education sales and use tax to raise up to \$93,000,000 and authorized up to \$55,000,000 in School District general obligation debt for School Board capital projects, equipment, facilities, and other voter-approved educational purposes.
- The Habersham County Board of Education adopted a bond resolution on October 5, 2026, authorizing issuance of a \$15,000,000 Habersham County School District General Obligation Sales Tax Bond, Series 2026.
- This is a School District bond and a School District tax for School Board projects. It is not a Habersham County project or County debt. The Board of Commissioners is involved only as the taxing authority required to levy the backup tax requested by the Board of Education under the Georgia Constitution.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- The resolution assesses a direct annual School District tax for 2027 through 2033. The tax would be collected only if, and only to the extent that, net proceeds of the education sales and use tax are insufficient to pay principal and interest on the School District bond.
- The School District bond has a principal amount of \$15,000,000. See the attached Debt Service Schedule (Exhibit A to the resolution) for the principal, interest, and debt service amounts applicable to the bond.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Adopt the School District bond tax levy resolution
 - 2) Deny the resolution
 - 3) Commission-defined alternative
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RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION: Motion to adopt the resolution providing for the levy and collection, if required, of an annual School District tax to pay principal and interest on the \$15,000,000 Habersham County School District General Obligation Sales Tax Bond, Series 2026, as set forth in the attached Debt Service Schedule, and authorize the Chairman and County Clerk to execute the resolution and related documents.

DEPARTMENT: Board of Commissioners / Finance

Prepared by: Tim Sims, County Manager

Director: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE

COMMENTS: _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AN ANNUAL TAX TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON A HABERSHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION SALES TAX BOND, SERIES 2026 IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$15,000,000

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2026, the voters of the Habersham County School District (the “School District”), which embraces all of Habersham County, Georgia, did, at an election called for the purpose, authorize the reimposition of a special sales and use tax of one percent on all sales and uses in the School District for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters, commencing upon the expiration of a special one percent sales and use tax currently being collected within the School District, to raise not more than \$93,000,000 (the “Sales and Use Tax”), and the issuance of general obligation debt of the School District in the principal amount of up to \$55,000,000 (the “Debt”), for the purpose of paying, or reimbursing the School District for the cost of paying, or to be applied toward (i) the cost of (a) adding to, renovating, modifying, equipping and furnishing new and existing school buildings, school playgrounds, school cafeterias and kitchens, fine arts facilities, athletic and physical education facilities, student activity facilities, parking areas, and any other school district facilities; (b) purchasing school buses and support vehicles; (c) acquiring and maintaining safety and security equipment and infrastructure for schools, system facilities, vehicles and school buses; (d) acquiring and maintaining technology infrastructure and equipment, including but not limited to purchasing instructional and system-wide technology, computers and software, phones and intercoms, textbooks, library books, band instruments, radios, cameras, interactive panels; (e) acquiring land and conducting site preparation for current and future school district purposes; (f) acquiring, constructing, equipping and furnishing of new school buildings and facilities; and (g) acquiring any capital property necessary or desirable for the foregoing purposes, both real and personal, (ii) the cost of a portion of the principal and interest due on the outstanding Habersham County School District General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2013, and any indebtedness refunding such bonds, the maximum amount of debt service to be paid not to exceed \$4,500,000, and (iii) the cost of issuing the Debt; and

WHEREAS, the reimposition of the Sales and Use Tax and the issuance of the Debt were approved by a majority of the voters voting in said election; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to issue \$15,000,000 of the Debt authorized to be issued in the form of its General Obligation Sales Tax Bond, Series 2026 (the “Bond”), and the Board of Education of Habersham County (the “Board of Education”), on behalf of the School District, has adopted a bond resolution authorizing the issuance of such Bond; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, the body charged with contracting debts and managing the affairs of the School District, in order to issue the Bond, is required by Article IX, Section V, Paragraph VI of the Constitution of the State of Georgia to cause the assessment by the Board of Commissioners of Habersham County, Georgia of a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the Bond in the amounts and for the years hereinafter stated; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary at this time that a tax be assessed annually in amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bond as the same become due, which tax must be levied in the year preceding the year in which the payments are required to be made so that said payments may be made in a timely fashion, and such tax shall be collected only in the event and to the extent the net proceeds of the Sales and Use Tax are insufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bond as the same become due and payable;

NOW, THEREFORE, AT THE REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND AS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS OF HABERSHAM COUNTY AT THE REFERENDUM HELD ON MAY 19, 2026, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Habersham County, Georgia, in a meeting duly assembled and open to the public, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, pursuant to Article IX, Section V, Paragraph VI of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, and as requested by the Board of Education pursuant to a Bond Resolution adopted by the Board of Education on October 5, 2026, that there be and is hereby assessed a direct annual tax for the years 2027 through 2033 in order to pay debt service on the Bond coming due in the years 2027 through 2033 upon all property subject to taxation for school bond purposes and located in the School District, which School District embraces all of the territory comprising Habersham County, Georgia, which tax shall be sufficient to raise the sums in each of the years as more fully set forth in Exhibit A hereto attached and made a part hereof. The sums hereby levied are irrevocably pledged and appropriated to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bond as the same become due and payable.

To the extent the net proceeds of the Sales and Use Tax are insufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bond as the same become due and payable, the said several sums shall be collected by the Tax Commissioner of Habersham County, Georgia, in each of said years, and shall be annually (or sooner) paid into a sinking fund to be maintained for and applied to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bond as the same become due and payable, and provisions to meet the requirements of this Resolution shall be made annually (or sooner) thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the authority aforesaid, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that all orders and resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed, if any, be and the same are hereby repealed.

[Continued on following page]

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Habersham County, Georgia this October 19, 2026.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
HABERSHAM COUNTY**

(SEAL)

By: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

Clerk

EXHIBIT A

DEBT SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u> <u>Ending</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Annual Debt</u> <u>Service</u>
4/1/2027		\$288,666.67	\$288,666.67	\$288,666.67
10/1/2027		324,750.00	324,750.00	
4/1/2028		324,750.00	324,750.00	649,500.00
10/1/2028		324,750.00	324,750.00	
4/1/2029	\$2,750,000	324,750.00	3,074,750.00	3,399,500.00
10/1/2029		265,212.50	265,212.50	
4/1/2030	2,870,000	265,212.50	3,135,212.50	3,400,425.00
10/1/2030		203,077.00	203,077.00	
4/1/2031	2,995,000	203,077.00	3,198,077.00	3,401,154.00
10/1/2031		138,235.25	138,235.25	
4/1/2032	3,125,000	138,235.25	3,263,235.25	3,401,470.50
10/1/2032		70,579.00	70,579.00	
4/1/2033	<u>3,260,000</u>	<u>70,579.00</u>	<u>3,330,579.00</u>	<u>3,401,158.00</u>
	\$15,000,000	\$2,941,874.17	\$17,941,874.17	\$17,941,874.17

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Habersham County, Georgia, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing pages of typewritten matter constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Habersham County, Georgia, in a meeting duly assembled, on October 19, 2026 in connection with the issuance of a Habersham County School District General Obligation Sales Tax Bond, Series 2026, in the principal amount of \$15,000,000, the original of which resolution has been duly recorded in the Minute Book of said office, which is in my custody and control.

WITNESS my official hand and the seal of the Board of Commissioners of Habersham County, this October 19, 2026.

Clerk

(SEAL)