



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 13, 2026

## **The Volusia County School Board Rejects Referendum to Fund Salaries and Student Programs**

### **The Volusia United Educators (VUE) Sought a Referendum to Support Salary Increases to Retain and Recruit Highly Qualified Teachers and Staff and to Enhance and Expand Student Programs**

Daytona Beach, Florida - Last night the School Board unanimously rejected an opportunity to provide much needed raises for the teachers and staff in Volusia County. Board members recognized that funding received from Tallahassee, combined with revenue generated from our local taxes, consistently results in a budget that does not meet the needs of students and staff in Volusia. Yet when presented with a proposal to generate much needed funding, following 31 other counties in Florida, they said “now isn’t the time.”

Elizabeth Albert, President of Volusia United Educators asks, “if not now, when? Florida already ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in teacher pay, and our support staff are working 2 or 3 jobs to make ends meet. Staff are leaving Volusia to go to neighboring counties with millage referenda that pay them salaries that are thousands of dollars higher or are leaving the profession altogether. How much longer will teachers and staff in Volusia County have to wait for much needed raises?”

School Boards in 31 counties including – Brevard, Dual, St. Johns, and Marion have sent millage referenda to the voters. Voters in these counties have overwhelmingly voted to pass millage referenda, which has generated millions in revenue for raises. 3 additional school boards – including Polk, and Lake – are sending millage referenda for salaries to the ballot this November.

“Let’s be clear: average salaries for Volusia County employees are not competitive with surrounding school districts. The Volusia School Board could have asked voters in our county to consider a millage referenda like 31 other counties. Instead, they sent a clear message that they have plenty of money in their budget to provide the raises that our teachers and staff deserve without a millage referendum. We look forward to negotiations with the district for salaries this July when Tallahassee finalizes their budget,” said Albert.

Just the facts: One mill equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of property value. Volusia County’s median home value is approximately \$350,000. After subtracting

*Volusia*

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*Educators*



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\$25,000 that is not taxable due to the homestead exemption, a millage increase of 1% would cost the average homeowner \$325 annually, or \$27.09 a month. If your home is valued at \$250,000, it would cost \$225 annually or \$18.75 a month.

For less than \$1 a day Volusia County citizens can help ensure our students receive a high-quality education in fully staffed schools, led by educators who can afford to live in the communities they serve.

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