

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-114

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD
2 COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION TO BE HELD ON
3 NOVEMBER 3, 2026, TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO APPROVE A 0.25% SALES
4 SURTAX FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS TO FUND THE BROWARD COUNTY
5 HEALTH CARE PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE
6 DATE.

7 (Sponsored by Mayor Mark D. Bogen)

8
9 WHEREAS, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States,
10 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”);

11 WHEREAS, a 2023 report from the American Heart Association found that 52.4%
12 of men and 44.8% of women have cardiovascular disease, which includes coronary heart
13 disease, heart failure, stroke, and hypertension;

14 WHEREAS, the CDC calculates that one person dies every 34 seconds in the
15 United States from cardiovascular disease and that almost 700,000 people in the United
16 States die from heart disease every year;

17 WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health indicates that in 2024, the most
18 recent year for which statistics are available, heart disease was the leading cause of death
19 in Florida and in Broward County, accounting for 3,532 deaths in Broward County;

20 WHEREAS, a recent study published in the American Journal of Managed Care,
21 “Heart Health Outcomes Linked to Low Socioeconomic Status,” indicates that the rate of

22 heart disease among persons living in areas of low socioeconomic status is more than
23 twice the rate for persons living in areas of high socioeconomic status;

24 WHEREAS, heart disease and cardiovascular disease are treatable diseases,
25 particularly when detected early;

26 WHEREAS, the Broward County preventive heart test pilot project provided free
27 screenings to more than 7,000 residents; more than 4,000 participants had abnormal
28 results indicating a need for medical care, such as prescription medication, cardiac
29 catheterization, open heart surgery, and in some cases urgent non-cardiac care;

30 WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health indicates that in 2024, cancer was
31 the second leading cause of death in Florida, accounting for 47,990 deaths in Florida and
32 for 3,427 deaths in Broward County;

33 WHEREAS, according to the Florida Cancer Data System, the top five most
34 frequently diagnosed cancers—lung, breast, prostate, colorectal, and melanoma—
35 account for approximately half of the cancer diagnoses in Florida;

36 WHEREAS, Broward County already funds certain primary health care services
37 provided by the North and South Broward Hospital Districts, and also funds a number of
38 other significant programs such as mental health services, programs to reduce infant
39 mortality in high-risk areas, reimbursement for emergency hospital services provided to
40 indigent residents, and HIV/AIDS medical and support services;

41 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of Broward County to provide programs for
42 qualified Broward County residents, including residents who are indigent or medically
43 poor, to receive primary care, preventive care, and hospital care services to prevent and
44 treat these leading causes of death;

45 WHEREAS, public and private insurance plans are required to cover certain
46 preventive cancer screenings, such as mammograms, pap smears, and colonoscopies,
47 without imposing cost-sharing on the patient; but those same insurance plans typically do
48 not cover preventive cardiac screening tests (e.g., calcium scoring (“CAC”) or a coronary
49 CT angiography (“CCTA”)) at no additional cost to the patient;

50 WHEREAS, as a result, many Broward County residents with public or private
51 insurance have medical needs that are not covered by their insurance programs, or have
52 insufficient third-party insurance coverage to address these serious health risks;

53 WHEREAS, Broward County retained medical experts to develop a Broward
54 County Health Care Plan (“Health Care Plan”) for qualified Broward County residents,
55 including those who qualify as indigent or medically poor, to receive primary care,
56 preventive care, and hospital care services, with an emphasis on preventing and treating
57 heart disease and cancer, the two leading causes of death in Broward County;

58 WHEREAS, Section 212.055(4), Florida Statutes, provides for the levy of an
59 Indigent Care and Trauma Center Surtax (“Health Care Surtax”) by enactment of an
60 ordinance by a majority of the members of the Broward County Board of County
61 Commissioners (“Board”), subject to approval by a majority of the electors of Broward
62 County voting in a referendum election on the Health Care Surtax;

63 WHEREAS, if the levy of the Health Care Surtax is approved by referendum at the
64 General Election on November 3, 2026, the Health Care Surtax in the amount of 0.25%
65 will be levied for a period of five (5) years, and the proceeds of the Health Care Surtax
66 will be expended as authorized in Section 212.055(4), Florida Statutes, and in accordance

67 with the Health Care Plan, as approved by the Board and as amended from time to time;
68 and

69 WHEREAS, the public interest will be served by having the Health Care Plan,
70 including the allocation of funds, reevaluated and adjusted from time to time to ensure the
71 Health Care Plan is meeting its objectives and to ensure the best and most efficient use
72 of the Health Care Surtax proceeds, NOW, THEREFORE,

73 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
74 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

75 Section 1. Conditioned upon the Board's approval of an Ordinance levying a
76 one-quarter percent (0.25%) Health Care Surtax for a period of five (5) years, a
77 referendum election is called for the General Election on November 3, 2026, and at such
78 other times as permitted for voting under Chapter 101, Florida Statutes.

79 Section 2. In accordance with Section 100.342, Florida Statutes, at least thirty
80 (30) days' notice of the referendum election shall be published by the County
81 Administrator in a newspaper of general circulation in Broward County or, if applicable, in
82 accordance with Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes. The publication shall be made at least
83 twice, including once in the fifth week and once in the third week prior to the week in which
84 the referendum is to be held. The notice is hereby attached as Exhibit A and made a part
85 hereof.

86 Section 3. Said referendum election shall be held between the hours of
87 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and at such other days and
88 times as provided under applicable law, including early voting as provided by
89 Section 101.657, Florida Statutes, at polling places established in Broward County. All

90 registered and qualified electors in Broward County shall be eligible to vote in the
91 referendum election. Vote-by-mail ballots and early voting access for the referendum shall
92 be made available as provided by law.

93 Section 4. The election boards consisting of the clerks and inspectors
94 appointed to serve for the November 3, 2026, General Election are hereby appointed to
95 serve in the referendum election in the manner provided by law.

96 Section 5. The Broward County Canvassing Board shall canvass the returns in
97 said election and shall certify the results of the referendum election as provided by law.

98 Section 6. The County Administrator shall furnish a certified copy of this
99 adopted Resolution to the Supervisor of Elections for Broward County promptly upon
100 adoption of this Resolution and enactment of the referenced Ordinance by the Board.

101 Section 7. The title and summary of the referendum to appear on the General
102 Election ballot on November 3, 2026, as embodied in this enabling Resolution, shall be
103 as follows:

104 **HEALTH CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS HEART AND CANCER SCREENINGS, FOR**
105 **COUNTY RESIDENTS, FUNDED BY SURTAX**

106 Shall Broward County fund (1) preventive heart and cancer tests, to the extent not
107 covered by insurance, for qualified Broward County residents, (2) primary and preventive
108 health care for indigent or medically poor residents, and (3) other health services, as
109 described in a County health care plan, as periodically amended, by levying a one quarter
110 of one percent sales surtax for five years subject to automatic repeal if a 1% infrastructure
111 surtax is levied?

112 FOR THE 0.25 CENT TAX _____

Exhibit A

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, AND AT SUCH OTHER TIMES AS PROVIDED FOR EARLY VOTING BY SECTION 101.657, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO APPROVE A 0.25% SALES SURTAX FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS TO FUND THE BROWARD COUNTY HEALTH CARE PLAN.

A countywide referendum election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and at such other times as provided for by Chapter 101, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of determining whether to approve a 0.25% sales surtax pursuant to Section 212.055(4), Florida Statutes, for a period of five (5) years.

As set forth in enabling Resolution No. 2026-____, adopted on ____, by the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, the title and summary to appear on the referendum ballot shall be as follows:

HEALTH CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS HEART AND CANCER SCREENINGS, FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS, FUNDED BY SURTAX

Shall Broward County fund (1) preventive heart and cancer tests, to the extent not covered by insurance, for qualified Broward County residents, (2) primary and preventive health care for indigent or medically poor residents, and (3) other health services, as described in a County health care plan, as periodically amended, by levying a one quarter of one percent sales surtax for five years subject to automatic repeal if a 1% infrastructure surtax is levied?

FOR THE 0.25 CENT TAX _____

AGAINST THE 0.25 CENT TAX _____

The referendum shall be held on November 3, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and at such other days and times as provided under applicable law, including for early voting as provided by Section 101.657, Florida Statutes, at the polling places established in Broward County. All registered and qualified electors of Broward County shall be eligible to vote in said referendum election. Vote-by-mail ballots for the referendum election shall be prepared and made available as provided by law.

The Broward County Canvassing Board shall canvass the returns and certify the results of the referendum election to the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, the Broward County Administrator, and the Florida Department of State, to be recorded and filed in appropriate public records.

Instructions:

A. Publish two (2) times:

Once on: September 29, 2026

Once on: October 13, 2026

B. Furnish two (2) proofs of publication and invoice to:

Mary Anne Darby, Deputy Clerk
Records, Taxes, and Treasury Division
Broward County Governmental Center
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 336-U
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

