

Infrastructure Surtax Referendum for November 2020

{future 15-word title to be determined}

Shall Alachua County and its cities:

- build solar power systems on publicly owned facilities; and,
 - provide infrastructure for high speed internet; and,
 - build, rehabilitate, and acquire affordable housing for low-income people and those with special needs; and,
 - extend the existing Wild Spaces Public Places program to conserve land, protect water, and build parks,
- to be funded with a one penny sales surtax to be collected beginning in 2025 for a term of twenty years.

FOR the surtax

AGAINST the surtax

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Notes on distribution, uses, and restrictions

1. Solar: Proceed to Alachua County to provide for a solar farm and other installations capable of generating sufficient revenue to offset County government's entire utility bill; this would free up approximately \$4 million annually in the County's General Fund for other uses or property tax reduction.
2. Internet: The City's current estimate is \$116mm for build-out in the City, and \$213.5mm for build-out for most of the cities and unincorporated residents in urbanized areas.
3. Affordable housing: Surtax law requires the facilities to be owned by local government, however they can be leased to and operated by housing authorities, community land trusts, charitable corporations, or private companies.
4. Wild Spaces/Public Places: Current term of ½ penny surtax ends in 2024. Funding from this referendum would begin in 2025. There cannot be two surtaxes running simultaneously, even if both are ½ penny each.
5. Interlocal Agreement will be required to distribute the funds and define limitations and accountability measures for their uses. Plans for each of the programs will need to be created with extensive public and stakeholder involvement.
6. Anticipated revenue: \$500 million. Once passed, some funds may be immediately bonded to begin program design and implementation. A four-year lead time for these major projects means the beneficiaries will be paying for them about the time they are becoming available.