RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM TO REIMPOSE, LEVY, AND COLLECT A SALES AND USE TAX FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES WITHIN THE CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CONDITIONED UPON APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS RESIDING WITHIN CHATHAM COUNTY VOTING IN A REFERENDUM THEREON TO BE HELD MARCH 18, 2025; TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPOSITION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham (the "**Board of Education**"), acting by, for, and on behalf of the Chatham County School District (the "**School District**"), has considered and evaluated the provisions of Article VIII, Section VI, Paragraph IV of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, and Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (collectively, the "**Act**") which authorize a one percent sales and use tax for educational purposes (the "**Educational Sales Tax**") to be imposed, levied, and collected in the same manner as the special county one percent sales and use tax provided for under Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; and

WHEREAS, an Educational Sales Tax is currently being collected in Chatham County (the "**County**"), which was approved by a majority of the voters of the County voting in an election held for such purpose on November 2, 2021, which tax was imposed beginning January 1, 2022, and which tax the Board of Education anticipates will cease to be collected on the end of the calendar quarter in which the Georgia Revenue Commissioner determines the current collections exceed $410,000,000 or December 31, 2026, whichever is earlier and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the County that the Educational Sales Tax continue to be imposed in the County, the boundaries of which comprise the School District, for the purposes described in this resolution, beginning upon the termination of the Educational Sales Tax presently in effect; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that in order to acquire, construct, and equip all or a portion of the capital outlay projects described in this resolution as soon as possible, it may be necessary for the Board of Education to issue general obligation debt on behalf of the School District in an amount not to exceed $200,000,000.00 for such purposes; said debt to be secured by and payable from the proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to provide the voters of the School District with the opportunity to vote pursuant to law in favor of or against the reimposition of the Educational Sales Tax and the issuance of general obligation indebtedness in anticipation of the collection thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that and it is hereby declared that during each year in which any payment of principal of or interest on such general obligation debt will come due, the School District will receive from capitalized interest on the general obligation indebtedness and the Educational Sales Tax authorized by this resolution, net proceeds sufficient to fully satisfy the School District's obligation with respect to the payment of such principal and interest on a current basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham in public meeting assembled, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same that:

1. The Board of Education of Chatham County, subject to the assent of a majority of the qualified voters of the School District voting in election of such purpose, shall impose within the County the Educational Sales Tax of 1% for a period of time not to exceed twenty calendar quarters, commencing upon the expiration of the existing special one percent sales and use tax for educational purposes, and for the raising of an estimated $705,000,000 for paying the costs of the acquisition, construction, and equipping of the capital outlay projects as described in the "Notice of Sales and Use Tax for Educational Purposes Election on March 18, 2025" (the "**Notice**"), which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by this reference. If imposition of the Educational Sales Tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the School District in a principal amount not to exceed $200,000,000.00 for the capital outlay projects described herein. Such general obligation debt shall be payable first from the proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax; however, such general obligation debt which is not satisfied from the proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax shall be satisfied from the general funds of the School District.

2. The Educational Sales Tax authorized by this resolution shall be collected beginning upon the termination of the Educational Sales Tax currently in effect and shall cease to be imposed on the earlier of (a) twenty calendar quarters after the tax is imposed or (b) as of the end of the calendar quarter during which the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue determines that the Educational Sales Tax will have raised revenues sufficient to provide to the School District net proceeds equal to or greater than the amount specified as the estimated amount of net proceeds to be raised by the Educational Sales Tax authorized by this Resolution.

3. General obligation debt may be issued in conjunction with the imposition of the Educational Sales Tax. The principal amount of the debt to be issued shall not exceed $200,000,000. The purpose for which the debt is to be issued shall be to pay all or a portion of the cost of the capital outlay projects described in the Notice, which may include capitalized interest. The maximum rate or rates of interest on such debt shall not exceed six percent (6%) per annum.

The maximum amount of principal to be paid in each year during the life of the debt shall be as follows:

Year	Principal Amount Maturing
Year 1	20,000,000
Year 2	30,000,000
Year 3	50,000,000
Year 4	50,000,000
Year 5	50,000,000

The Board of Education may issue aggregate general obligation debt which is less than $200,000,000.00 and reduce the principal amounts maturing which are shown above.

4. The estimated cost of the capital outlay projects which will be funded with proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax will be $705,000,000 including interest and all costs of issuance on the general obligation debt to be incurred, which estimated cost of projects shall be the estimated amount of net proceeds to be raised by the Educational Sales Tax.

5. The Secretary of the Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Board of Elections of Chatham County, as Election Superintendent for the County. The Board of Elections of Chatham County is requested to issue the call for the election to be held on March 18, 2025, for the purpose of submitting the question of the reimposition of the Educational Sales Tax to the voters of the School District. Such call shall be issued not less than 30 days prior to the date of said election. The Board of Elections of Chatham County shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week beginning at least 30 days prior to the date of said election in the official legal organ of the County and the Notice will be substantially in the form attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A.

6. All qualified voters desiring to vote in favor of reimposing the Educational Sales Tax shall vote "Yes", and all qualified voters opposed to levying the Educational Sales Tax shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast are in favor of reimposing the Educational Sales Tax, then the Educational Sales Tax shall be reimposed as provided by Georgia law. The Board of Elections of Chatham County shall hold and conduct the election under the same rules and regulations as govern special elections. The Board of Elections of Chatham County shall canvass the returns, declare the results of the election, and certify the results to the Secretary of State and to the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue of the State of Georgia.

7. If more than one-half of the votes cast are in favor of reimposition of the Educational Sales Tax, then the authority to issue debt in accordance with Article IX, Section V, Paragraph I of the Constitution of Georgia is given to the School District; otherwise, such debt shall not be issued. If the authority to issue such debt is so approved by the voters, then such debt may be issued without further approval by the voters.

8. If the voters approve the issuance of general obligation debt of the School District, then the proper officers and agents of the School District hereby are authorized to give notice to

the District Attorney of the Eastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia of the results of the election and to seek validation of the debt approved by the voters in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. The Board President, with the advice of Counsel to the Board of Education, is authorized and directed to acknowledge service of the bond validation petition seeking a ruling on the validity of the said debt and cause to be prepared an answer to be filed in the validation proceedings requesting that said debt of the School District and the security therefor be declared valid in all respects.

9. Excess proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax received by the School District which remain following expenditure of proceeds for authorized projects or purposes for education as described in the Notice shall be used solely for the purpose of reducing any indebtedness of the School District. In the event there is no indebtedness, such excess proceeds shall be used for the purpose of reducing the millage rate of the School District in an amount equivalent to the amount of such excess proceeds.

10. Should general obligation debt of the School District be issued, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County shall be directed to levy a tax upon all property subject to taxation for general obligation bond purposes within the School District sufficient in amount to pay the principal of and interest on said general obligation debt to the extent of any deficiency in the proceeds from the Educational Sales Tax.

11. (a) If general obligation debt of the School District is to be issued, the Board of Education reasonably expects that, prior to issuance of such debt, it will be necessary to expend funds on the acquisition, construction, and equipping of the capital outlay projects described in the Notice and wishes to be reimbursed for such expenditures from proceeds from the sale of such general obligation debt. Therefore, subject to approval of the voters in the Election, the Board of Education hereby declares its official intent to issue general obligation debt in a principal amount not to exceed $200,000,000 and to reimburse original expenditures on the capital outlay projects in the maximum principal amount of $200,000,000 with proceeds from the sale of such debt (to the extent permitted by Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations). The School District will pay original expenditures on the capital outlay projects from a construction or other account maintained by the School District.

(b) The School District shall make its reimbursement allocations not later than 18 months after the later of (i) the date the original expenditure is paid or (ii) the date the capital outlay projects are placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three years after the original expenditure is paid.

12. The proper officers and agents of the School District are hereby authorized to retain the services of such professionals as deemed necessary to facilitate the proper issuance of the general obligation indebtedness authorized hereby, including but not limited to, placement agents, underwriters and bond counsel, and such officers and agents are further authorized to take any and all actions as may be required in connection with the calling and holding of the special election, imposition of the Educational Sales Tax, expenditure of Educational Sales Tax proceeds for the acquisition, construction, and equipping of the capital outlay projects and retirement of general obligation debt, and the issuance of general obligation debt as herein provided.

13. All resolutions or parts of resolutions, if any, in conflict herewith, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

ADOPTED, this December ___, 2024.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR
THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND
THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM

By:___________________________
Board President

NOTICE OF SALES AND USE TAX FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES
ELECTION ON MARCH 18, 2025

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham (the "Board of Education") on December 18, 2024, and a call of election issued by the Board of Elections of Chatham County, as Election Superintendent, notice is hereby given as follows:

1. On March 18, 2025, an election will be held in Chatham County to submit to the qualified voters of Chatham County School District the following question:

1% EDUCATIONAL SALES TAX

( ) YES

( ) NO

Shall a one percent sales and use tax be imposed in the Chatham County School District for a period of time not to exceed twenty consecutive calendar quarters in order to raise not more than $705,000,000 for the purpose of (a) constructing new schools and additions to schools; (b) renovating, reconfiguring, and equipping schools, support facilities, and athletic facilities; (c) modernizing and improving system-wide administrative, and site improvements, property acquisition, upgrading and replacing mechanical systems, HVAC, and roofing; (d) providing safety, security, and technology upgrades and enhancements; (e) providing Charter School capital outlay projects to Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School for equipment/buses, site improvements, technology and secure facilities; Savannah Classical Academy technology and campus security improvements and repairs to roof and HVAC systems; and Tybee Island Maritime Academy equipment and technology improvements. If imposition of the tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the Chatham County School District in the maximum principal amount of $200,000,000 for the above capital outlay purposes and for the payment of capitalized interest.

2. All qualified voters desiring to vote in favor of imposing the 1% sales tax for educational purposes (the "**Educational Sales Tax**") shall vote "Yes" and all qualified voters opposed to levying the Educational Sales Tax shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast are in favor of imposing the Educational Sales Tax then such tax shall be imposed beginning upon the termination of the Educational Sales Tax presently in effect Chatham County and shall cease to be imposed on the earlier of (a) twenty calendar quarters after the tax is imposed or (b) as of the end of the calendar quarter during which the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue determines that the Educational Sales Tax will have raised revenues sufficient to provide to the Chatham County School District net proceeds equal to or greater than the amount specified as the estimated amount of net proceeds to be raised by the Educational Sales Tax.

3. The specific capital outlay projects which the Board of Education currently expects to fund from general obligation debt and proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax are as follows:

(a) **New and Replacement Schools:**

New K-8 School in West Chatham County
New High School in West Chatham County
New Athletic Complex in West Chatham County
New/Replacement Windsor Forest Elementary School
New/Replacement STEM Academy at Bartlett Middle School

(b) **Other New Construction, Additions, Modifications, Renovations to Existing Sites:**

Pooler Elementary School
Woodville-Tompkins High School
Woodville-Tompkins Lower
Rice-Creek K-8 Wing Additions
Southwest Middle School
Southwest Elementary School
DeRenne Middle School
Johnson High School
Charles Ellis Montessori K-8
Garrison School for the Arts
Savannah High School and Academic Annex
Coastal Middle School
Islands High School
Oatland Island Early Learning Center Expansion
Bull Street Center for Architecture and Design (208 Bull)
Maintenance and Transportation Center
Massie Heritage Center

(c.) **Other Upgrades to District Properties and Systems including:**

Physical Education/Athletic Facility Site Improvements
Roofing Replacements
HVAC Monitoring and System Upgrades
Property Acquisition
Outdoor Learning Spaces

(d.) **District Safety and Technology Upgrades:**

District Academic Technology and System Upgrades and Improvements
District Security Equipment and System Upgrades and Improvements

(e.) **Charter School Technology and Site Improvements for Named Charter Schools:**

Savannah Classical Academy Charter School Technology and Campus Security Upgrades
Savannah Classical Academy Charter School HVAC and Roof Replacement
Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School Site Improvements, Equipment, and Activity/School Buses

Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School Security System, Fencing, and School Technology
Tybee Island Maritime Academy School Academic Technology and Equipment

Capital Outlay Projects for the benefit of the named charter schools shall be made available for use by charter schools through separate agreements with each governing board of each charter school and the School District.

The maximum cost of the above-described capital outlay projects to be funded with Educational Sales Tax proceeds, including interest and cost of issuance on the general obligation debt to be incurred, is estimated to be $ 705,000,000, which will constitute the maximum amount of net proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax to be received by the School District. In addition to the specific projects listed herein, the funds may be used to address unforeseen costs, adjustments, or contingencies associated with the planning, design, and construction of such projects, or other unforeseen expenses necessary for the effective and efficient execution of these projects.

To the extent available, the School District may combine available funds from the State of Georgia with proceeds from the Educational Sales Tax and any other available funds, to pay the costs of the above-described capital outlay projects. Plans and specifications for these projects have not been completed and bids have not been received. Depending upon acquisition and construction costs and available funds, the School District may choose which capital outlay projects to undertake or not undertake, or to delay until additional funding is available, to the extent that proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax and the general obligation debt, together with other available funds actually received by the School District, may be insufficient to complete any of the capital outlay projects.

4. If such Educational Sales Tax is to be imposed, the Board of Education may issue general obligation debt on behalf of the Chatham County School District, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $200,000,000.00. The proceeds from such general obligation debt, if issued, shall be used to fund all or a portion of the capital outlay projects. The maximum rate or rates of interest on such debt shall not exceed six percent (6%) per annum. The maximum amount of principal to be paid in each year during the life of the debt shall be as follows:

Year	Principal Amount Maturing
Year 1	20,000,000
Year 2	30,000,000
Year 3	50,000,000
Year 4	50,000,000
Year 5	50,000,000

The Board of Education may issue aggregate general obligation debt which is less than $200,000,000 and reduce the principal amounts maturing which are shown above.

5. The estimated cost of the capital outlay projects which will be funded with proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax received from this sales tax election will be $705,000,000, including

interest and cost of issuance on the general obligation debt to be incurred, which cost of projects shall be the estimated amount of net proceeds to be raised by the Educational Sales Tax. To the extent available, the School District may combine available funds from the State of Georgia with proceeds from the Educational Sales Tax and the general obligation debt, and any other available funds, to pay the costs of the above-described capital outlay projects. Plans and specifications for these projects have not been completed and bids have not been received. Depending upon acquisition and construction costs and available funds, the School District may choose which capital outlay projects to undertake or not undertake, or to delay until additional funding is available, to the extent that proceeds of the Educational Sales Tax and the general obligation debt, together with other available funds actually received by the School District, are insufficient to complete any of the capital outlay projects.

6. Reference is hereby made to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 36-82-1(d) which provides in part that any brochures, listings, or other advertisements issued by the Board of Education or by any other person, firm, corporation or association with the knowledge and consent of the Board of Education shall be deemed to be a statement of intention of the Board of Education concerning the use of bond funds.

7. The last day to register to vote in the election is Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Anyone desiring to register may do so by applying in person at the voter registration office located at 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite F, Savannah, Georgia 31406, or by any other method authorized by the Georgia Election Code.

8. The election will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

This December ___, 2024.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF CHATHAM COUNTY,
AS ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT

By: ______________________________
Chairperson

To be published once a week for five weeks prior to March 18, 2025.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

Now comes the undersigned Secretary of the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham, keeper of the records and seal thereof, and certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution approved and adopted by said Board of Education in meeting assembled on December ___, 2024, the original of which resolution has been entered in the official records of said Board of Education under my supervision and is in my official possession, custody and control.

I further certify that the meeting was held in conformity with the requirements of Title 50, Chapter 14 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

(S E A L)

____
Secretary
Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah
and the County of Chatham

STATE OF GEORGIA)
) ORDER
COUNTY OF CHATHAM)

The Board of Elections of Chatham County, Georgia, having been furnished with a certified copy of the resolution of the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham, adopted on December ___, 2024 requesting the undersigned to call an election on March 18, 2025, relative to the imposition of a sales and use tax for educational purposes and issuance of the general obligation debt described in said resolution, does hereby call said election on March 18, 2025, and orders and directs that the form of election notice contained in said resolution and required by law to be published in connection with the election and the issuance of said general obligation debt be published as provided by law.

This December ____, 2024.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF CHATHAM COUNTY

(S E A L)

By:________________________________
Chairperson

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