

**A RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING BALDWIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AND THE RENEWAL OF ALL EXISTING FUNDING**

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WHEREAS, the public schools of Baldwin County have earned a reputation for excellence in education;

WHEREAS, the continuing pursuit of excellence in education is essential to the long term vitality and economic prosperity of Baldwin County;

WHEREAS, outstanding public schools can continue to exist only if there is funding in place to construct classrooms and school facilities sufficient to accommodate the growing student population;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce has determined that it is critical immediately to the short and long-term capital needs of our public school system;

WHEREAS, the renewal of the expiring four (4) mills on the March 1, 2016 primary election ballot is critical to the funding of existing essential operations, however, it will not address the short or long-term capital needs dictated by the continued success and growth occurring in Baldwin County;

WHEREAS, over the last ten (10) years there has been a 25% growth in the student population in Baldwin County, that is over 6,158 additional students;

WHEREAS, conservative projections show that Baldwin County schools can reasonably anticipate additional growth in the next ten (10) years, resulting in a county-wide student population of approximately 35,897, compared to 24,485 in 2004;

WHEREAS, current educational facilities are inadequate to keep up with recent growth and students receive classroom instruction today in almost 100 portables across Baldwin County;

WHEREAS, Baldwin County's economic development efforts and its ability to attract and keep high quality employers is directly linked to enabling our public schools to continue producing outstanding students who will constitute the future workforce of tomorrow and quality schools promote the outstanding quality of life and strong communities currently enjoyed within Baldwin County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EASTERN SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WHILE IN REGULAR SESSION ON FEBRUARY 24, 2016, as follows:


Section 1. That the Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce supports the renewal of the expiring four (4) mills to ensure Baldwin County Public Schools will continue to receive all existing funding to maintain its reputation for excellence in education, which is essential to the long-term vitality and economic prosperity of Baldwin County is maintained; and

Section 2. That the renewal of this existing funding will enable Baldwin County Public Schools to avoid a catastrophic cut in essential operational funding of approximately \$16,000,000.00 per year.

Section 4. The Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages citizens of the Eastern Shore and all of Baldwin County to vote in favor of renewing the expiring four (4) mills of existing funding so we may continue to ensure Baldwin County has quality schools which enable us to promote the outstanding quality of life and strong communities currently enjoyed in all of Baldwin County.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 24th day of February, 2016.



William J. McLaughlin,  
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



Heiko Einfeld,  
Executive Director