

AT A BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Eric F. Hinson, Chair, District 1
Ronterious Green, Vice- Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda A. Holt, District 4
Shawn Wood, District 3
Reginald James, Interim County Administrator
Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Commissioner Simpkins led into invocation and Chair Hinson led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

7.a. Introduction of Proposed Final FY 2025/2026 Aggregate Millage Rate

Chair Hinson stated the taxing authority has adopted the final millage rate of 9.0 mills, which is 4.19% more than the rollback rate of 8.6383 mills. At this time, they will allow public comments regarding the millage rate.

Mr. Baptiste stated, pursuant to Florida Statutes 129.03 and 200.065, the county property appraiser certified to the Board of County Commissioners the taxable value in which taxies may be levied in the entire county. In August 2025, the board informed the property appraiser of its proposed millage rate, its rollback rate, and the date, time, and place at which a tentative public hearing will be held. This is the final public hearing for the millage rate and the budget which has been posted on the county's website.

David Wesolowski, 5964 Salem Rd Quincy, FL

Mr. Wesolowski appeared before the board and stated they could maybe look at ways to cut services and increase revenue. He stated he has property that went up over 30%. He hoped they would look at ways to bring relief to taxpayers.

Commissioner Wood returned at 6:10 p.m.

Clarence Jackson, 2481 Luth Rd Quincy, FL

Mr. Jackson appeared to discuss his support of the rollback rate Of 8.6.

Bill Farr, 564 Middle Creek Rd. Quincy, FL

Mr. Farr appeared to discuss his support of the rollback rate.

Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Rd. Quincy, FL

Mrs. Farr appeared to discuss her support of the rollback rate.

Richele Robinson, 318 Stanley St. Quincy, FL

Ms. Robinson appeared to discuss her support of the rollback rate.

Neill Wade, 1259 Timber Run Havana, FL

Mr. Wade appeared to discuss his support of the rollback rate.

German Walas, 2329 Juniper Rd. Quincy, FL

Mr. Walas appeared and stated they need to do what was best for the county. He asked for the rollback rate.

Hugh Stephens, 701 Woodward Rd. Quincy, FL

Mr. Stephens appeared and asked for them to adopt the rollback rate.

Teresa Pojaski, 127 Striper Way Quincy, FL

Ms. Pojaski stated she was a Process Server and has to knock on doors of older people that are getting kicked out of their houses. She asked them to consider the rollback rate of 8.6.

Chair Hinson read resolution 2025-049 aloud. He asked for a motion to adopt this resolution.

Commissioner Green asked how the \$1.5 million would affect the budget not being balanced.

Ms. Raynak appeared before the board and stated they looked at taking all departments possible to a flat funding rate. They have 96 expenditure budgets, and 76 of those budgets are at the same exact rate as last year.

Mr. Baptiste stated this has to be a TRIM hearing first, and then they will have a budget hearing where they can discuss the budget.

Commissioner Holt stated they had no choice but to increase services for things like the Sheriff and fire. They do not have a current full-time fire station that belongs to the county, so they have to wait on volunteers.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:21 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated EMS and Public Works are very important but she understood the citizens' concerns. She still supports the rollback rate.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:22 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:23 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE FINAL FY 2025/2026 MILLAGE RATE TO BE SET AT 9.0 MILLS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

Commissioner Wood returned at 7:25 p.m.

Meeting went into recess at 7:25 p.m. and resumed at 7:35 p.m.

7.b. Introduction of Proposed Final FY 2025/2026 Budget

Chair Hinson stated the proposed fiscal year 2025/2026 budget is at \$70,098,617, which represents an increase of approximately \$6,246,424. Chair Hinson allowed for public comments.

Dylan Turner, 1538 Glade Rd. Havana, FL

Mr. Turner appeared regarding mechanic issues with county tractors and asked if they have someone who overlooks this to see if money is being spent properly. He stated he was willing to help oversee a department for a day.

Janice Tyus, 486 Middle Creek Rd. Quincy, FL

Ms. Tyus appeared in support of the Sheriff's Office.

Latrenda Gainous, 4425 Hosford Hwy Quincy, FL

Ms. Gainous appeared in support of the Sheriff's Office.

Angie Holmes 714 E Jefferson St Quincy, FL

Ms. Holmes appeared in support of the Sheriff's Office.

Sagen Murulles, 339 E. Jefferson St. Quincy, FL

Ms. Murulles appeared in support of the Sheriff's Office.

David Wesolowski, 5964 Salem Rd Quincy, FL

Mr. Wesolowski appeared and thanked Commissioner Simpkins for her vote for millage rate.

Mr. Baptiste read resolution 2025-050 aloud.

Commissioner Holt asked about the 74 items reduced to zero. Ms. Raynak appeared and stated the information was in the budget book. 74 of the 96 items were funded the same as last year; no COLA increases in the budget.

Commissioner Wood stated he would like for the Chair and the administrator to sit with EMS & fire to see what they can do to save money. They need to look at a new jail and courthouse.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FINAL FY2025/2026 BUDGET AND
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE.
COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.**

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ERIC F. HINSON, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk