

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Candida Heater, Administrative Services, Budget Bureau

DATE: July 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Tentative Budget and Submission of Proposed Millage Rates

Agenda Item Background:

Pursuant to Section 373.536, Florida Statutes, the District shall, on or before July 15 of each year, submit for consideration by the Governing Board a tentative budget.

Pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, the District shall, on or before August 4 of each year, advise each county property appraiser within the boundaries of the District of its proposed millage rates for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes. The millage rates that are being proposed for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 are the same rates as last year's rates and are not an increase. With these proposed rates, the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 will be the twenty-eighth year that the District has not increased its millage rates. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed millage rates remain the lowest rates since Fiscal Year 1978-1979.

Additional Item Background:

Authorization to submit the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed millage rates for TRIM (truth in millage) purposes by the Governing Board is a key milestone within the annual budget development cycle for statutory compliance.

Below are the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 proposed millage rates, which are not increased from last year's rates, to advise each county property appraiser within the boundaries of the District for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes:

District-at-Large	0.0948
Okeechobee Basin	0.1026
Everglades Construction Project	0.0327
Okeechobee Basin Total Millage Rate	0.2301

District-at-Large	0.0948
Big Cypress Basin	0.0978
Big Cypress Basin Total Millage Rate	0.1926

For illustration purposes, based on the proposed millage rates, a homeowner residing within the Okeechobee Basin (all counties except Collier and northwest Monroe) with a home assessed at \$350,000 less a \$50,000 homestead exemption will pay \$69.03 in property taxes to the District this upcoming fiscal year. A comparable homeowner in the Big Cypress Basin will pay \$57.78 in property taxes.

The county property appraisers will be notified of these rates for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes which is sent to each property owner by the Property Appraiser in each county within District boundaries.

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

Certification of the proposed millage rates to county property appraisers for TRIM purposes is statutorily required under Chapter 200, Florida Statutes.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0708](#)