

DATE: October 6, 2025

MEMO TO: Gina Roberts, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Steve Neaman
Director of Finance

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of an Ordinance providing for the Levy of Taxes for the Lake County Forest Preserve District for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: Provides the tax levy required to fund the 2026 Budget and the 2026 Annual Appropriations Ordinance.

BACKGROUND: The Annual Tax Levy Ordinance is the third step in the three-step process to complete the budget, appropriations and levy in accordance with the District's Rules of Order and Operational Procedures and State statutes. The District's Annual Budget, Appropriations, and Levy Ordinances will be presented to the Board for approval on October 15, 2025.

The General Corporate, Audit, Liability Insurance, Construction & Development, IMRF and FICA amount to be levied in 2025 for the 2026 fiscal year is \$30,807,470. This represents a \$999,230 (3.4%) increase from last year. The debt service levy is \$25,179,135 which is an increase of \$1,457,835 (6.1%) from last year. The combined levies total \$55,986,605, an increase of \$2,457,065 or 4.60% excluding the recapture tax, which allows units of local government to recover losses from the prior year's assessment decreases resulting from certificates of error, court orders in tax objection cases, and final decisions of the Property Tax Appeal Board.

	<u>Levy Dollars</u>	<u>Projected Tax Rate</u>
General Corporate	\$18,504,550	0.051890
Liability Insurance	1,705,520	0.004783
Construction & Development	7,399,110	0.020749
IMRF	1,624,460	0.004555
FICA (social security & Medicare)	1,341,660	0.003762
Audit	232,170	0.000651
General Obligation Bonds	<u>25,179,135</u>	<u>0.070607</u>
Total - Levy Requirement:	\$55,986,605	0.156997

The projected tax rate is calculated on an estimated 2025 Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) of \$35,660,890,941.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel.

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES
FOR THE LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026**

WHEREAS, the sum of \$137,247,000 has been appropriated by the Lake County Forest Preserve District of Lake County, Illinois (the “District”), for the fiscal year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 (the “Fiscal Year”), in the Annual Appropriations Ordinance of the District for the Fiscal Year for corporate purposes of the District and for the objects and purposes therein stated, which Ordinance was duly passed and approved by the District Board of Commissioners at its meeting on October 15, 2025, and will thereafter be published by authority of said District according to law; and

WHEREAS, of the sum of \$137,247,000 legally appropriated by the Annual Appropriations Ordinance for the Fiscal Year, the sum of \$55,986,605 is to be collected from real estate taxes to be levied in calendar year 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, **THAT:**

Section 1: Recitals. The recitals set forth above are incorporated as part of this Ordinance by this reference.

Section 2: Levy Amount. The sum of \$55,986,605 is hereby levied for the Fiscal Year commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 against all property subject to taxation within the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, as the same is assessed and equalized.

Section 3: Purpose of Levy. The purposes, for which the said amount of \$55,986,605 is hereby levied for the Fiscal Year, and the respective amounts thereof, are as follows:

	<u>Levy Dollar</u>
General Corporate	\$18,504,550
Liability Insurance	1,705,520
Construction & Development	7,399,110
IMRF	1,624,460
FICA	1,341,660
Audit	232,170
General Obligation Bonds	<u>25,179,135</u>
Total - Levy Requirement:	\$55,986,605

Section 4: Filing. The Secretary of the Lake County Forest Preserve District is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this Ordinance, along with the required certification by the presiding officer of the District pursuant to the Truth in Taxation Act, 35 ILCS 200/18-55, et. seq., with the County Clerk of Lake County, State of Illinois, as required by law, not later than December 31, 2025.

Section 5: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

Julie Gagnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. _____



Lake County
Forest Preserves

General Offices
1899 West Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847-367-6640 • Fax: 847-367-6649
www.LCFPD.org

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

I, Julie Gragnani, Secretary for the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true, perfect and complete copy of **Ordinance No. _____**:

“An Ordinance providing for the levy of taxes for the
Lake County Forest Preserve District for the fiscal
year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026”

passed and approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, at its regular meeting held on October 15, 2025, all as appears from the records of my office now remaining.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of
said Lake County Forest Preserve District,
at my office in Libertyville, Lake County,
Illinois this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Julie Gragnani, Secretary
Lake County Forest Preserve District

SEAL

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE
WITH
THE TRUTH IN TAXATION ACT**

“**I DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that I am the presiding officer of the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

I DO CERTIFY that preliminary to the adoption of the 2025 tax levy (for the 2026 fiscal year) by said Board of Commissioners, the Board did comply fully with all the provisions of Sections 18-60 through 18-85 of **THE TRUTH IN TAXATION ACT** (the "Act"), 35 ILCS 200/18-55, et. seq.

The publication and public hearing requirements were not applicable because the District intends to adopt an aggregate levy for fiscal year 2026 in an amount which is less than 105% of the amount of property taxes extended or estimated to be extended, including any amount abated by the District prior to such extension, upon the final aggregate levy of the 2025 fiscal year.”

Jessica Vealitzek, President
Lake County Forest Preserve District

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2025

Notary Public

SEAL