Outlook

RE: Hernando County Ordinance No. 2026-21 - Adopted on October 27, 2026

From County Ordinances <CountyOrdinances@dos.fl.gov>
Date Mon 11/2/2026 9:38 AM
To Paige Jefferys <pjefferys@hernandoclerk.org>; County Ordinances <CountyOrdinances@dos.fl.gov>
Cc Heidi Prouse <hprouse@hernandoclerk.org>

1 attachment (150 KB)
Hernando20261030_Ordinance2026_21_Ack.pdf;

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Good morning,

Attached is the acknowledgement letter for Hernando County Ordinance 2026-21.

Thank you,

David Parrish
Government Operations Consultant II
Office of the General Counsel
Department of State
Room 701 – The Capitol – Tallahassee, FL
P: (850) 245-6270

From: Paige Jefferys <pjefferys@hernandoclerk.org>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2026 3:46 PM
To: County Ordinances <CountyOrdinances@dos.fl.gov>
Cc: Heidi Prouse <hprouse@hernandoclerk.org>
Subject: Hernando County Ordinance No. 2026-21 - Adopted on October 27, 2026

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

Sender Full Name:	Paige Jefferys
Sender Phone number:	352-754-4970
County Name:	Hernando
Ordinance Number:	2026-21

Thank You,

Paige Jefferys
~~Administrative Services | Administrative Services Clerk I~~
Office of Doug Chorvat Jr., Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller
Phone: (352) 754-4201 / ex. 77243| Email: PJefferys@hernandoclerk.org
20 N Main Street, Brooksville, FL 34601

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

November 2, 2026

Doug Chorvat, Jr.
County Clerk
Hernando County
20 North Main Street, Rm. 362
Brooksville, Florida 34601

Dear Doug Chorvat Jr.,

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of Hernando County Ordinance No. 2026-21, which was filed in this office on October 30, 2026.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Leijon
Administrative Code and Register Director

AL/dp

DRAFT DOCUMENT: F:\1 COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE\JAJ\Ordinances\Designating Clerk as Collection Agent\2026-9-16 Proposed Ordinance - Draft 2.wpd, September 16, 2026 (10:37am) NOTE: additions/~~deletions~~ = language proposed for addition/deletion to existing Code provisions.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2026-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HERNANDO COUNTY CLERK OF COURT AND COMPTROLLER TO COLLECT DELINQUENT DEBTS AS THE AGENT OF HERNANDO COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER TO COLLECT DELINQUENT COUNTY DEBTS, ESTABLISH PAYMENT PLANS, AND REFER UNPAID DEBTS TO A COLLECTION AGENT; AUTHORIZING LAWFUL COLLECTION OF FEES AND COSTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Hernando County is owed delinquent amounts arising from special master liens and orders, citations, recording-related fees and interest, and other lawful County obligations; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") finds that establishing a uniform process for collecting delinquent County debts will improve collections and protect public funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Board desires to provide debtors with a reasonable opportunity to pay or establish a payment plan before an account is referred to a third-party collection agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY:

Section 1. Authorizing the Hernando County Clerk of Court and Comptroller to Collect Delinquent Debts as the Agent of Hernando County. A new Hernando County Code, Chapter 9, Article III, to be entitled "Agreement with Clerk to Collect Debts as County's Agent," is hereby created to read as follows:

Section 9-31. – Authorizing the Clerk to Collect Delinquent Debts as Hernando County's Agent by Agreement.

(a) The Board of County Commissioners may authorize the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller (the "Clerk") by interlocal agreement to administer the collection of delinquent debts owed to Hernando County, subject to any applicable laws.

(b) Debts eligible for collection by the Clerk may include, but not be limited to:

1. Special master or special magistrate liens, fines, costs, and orders;

2. Citation fines, penalties, and costs;

3. Recording-related fees, charges, and lawful interest;

4. Code enforcement fines and costs;

5. Civil restitution lien orders (CRLO's);

6. Special assessments other than those collected by the "Uniform Method"; and,

7. Other legally enforceable debts owed to the County as identified by the County.

Section 9-32. – Collection Process and Payment Plans.

(a) Before referring an eligible debt to a collection agent, the Clerk shall make reasonable efforts to collect the debt directly in its normal course of business.

(b) The Clerk may establish reasonable payment plans for debtors and may establish procedures governing such plans.

(c) An account that remains current under an approved payment plan shall not be referred to a collection agent. If a debtor fails to pay or defaults under a payment plan, the Clerk may refer the unpaid debt for collection by a third-party.

9-33. – Referral to Collection Agency.

(a) The Clerk is authorized to refer eligible delinquent debts to a collection agent or private attorney in accordance with applicable Florida law.

(b) Any collection agent shall be properly registered or licensed as required by law and shall comply with all applicable federal and state debt collection requirements.

(c) The Clerk may establish reasonable procedures governing the referral, recall, reconciliation, and administration of accounts placed for collection.

Section 9-34. – Fees and Costs.

(a) To the extent permitted by law, the fee or cost charged by a collection agent or private attorney may be added to the delinquent debt and collected from the debtor.

(b) Where Fla. Stat. §§ 28.246 or 938.35, as they may be amended, apply, collection fees shall not exceed the maximum amount authorized by the applicable statute.

(c) The Clerk may assess any payment-plan fee, service charge, administrative charge, or other fee authorized by Florida law or other applicable legal authority, and such lawful charge may be added to the amount owed.

9-35. – Administration.

The Clerk, County Administrator, and County Attorney are authorized to develop procedures and agreements necessary to implement this ordinance. Nothing herein shall create a debt not otherwise authorized by law or impair any existing County lien, judgment, enforcement remedy, or other legal right.

Section 2. Severability. It is declared to be the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that if any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 3. Inclusion in the Code. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, and it is hereby provided, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of Hernando County, Florida. To this end, the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and

that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or another appropriate designation.

Section 4. Conflicting Provisions Repealed. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon receipt of official acknowledgment from the office of the Secretary of State of Florida that this ordinance has been filed with said office.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY in Regular Session this 27 day of October 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

SEAL

Attest: _____ By: _____
DOUG CHORVAT, JR.
Clerk

JERRY CAMPBELL
Chairman

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency

_____
County Attorney