

HERNANDO COUNTY DELEGATION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE)

HERNANDO COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. ____-____

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE HERNANDO COUNTY
DELEGATION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE); PROVIDING
FOR MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, FUNDING, TRANSPARENCY, CONFLICT
OF INTEREST PROVISIONS, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, SUNSET
PROVISIONS, AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES; PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS:

- The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recognizes that responsible governance requires continual review of efficiency, transparency, and fiscal accountability.
- The conservative principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and local control require evaluation of redundant, outdated, or excessive regulations that burden taxpayers and hinder economic growth.
- Government must be accountable to the people, and a structured citizen-led review will ensure that Hernando County remains efficient, responsive, and cost-effective.
- The Hernando County Delegation on Government Efficiency (DOGE) is necessary to conduct an independent efficiency audit of Hernando County government operations, financial expenditures, and regulatory structure and report its findings directly to both the BOCC and the Hernando Legislative Delegation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO
COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1 – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HERNANDO COUNTY DELEGATION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE)

A. Creation & Purpose

1. The **Hernando County Delegation On Government Efficiency (DOGE)** is hereby established as an **independent delegation** tasked with:
 - o Conducting a **full efficiency review** of county government operations, financial policies, and regulations.
 - o Recommending **cost-saving measures of at least 5% or \$49,900,000.00, regulatory reductions, and government restructuring** to improve **taxpayer value and streamline bureaucracy**.
 - o Reporting its findings to both the **BOCC and the Hernando Legislative Delegation**.
2. The **DOGE shall operate independently** but report directly to the BOCC and **provide recommendations on government efficiency, spending cuts, and governance models**.

SECTION 2 – MEMBERSHIP & APPOINTMENTS

A. Composition

1. DOGE shall consist of **eighteen (18) members**, appointed as follows:
 - o Each **County Commissioner shall appoint three (3) members** (Hernando County residents).
 - o The **BOCC shall appoint three (3) additional members** (Hernando County residents).
 - o **Three (3) to five (5) members must be former or current elected officials of the City of Brooksville**.
2. The **BOCC shall appoint five (5) alternates**.
3. **Exclusions:** No constitutional officer, county commissioner, school board member, state-elected official, or county employee may serve on DOGE.

B. Leadership & Meetings

1. DOGE shall elect a **Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer** from its members.
2. The **Vice-Chair shall have tie-breaking authority**.
3. DOGE shall **dissolve on July 4, 2026**.
4. Meetings shall be held **as needed, but not exceed twenty (20) total meetings**.

SECTION 3 – FUNDING & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

A. Quarterly Budget Allocation

1. The BOCC shall allocate **\$25,000 per quarter** to DOGE for **meeting locations, legal counsel, and administrative support**.
2. **DOGE members shall be compensated \$200 per meeting**, as per F.S. 190.006(8).

B. County Support & Transparency

1. The BOCC shall provide **county records, documents, and financial statements** as requested by DOGE in a timely manner not to exceed 12 calendar days.
2. DOGE is **authorized to contract independent legal counsel** as needed.

SECTION 4 – DUTIES, REPORTING, & ACCOUNTABILITY

1. DOGE shall submit **three public reports** at least 91 days before **July 4, 2026**, covering:
 - **Budget Efficiency Report:** Identifying waste, inefficiencies, and unnecessary spending in county and constitutional officer budgets. DOGE must identify at least 5% or \$49,900,000.00 in spending reductions.
 - **Regulatory Efficiency Report:** Reviewing county ordinances, regulations, department guidance and SOP's to identify excessive, duplicative, or outdated regulations.
 - **Governance Options Report:** Evaluating potential structural changes to Hernando County government available to the people, including but not limited to: Maintaining the **status quo**, **County-City Consolidation (Advisory Only – Requires State Approval)**, **Chartering the County (Advisory Only – Requires State & Voter Approval)**, **Rechartering the City of Brooksville (Advisory Only – Requires State & Voter Approval)**, **Chartering additional cities (Advisory Only – Requires State & Voter Approval)**
2. DOGE shall formally present its findings to:
 - **The BOCC for consideration and potential action, nonaction or revised action** within 90 days of any official report being completed and presented. If no action is taken DOGE must issue public notice of outcome.
 - **The Hernando Legislative Delegation** with a minimum requirement of only the 3rd report on governance options being submitted to them, if necessary, in person with draft language, and “CC’d” to the President of Senate, the Speaker of the House and the Office of the Governor before the 2027 legislative session.

3. All reports shall be publicly available online and in physical county offices.
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SECTION 5 – TRANSPARENCY & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

1. DOGE shall **fully comply with Florida’s Sunshine Law (Chapter 286, F.S.), ensuring all meetings, deliberations, and records are public.**
 2. DOGE shall hold **at least two town hall meetings** before finalizing its **Governance Options Report.**
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SECTION 6 – SUNSET & IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

1. DOGE shall **dissolve on July 4, 2026**, unless extended by a **four-fifths BOCC vote** for implementing recommendations.
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SECTION 7 – SEVERABILITY & CONFLICTS

1. If any section or provision of this ordinance is found **unenforceable**, the remainder shall remain in effect.
 2. This ordinance **supersedes all conflicting ordinances or resolutions.**
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SECTION 8 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect **immediately upon adoption.**

DULY ENACTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, this ____ day of _____, 2025.