

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principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and local control** require **evaluation of redundant, outdated, or excessive regulations** that **burden taxpayers and hinder economic growth**.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 the **BOCC**.

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 **advisory committee** tasked with:

- Conducting a **full efficiency review** of county government operations, financial policies, and regulations.
- Recommending **cost-saving measures, regulatory reductions, and government restructuring** to improve **taxpayer value and streamline bureaucracy**.

- Reporting its findings to the **BOCC**.

SECTION 2 – MEMBERSHIP & APPOINTMENTS

A. MEMBERSHIP:

1. The HCDOGE members are recruited from a news release and advertisement with an application to apply before established deadline.
2. Membership of the HCDOGE shall consist of eighteen to twenty-five persons. The applications received by the deadline established should be randomly selected to serve on the advisory board.

B. Leadership & Meetings

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

SECTION 3 – ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

1. The BOCC shall provide **county records, existing documents, and financial statements** as requested by DOGE in a timely manner.

SECTION 4 – DUTIES, REPORTING, & ACCOUNTABILITY

1. DOGE shall report at least bi-monthly to the BOCC, at an advertised public meeting, the results of their reviews. HCDOGE is encouraged to report what budgets, expenditures, policies, and other functions of government they have reviewed. Reports to the BOCC are encouraged to include areas of government where improvements could be considered, excessive spending, and areas of government where services should be considered to be reduced to limit expenses.
2. **Regulatory Efficiency Report:** Reviewing county ordinances, regulations, department guidance and SOP's to identify excessive, duplicative, or outdated regulations.
3. **HCDOGE should analyze the ability of the local government to effectively continue to analyze in the future for efficiencies.** These analyses should look at a plan for options for future external reviews, or dedicated internal auditor staff to work in conjunction with BOCC.
4. **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), Chartering additional cities (Advisory Only – Requires State & Voter Approval)

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**.

SECTION 6 – SUNSET & IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

1. DOGE shall **dissolve on July 4, 2026**, unless extended by **a four-fifths BOCC vote** for implementing recommendations.

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**.

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.