

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would create a new state-wide office to replace the operations of the existing twenty (20) judicial circuits; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation will eliminate the role of the elected Clerk of the Courts and transfer hundreds of millions of dollars directly to the State Courts Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation will result in the judges who preside over cases and courtrooms being in charge of the court files where their actions in cases are documented and through which they are held accountable to the public, instead of the current process which provides for the preservation of case files and court records by an impartial, independent custodian who answers to the citizens of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would essentially amend the Constitution by legislative act, by making the establishment of an elected Clerk of the Circuit Court as it appears in the Constitution, meaningless; and

WHEREAS, the threat that Taylor County will lose its elected Clerk of the Circuit Court in favor of OSCA personnel is real and imminent; and

WHEREAS, our Court system is not just about judges, lawyers and administrators, but was created to serve the people, and the people are best served by officials that they elect;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

- Section 1. The Florida Legislature is encouraged to vote against House Bill 1121 and its companion Senate Bill 2108, and to retain the current system which allows the voters to determine locally the person in charge of the court related functions.
- Section 2. The State Constitution having established in Article V, Section 14, that the Clerks of Court perform court-related functions, and any shift of those duties away from the Clerk is an issue for Constitutional revision, not the Florida Legislature.
- Section 3. A dedicated, stable, adequate funding source for the judicial branch of government, including Florida's state attorneys and public defenders, needs to be firmly established through collaborative measures of the existing Clerks

of Court, Legislature, Judiciary and members of the Florida Bar, and approved through Constitutional amendment if required to reconcile the resulting mechanism with the existing Constitution.

Section 4. The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Beth Allman, Director of Communications with The Florida Association of Court Clerks (FACC) for further handling via allman@ficlerks.com, the Governor of Florida, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and all members of Taylor County's Legislative Delegation.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida, at a regular meeting of the Board held on the 6th day of April, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Rudolph Parker
RUDOLPH PARKER, Chairman

Malcolm V. Page
MALCOLM PAGE

Mark Wiggins
MARK WIGGINS, District 2

Lonnie Houck
LONNIE HOUCK, District 4

Patricia Patterson
PATRICIA PATTERSON, District 5



ATTEST:

Annie Mae Murphy
ANNIE MAE MURPHY, Clerk