

Resolution Opposing Bonita Springs \$35 Million Property Tax Increase

7/4/26

Whereas; the City of Bonita Springs has proposed a 30-year \$35 million property tax increase on the August 18, 2026 ballot to acquire 6.15 miles of railroad track for \$28.6 million—a price exponentially higher than the Lee County Property Appraiser’s valuation of only \$306,239;

Whereas; this debt with interest and fees will grow to an estimated \$70 million, while failing to account for an additional \$102 million in projected costs for environmental cleanup, track removal, paving, lighting, parking, restrooms, and the construction of bridges over Bonita Beach Road, Old 41, and West Terry Street;

Whereas; A Liberal San Francisco group, Trust for Public Lands negotiated the terms of this acquisition, which forces local taxpayers to fund the purchase while allowing the railroad to retain all revenue generated from existing billboard and utility easement contracts; and severely limits pollution testing, with source documents and foreign analysis provided at usataxfighters.org/issues

Whereas; the proposed project presents a significant conflict of interest, as the Mayor of Bonita Springs operates a bicycle shop and a pizza shop situated less than 500 feet from the subject railroad tracks, raising serious questions regarding the primary beneficiaries of this public infrastructure expenditure;

Whereas; the Lee County Republican Assembly is dedicated to protecting taxpayers from fiscal irresponsibility, government overreach, and the mismanagement of public funds on projects that prioritize private commercial gain over the public interest;

Be It Resolved; that the Lee County Republican Assembly formally recommends a NO vote on the City of Bonita Springs’ 30-year property tax increase in the upcoming election on August 18, 2026.

Adopted July 15, 2026

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References

<https://usataxfighters.org/bonita-springs-tax-increase-proposal-what-taxpayers-need-to-know/>