



# Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson  
Way  
Viera, FL 32940

## Consent

F.9.

1/27/2026

### Subject:

Approval for the Florida Local Government Finance Commission to Issue Private Activity Bonds for East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc.

### Fiscal Impact:

There is no obligation or liability to the County for the requested action.

### Dept/Office:

County Manager/Central Services

### Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a Resolution evidencing the County’s written approval to issue conduit revenue bonds issued by the Florida Local Government Finance Commission on behalf of the East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc. for the financing the East Coast Zoological Society Aquarium also known as the Bowen Aquarium.

### Summary Explanation and Background:

The Board of County Commissioners (the Board) approved the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the Florida Local Government Finance Commission, dated June 1, 2023. Section 5.03 of this Interlocal Agreement requires the Board to provide written approval for the Florida Local Government Finance Commission (FLGFC) to issue bonds for projects within Brevard County.

The highly anticipated Bowen Aquarium is set to become the second campus of the East Coast Zoological Foundation, joining Brevard Zoo as a transformative force in environmental stewardship for Central Florida. Situated on 14 acres of shoreline at Port Canaveral along the Banana River, this facility is dedicated to protecting the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and the surrounding ecosystems through sustained funding, education, and research. By committing a percentage of every paid admission to IRL conservation, the aquarium is projected to contribute approximately \$500,000 annually toward restoration efforts, positioning it among the largest supporters of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP). Building upon the foundation’s legacy, established in 1986 when community volunteers constructed Brevard Zoo, the aquarium will feature state-of-the-art rehabilitation centers for sea turtles, openly visible to the public to highlight the complete journey from rescue to release. The Bowen Aquarium will educate more than 550,000 visitors each year on sustainable practices such as reducing ocean plastics and supporting habitat restoration, while advancing multi-institutional research on water quality and biodiversity.

Designed as an immersive, open-air experience that seamlessly blends indoor and outdoor environments, the Bowen Aquarium will showcase Florida’s extraordinary aquatic life, including native species such as bull sharks, otters, stingrays, and alligators. Signature exhibits like the Scaife Family Sea Turtle Healing Center and

Shark Flats will offer dramatic above- and below-water views, where dorsal fins cut through expansive habitats. Along winding boardwalks, guests will explore hands-on conservation encounter zones featuring oyster, clam, mangrove, and seagrass ecosystems, presented in humane, low-stress settings, paired with real-time water quality displays and interactive play areas inspired by Port Canaveral's locks. Adjacent to the aquarium, the Dr. Duane De Freese Coastal Conservation Hub will provide free public access to classrooms, wet labs, and research facilities, serving as a regional center for education and innovation while inspiring the next generation of engineers, conservationists, and problem-solvers. This integrated approach elevates animal care through advanced veterinary technologies and enrichment while drawing new talent and opportunity to the Space Coast.

In its role as a premier tourist destination, strategically located near major cruise lines and visible from key transportation corridors, the Bowen Aquarium will generate significant economic benefits supporting over 1,200 local jobs and over \$125 million in annual sales. Through the Our Legacy Campaign, which mirrors the community-driven origins of Brevard Zoo, the Bowen Aquarium represents bold vision and collective action, ensuring the long-term protection of Florida's interconnected waterways, the St. Johns River, the Indian River Lagoon, and the Atlantic Ocean. This world-class destination stands as a powerful example of what shared commitment can achieve, transforming complex challenges into extraordinary outcomes for wildlife, ecosystems, and people.

The County's Bond Counsel, Nabor, Giblin & Nickerson, has prepared the approving Resolution, regarding the Bowen Aquarium project. The Resolution proposed for adoption by the Board satisfies the pertinent legal requirements and provides that neither the County nor any of the elected officials or staff of the County will have any obligations or liability, financial or otherwise, with respect to the issuance of conduit revenue bonds issued by FLGFC. The County's Financial Advisor, PFM, has reviewed the approving Resolution, to ensure that the proposed transaction will not have a negative financial impact on the County. PFM has confirmed that the issuance of the bonds will not have a negative financial impact on the County, impair the County's credit rating, or impact future debt capacity.

### **Clerk to the Board Instructions:**

Provide executed copies of the Resolution to the County Attorney's Office and to the Central Services Department.



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

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January 28, 2026

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

**RE:** F.9., Florida Local Government Finance Commission to Issue Private Activity Bonds for East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc.

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on January 27, 2026, adopted Resolution No. 26-005, evidencing the County's written approval to issue conduit revenue bonds issued by the Florida Local Government Finance Commission on behalf of the East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc. for the financing of the East Coast Zoological Society Aquarium, also known as Bowen Aquarium. Enclosed are two fully-executed Resolutions.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

  
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/tr

Encls. (2)

cc: County Attorney  
Central Services

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-005**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA CONSENTING TO THE ISSUANCE BY THE FLORIDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE COMMISSION OF CONDUIT REVENUE BONDS ON BEHALF OF EAST COAST ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA, INC. FOR THE FINANCING OF FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR THIS RESOLUTION.** This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Florida, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws.

**SECTION 2. FINDINGS.** It is hereby ascertained, determined and declared that:

(A) The Florida Local Government Finance Commission (the "FLGFC") is a duly constituted and validly existing separate legal and administrative entity under Section 163.01(7), Florida Statutes, pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement, dated as of February 19, 1991 (including all joinders and amendments thereto, the "Interlocal Agreement"), among Brevard County, Florida (the "County"), Charlotte County, Florida, Lee County, Florida, Osceola County, Florida, Sarasota County, Florida and St. Johns County, Florida (collectively, the "Commission Members").

(B) Pursuant to Sections 163.01(2), (4) and (7)(d), Florida Statutes, the FLGFC may, for the purposes of financing or refinancing any capital project, exercise all powers in connection with the authorization, issuance, and sale of bonds pursuant to all privileges, benefits, powers and terms of Part I, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes and Chapter 159, Florida Statutes.

(C) The FLGFC has been requested to issue conduit bonds (the "Bonds") on behalf of the East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, Inc. d/b/a Brevard Zoo ("Brevard Zoo") to finance the development of the Bowen Aquarium (the "Facility") in the County.

(D) The Interlocal Agreement requires the consent of any Commission Member prior to the issuance of any conduit bonds to finance or refinance projects located within the jurisdiction of such Commission Member.

(E) In order to comply with the Interlocal Agreement, the FLGFC has requested the Board of County Commissioners of the County to adopt this Resolution evidencing

the consent of the County for the FLGFC to issue the proposed Bonds for the purposes stated herein including as related to the Facility.

**SECTION 3. CONSENT TO ISSUANCE OF PROPOSED BONDS BY THE FLGFC.** The County hereby consents to the issuance by the FLGFC of the proposed Bonds on behalf of Brevard Zoo to finance development of the Facility located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the County. Such consent is given solely to comply with the Interlocal Agreement and for no other purpose.

The consent given herein shall in no way be deemed to abrogate any regulations of the County applicable to the Facility and the Facility shall be subject to all such regulations, including, but not limited to, the County's Growth Management Plan, all concurrency requirements contained therein, and the County's Land Development Code.

The consent given herein shall not be construed as an approval of any necessary rezoning applications nor for any other regulatory permits relating to the Facility and the County shall not be construed by reason of its adoption of this Resolution to (a) attest to Brevard Zoo's ability to repay the indebtedness represented by the proposed Bonds, (b) make a recommendation to prospective purchasers of the proposed Bonds to purchase the same, or (c) have waived any right of the County or stopping the County from asserting any rights or responsibilities it may have in that regard.

The Bonds do not and shall not constitute a debt, liability or obligation of the County or of the State of Florida or of any political subdivision thereof, or as a pledge of the faith and credit or any taxing power of the County or of the State of Florida or of any political subdivision thereof, but shall be limited obligations of the FLGFC payable solely from and secured by a pledge of payments to be made only by Brevard Zoo. The consent given by the County in this Resolution is solely for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of the Interlocal Agreement. Further, the consent by the Board of the issuance of the Bonds by the FLGFC shall not be construed to obligate the County or its officials and employees to incur any liability, pecuniary or otherwise, in connection with the Facility or the issuance, marketing or repayment of the Bonds.

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY AND INVALID PROVISIONS.** If any one or more of the covenants, agreements or provisions herein contained shall be held contrary to any express provision of law or contrary to the policy of express law, though not expressly prohibited or against public policy, or shall for any reason whatsoever be held invalid, then such covenants, agreements or provisions shall be null and void and shall be deemed separable from the remaining covenants, agreements or provisions.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**DONE AND ADOPTED**, in Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, this 27 day of January, 2026

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

(SEAL)

By: Thad Altman  
Thad Altman, Chair  
(as approved by the Board on  
January 27, 2026)

ATTEST:

Rachel Sadoff  
Rachel Sadoff, Clerk

