

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Referendum Survey – Farmland Preservation

PRESENTER: Christopher Todd, Assistant County Manager

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

At the request of Chairman Lapsley, staff is requesting the Trust for Public Land to assess public interest in pursuing a referendum to fund a countywide farmland preservation program.

The Henderson County Commissioners request technical advice and assistance from Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy in connection with their efforts to examine the potential for creating a dedicated conservation funding source in Henderson County.

As part of their advice and assistance, the County understands TPL may provide feasibility research, conduct a public opinion survey, and develop strategies for the County’s consideration in creating dedicated, ongoing sources of public funds for land conservation and parks.

The County is interested not only in the data that TLP can provide, but also TLP’s opinions and recommendations on public funding options available to the County, including understanding the public’s priorities and attitudes concerning land and water conservation, farmland preservation, outdoor recreation, and protection of natural areas.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to direct staff to work with the Trust for Public Land to assess public interest in pursuing a referendum to fund a countywide farmland preservation program.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board to direct staff to work with the Trust for Public Land to assess public interest in pursuing a referendum to fund a countywide farmland preservation program.