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Commissioner Hofberger Proposes Comprehensive Efficiency Study to Streamline County Operations and Reduce Tax Burden

Escambia County, FL — Escambia County District Four Commissioner Ashlee Hofberger has introduced a proposal aimed at increasing operational efficiency, strengthening fiscal accountability, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used as effectively as possible. The agenda item, scheduled for consideration at Monday's Board of County Commissioners meeting, would direct county staff to solicit proposals from qualified consulting firms to conduct a comprehensive organizational efficiency study.

The selected firm would evaluate all county departments, engaging directly with managers and employees to identify opportunities for reorganization, resource optimization, and improved service delivery.

"This initiative is about making government work smarter for the people it serves," said Commissioner Hofberger. "My goal is to create a clear roadmap that ensures Escambia County operates efficiently and responsibly. Some departments are stretched too thin, while others may not be achieving the impact our taxpayers expect. Across-the-board cuts don't work — critical areas like roads, infrastructure, and public safety need strategic investment, not reduction. The key is to reallocate resources where they make the greatest difference for our residents."

The proposal follows strong community advocacy for adopting the property tax rollback rate and reflects growing public demand for more efficient government spending.

While acknowledging that the study requires both funding and time, Commissioner Hofberger emphasized its potential to deliver significant long-term savings. "If this evaluation had been conducted last year, the county could have saved an estimated \$11 million," she noted. "An independent, third-party review will bring transparency and objectivity to the process — free from internal bias or favoritism — so we can make data-driven decisions that truly benefit taxpayers."

Commissioner Hofberger underscored that the proposal aligns with her broader commitment to fiscal responsibility and government transparency. "No one has ever emailed me asking to raise their property taxes," she added. "Our residents expect us to do everything possible to reduce the tax burden while maintaining essential public services. This study is a step toward that goal."

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