

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-179

(Emergency Management – COVID-19 – Local Government Public Meetings)

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-69, as extended by Executive Order 20-112, Executive Order 20-123, Executive Order 20-139 and Executive Order 20-150, expires on August 1, 2020, unless extended; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-69 requires amendment to address foreseeable Truth in Millage (“TRIM”), non ad valorem assessment, and value adjustment board related issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1.

Executive Order 20-69 is amended to include Section 5, as follows:

A. For any taxing authority holding a millage and budget hearing under Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, or a local governing board holding a hearing or meeting regarding a non ad valorem assessment, including, but not limited to, those under section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, I hereby suspend any Florida Statute that requires a quorum or supermajority of the membership to be present in person or requires the local government body to meet at a specific public place.

B. A taxing authority holding a millage and budget hearing under Chapter 200, Florida Statutes, or a local governing board holding a hearing or meeting regarding a non ad valorem assessment including, but not limited to, those under section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

C. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and “Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Laws,” including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

D. The provisions set forth in this section shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on October 15, 2020.

Section 2.

Executive Order 20-69 is amended to include Section 6, as follows:

A. For any value adjustment board including, but not limited to, special magistrates, holding a hearing or meeting under Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, I hereby suspend any Florida Statute or rule that requires a quorum or individual to be present in person or requires the local government body or individual to meet at a specific public place.

B. A value adjustment board including, but not limited to, special magistrates, holding a hearing or meeting under Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

C. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and “Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Laws,” including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

D. The provisions set forth in this section shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on December 15, 2020.

Section 3. Except as amended herein, I hereby extend Executive Order 20-69, as extended by Executive Orders 20-112, 20-123, 20-139 and 20-150, until 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2020.

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