

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-HJ

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND FINDINGS OF FACTS; ESTABLISHING DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND QUALIFICATIONS; ADDRESSING BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 125.66, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Be it ordained by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, as follows:

**Section 1. Short Title.**

This Ordinance shall be known as the St. Johns County Agriculture Advisory Committee Ordinance.

**Section 2. Authority.**

This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

**Section 3. Legislative intent and findings of fact.**

A. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish an agriculture advisory committee to provide informed guidance on agricultural policy, regulation, and land use planning to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and relevant County departments.

B. The Board finds that an agriculture advisory committee is necessary to provide advice and make recommendations on matters effecting agriculture and rural lands in unincorporated St. Johns County including issues under the Florida Right to Farm Act (section 823.14, Florida Statutes), and the St. Johns County comprehensive plan and land development code.

C. The Board further finds:

- i. Agriculture contributes significantly to the economy, heritage, and quality of life in St. Johns County.
- ii. The Florida Right to Farm Act protects bona fide agricultural operations from nuisance claims and unduly burdensome regulations.

- iii. The St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan promotes the preservation of agricultural lands through policies in the Future Land Use Element, which encourage agricultural viability and rural character.
- iv. The St. Johns County Land Development Code contains standards applicable to agricultural uses that should be periodically reviewed for consistency with evolving practices and statutory rights.

#### **Section 4. Agriculture Advisory Committee.**

A. There is hereby established an advisory committee to the Board of County Commissioners to provide informed guidance on agriculture policy, regulation, and land use planning and provide advice and make recommendations on matters effecting agriculture and rural lands in unincorporated St. Johns County. The Agriculture Advisory Committee shall be supported by appropriate staff as determined by the County Administrator.

B. The Agriculture Advisory Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, each of which shall be appointed directly by the Board of County Commissioners. All members shall be registered to vote in St. Johns County. Each member shall serve at the will of the Board.

C. Each member of the Committee shall currently own or manage a commercial farming operation within unincorporated St. Johns County and at least one of the following:

- i. Owned or operated a commercial farm for the past 5 years or more within Northeast Florida.
- ii. Have experience or knowledge in one or more of the following areas: farm management; agriculture equipment operation and maintenance; crop production (fruit or vegetable row crops, floriculture, sod, and/or hay); seasonal production of crop rotation; plant-nutrient and pest management; State of Florida agricultural policies; and/or watershed or flood zones in rural areas.
- iii. Be reliant on the production of agricultural goods for the majority of their annual income.

No more than two committee members may represent the same crop commodity.

D. Each member's term shall be for (3) three years; however, three (3) of the initial members shall be appointed for two (2) year terms to create staggered terms. Each member shall serve until their successor is appointed.

E. The Committee shall elect its own chair and vice-chair and shall be governed by the Rules and Polices of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

F. The Agriculture Advisory Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- i. Advising on matters related to the Florida Right to Farm Act including best practices.
- ii. Reviewing and making recommendations on land use planning issues affecting agriculture, including related Comprehensive Plan amendments and Land Development Code changes.
- iii. Identifying and promoting programs to sustain agricultural viability and preserve working lands.
- iv. Supporting agritourism and economic diversification of bona fide farms consistent with state law and County policy.
- v. Advising on infrastructure and transportation needs within rural areas.
- vi. Improve and strengthen agriculture within unincorporated St. Johns County.
- vii. Advise on food systems pertaining to communities of food insecurity, school programs and culinary institutes of St. Johns County.
- viii. Provide input and recommendations for agriculturally related grants and programs sponsored by St. Johns County.
- ix. Support and help bring public awareness of rural and agricultural lands through community or government education and outreach.

G. The Committee shall meet at least once quarterly. All meetings of the Committee shall be open public meetings and shall be governed by Sunshine Law, section 286.011, Florida Statutes.

#### **Section 5. Business Impact.**

This Ordinance will not have a direct economic impact on private, for-profit businesses in the County.

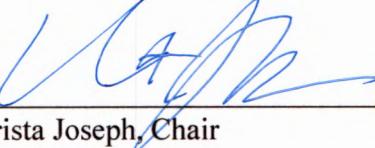
#### **Section 6. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall take effect upon a certified copy being filed with the Florida Department of State.

**PASSED AND ENACTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 4th day of November 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Rendition Date NOV 05 2025

By: 

Krista Joseph, Chair

ATTEST: Brandon J. Patty,  
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

By: Crystal Smith  
Deputy Clerk

Effective Date: NOV 10 2025



# LOCALiQ

FLORIDA

PO Box 631244 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1244

## **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

Brandon Patty, Clerk of Circuit Attn: Artricia Allen Deputy Clerk  
Brandon Patty, Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller  
4010 Lewis Speedway  
St Augustine FL 32084-8637

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared, who on oath says that he or she is the Legal Coordinator of the St Augustine Record, published in St Johns County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Public Notices, was published on the publicly accessible website of St Johns County, Florida, or in a newspaper by print in the issues of, on:

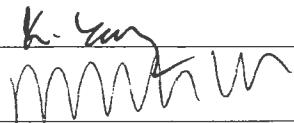
SAG St Augustine Record 10/20/2025

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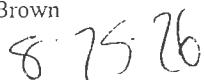
Affiant further says that the website or newspaper complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, by the legal clerk, who is personally known to me, on 10/20/2025

Legal Clerk



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown



My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$102.64
Tax Amount:	\$0.00
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Order No:	11750022
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*Please do not use this form for payment remittance.*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the following ordinance at a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND FINDINGS OF FACTS; ESTABLISHING DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND QUALIFICATIONS; ADDRESSING BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE REQUIRED BY SECTION 125.66, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The proposed ordinance is on file in the office of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, Florida, and may be examined by interested parties prior to the said public hearing. Please take note that the proposed ordinance is subject to revision prior to hearing or adoption. All parties having any interest in said ordinance will be afforded an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

NOTICE TO PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO ALL HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact ADA Coordinator, at (904) 209-0400 or at the Facilities Management Department, 2416 Dobbs Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086. For hearing impaired individuals: Florida Relay Service: 1-800-955-8770, no later than 5 days prior to the date of this hearing.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BRANDON J. PATTY, ITS CLERK  
By: ARTRICIA K. ALLEN, Deputy Clerk

MARIAH VERHAGEN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**CORD BYRD**  
Secretary of State

November 10, 2025

FILED NOV 10 2025  
St. Johns County  
Clerk of Court

By: Crystal Smith  
Deputy Clerk

Brandon Patty  
Clerk of Courts  
St. Johns County  
500 San Sebastian View  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Dear Brandon Patty,

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of St. Johns County Ordinance No. 2025-42, which was filed in this office on November 10, 2025.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Leijon  
Administrative Code and Register Director

AL/dp