

**DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2026- \_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO ALL REQUIRED ENTITIES A PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE DESOTO COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO AMEND POLICY 1.1.14 TO BROADEN AND CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AND MAKING IT CONSISTENT WITH THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, empowers the Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) to prepare and enforce comprehensive plans for the development of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Policy 1.1.4 of the DeSoto County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element provides that “Essential Services” may be allowed in any zoning district as provided through the County’s Land Development Regulations (“LDRs”), and defines “Essential Services” narrowly to include water, wastewater and cable TV, which definition is inconsistent with the definition in the LDRs; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring the term “Essential Services” is consistent in the Comprehensive Plan and LDR allows for consistent implementation of the term and helps to ensure that government owned infrastructure and services are in place in a timely fashion to serve growth; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, the Board is required to transmit to the reviewing agencies (and any other local government or governmental agency that has filed a written request with the governing body) a copy of the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments; and

**WHEREAS**, public transmittal hearings on the Comprehensive Plan amendment were held by the DeSoto County Planning Commission, acting as the Local Planning Agency, on March 03, 2026, and by the Board on March 10, 2026, pursuant to Sections 163.3184 (3) and (5), F. S.; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the receipt of DeSoto County Comprehensive Plan amendment by the Florida Department of Commerce (FDC), the FDC must review the amendment and issue to DeSoto County any Objections, Recommendations and Comments (ORC) Report on the amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, upon receipt of the FDC ORC Report, DeSoto County has 180 days to adopt, adopt with changes, or not adopt the Comprehensive Plan amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board directs the Development Director to transmit Comprehensive Plan text amendment to all required entities and designates the Development Director as the contact person.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Board of County Commissioners hereby directs the Development Director to transmit to all applicable reviewing agencies as required by Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, the proposed amendment to the DeSoto County Comprehensive Plan text, revising Policy 1.1.14, as more particularly set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution.

**SECTION 2.** The proposed amendment to the DeSoto County Comprehensive Plan is attached as Exhibit A to this Resolution.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED** in DeSoto County, Florida, this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2026.

**ATTEST:**

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mandy Hines  
County Administrator

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Hickox  
Chairman

**Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie Vicente  
County Attorney

## EXHIBIT A

# DESOTO COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

### Excerpt

**Policy 1.1.14: *Essential Services and Structures.*** “Essential Services” means government owned services and structures, including but not limited to utilities, general communications, public safety uses, municipal public-use airports, penal facilities, and solid waste disposal facilities and ~~(to include infrastructure such as water, wastewater, cable TV, etc.)~~ and “Essential Services Facilities” ~~(to include structures, housing or ancillary infrastructure)~~ shall may be allowed in any zone district ~~through the~~ as provided by the County’s Land Development Regulations Development Plan process.