

**RESOLUTION: 2025-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
CRESTVIEW FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING  
APPROVAL OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD VALOREM  
TAX EXEMPTION (EDATE) INCENTIVE PROGRAM; AND  
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, The Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDATE) incentive program provides temporary tax exemptions to eligible new and existing businesses that invest in facility improvements while creating new jobs with an average wage at 110% of the county's average wage or more; and

**WHEREAS**, an economic impact report completed by the University of West Florida's Haas Center in July, Okaloosa County's EDATE incentive program has resulted in the addition of 317 jobs to the local economy over the past 10 years and an additional \$19.1 million in local payroll. The UWF Haas Center tallied the overall Return on Investment to Okaloosa County at 663 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the EDATE incentive program was initially adopted in 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, the EDATE incentive program must be reauthorized by voters every 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the EDATE incentive program shall be placed before Okaloosa County voters in the November 5<sup>th</sup> General Election; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boards of Directors for each of seven different organizations within Okaloosa County, namely: The Building Industry Association of Okaloosa and Walton County, the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce, the Destin Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce and One Okaloosa Economic Development Council, have endorsed the renewal of the EDATE incentive program and are encouraging their respective membership bases to support the initiative.

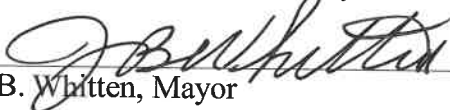
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF CRESTVIEW,  
FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1 – EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT** - The City of Crestview hereby supports the EDATE incentive program as an integral economic development tool for our local area and County as a whole and encourages approval of the EDATE incentive program to be placed before the voters of Okaloosa County at the November 5<sup>th</sup> general election.

**SECTION 2 – EFFECTIVE DATE.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of Crestview, Florida on the 21st day of October 2024.

Approved by me this 21st day of October 2024.

  
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J. B. Whitten, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Maryanne Girard, City Clerk

