

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**RFQ No. 18/19-36, CONTINUING SERVICES  
CONTRACT FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES**

**DUE DATE: Monday, July 22, 2019- 4:00 pm**  
**OPEN DATE: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 -1:00 pm**



**Issued By:**  
**Clay County Board of County Commissioners**  
**Purchasing Division**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services

Request for Qualification Advertisement .....	3-5
Request for Qualification Instructions .....	6-12
Submittal Format Requirements .....	13
Evaluation Criteria .....	14-19
Scope of Services .....	20
Corporate Details .....	21
Certification Regarding Debarment .....	22
Scrutinized Company Certification.....	23
No Bid Statement.....	24
Procedures for Bid Opening.....	25-38

Attachments:

Form W-9

## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with F.S. 287.055 the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), the Board of County Commissioners, Clay County, Florida, will be accepting sealed qualifications, which will be received until 4:00 p.m., Monday, July 22, 2019, at the Clay County Administration Building, fourth floor, Reception Area, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, for the following:

### **RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**

Qualifications will be opened at 1:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 in the Clay County Administration Building, Conference Room "B", fourth floor, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida, in the presence of the Purchasing Department staff and all other interested persons.

The opened Qualifications will be read aloud and preserved in the custody of the Purchasing Department for later examination. The Finance and Audit Committee of the Board will present its recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners as soon thereafter as possible.

Qualifications will not be valid unless received by the RFQ deadline and in a sealed envelope marked "**RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**" to be received until 4:00 P.M., Monday, July 22, 2019. Envelopes are to be submitted in person or delivered by courier to the above address. No postal mail will be accepted.

After due consideration, Clay County intends to entertain a short list of firms. Staff will begin negotiations with the number one ranked firm derived from the Clay County Board of County Commissioners short listing. If the negotiation with the firm is successful, contract procedures will be initiated. If a successful negotiation cannot be reached, the County may seek a proposal from the number two, then number three ranked firm if deemed necessary by the County.

Firms desiring to provide the needed professional services must submit five (5) copies as outlined on Page 6 of Request for Qualifications Instructions, the attached Form W-9, and proof of liability insurance for evaluation by Clay County.

During the bidding process, all prospective proposers are hereby prohibited from contacting (i) any member of the Board of County Commissioners, the County Manager or any County employee or agent regarding the solicitation in any respect during the solicitation period, and (ii) the County Manager or any County employee or agent regarding the solicitation in any respect during the evaluation period. The violation of this rule shall result in the automatic disqualification of any response to a bid solicitation submitted by the violator, and the foregoing instructions shall so state (as specified in Section P of Chapter 8 of the Purchasing Manual attached hereto). The no-contact rule set forth shall not apply to inquiries submitted to County employees or agents in the manner specifically provided in the bid solicitation package regarding the distribution thereof, or to communications seeking clarification regarding instructions or specifications submitted to County employees or agents in the manner specifically provided for in the bid solicitation package, or to pre-bid conferences provided for in the bid solicitation

package, or to formal presentations by finalists to the Board of County Commissioners or any committee thereof specifically contemplated in the bid solicitation package. For information concerning procedures for responding to this Bid, contact the Purchasing Division, Donna Fish by email [purchasing@claycountygov.com](mailto:purchasing@claycountygov.com) or at (904) 278-3761.

The County reserves the right to waive formalities in any response, to reject any or all responses with or without cause, to waive technical and non-technical or non-material defects in the solicitation or submittal of any responses, including the lack of availability of adequate funds, regulatory agency requirements, to make award in part or completely, and/or to accept the response that, in its judgment, will be in the best interest of the County of Clay. Bid qualifications in which the prices obviously are unbalanced will be rejected.

**FOLLOWING THE BID OPENING AND TABULATION, A “NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD BID” OR A “NOTICE OF REJECTION OF ALL BIDS” WILL BE POSTED ON THE INTERNET AT: [www.claycountygov.com/departments/purchasing/bids/bcc-bids-notice-of-intent](http://www.claycountygov.com/departments/purchasing/bids/bcc-bids-notice-of-intent). THIS WEB PAGE CAN ALSO BE ACCESSED FROM THE HOMEPAGE OF THE COUNTY’S WEBSITE AT: [www.claycountygov.com](http://www.claycountygov.com) BY FOLLOWING THE “NOTICE OF INTENT BIDS” LINK UNDER THE “BUSINESS” ROLLOVER BUTTON ON THE COUNTY’S HOMEPAGE. NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE POSTED.**

**PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE NOTIFIED THAT THE FAILURE TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE SEALED BID ENVELOPE, A PROPER BID BOND OR OTHER SECURITY APPROVED UNDER THE COUNTY’S PURCHASING POLICY, IF REQUIRED FOR THIS SOLICITATION, OR THE FAILURE TO FILE A WRITTEN PETITION INITIATING A FORMAL PROTEST PROCEEDING WITHIN THE TIMES AND IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 8. (N), OF SAID POLICY, SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE RIGHT TO PROTEST THE BID SOLICITATION, ANY ADDENDUM THERETO, OR THE BID DECISION, AS APPLICABLE, AND TO INITIATE A FORMAL PROTEST PROCEEDING UNDER SAID POLICY. THE COUNTY’S PURCHASING POLICY CAN BE VIEWED AT THE COUNTY’S WEBSITE BY FOLLOWING THE APPROPRIATE LINKS FROM THE HOMEPAGE ADDRESS SET FORTH ABOVE.**

**IF A PROSPECTIVE BIDDER IS IN DOUBT WHETHER THIS SOLICITATION REQUIRES A BID BOND, SUCH PROSPECTIVE BIDDER IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING APPROPRIATE INQUIRY.**

A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

-----END OF NOTICE-----

**BID ADVERTISEMENTS SCHEDULE**

**RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**

**(CLAY TODAY) For publication on: June 27, 2019**

**(CLAY COUNTY WEBSITE) For: June 27, 2019**

**PLEASE SEND ORIGINAL INVOICE AND PROOF OF PUBLICATION TO:**

Clay County Board of County Commissioners  
**Purchasing Department**  
477 Houston Street  
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043  
ATTENTION: Donna Fish



Howard Wanamaker  
County Manager

## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**

1. **Delivery and Receipt of Qualifications:** All sealed Qualifications submitted shall be received by the Purchasing Department of Clay County, Florida.

Qualifications submitted in person or by courier services will be received at:  
Clay County Administrative Building  
Fourth Floor, Reception Area  
477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

FIVE sets of the qualification package shall be submitted in the format outlined on Page #13, IN WRITING, AND SEALED in an envelope. Proof of liability insurance, qualifications, Page 21 of this RFQ signed by an Officer of the responding Firm, and form W-9 taxpayer identification number and certification shall be included with all responses submitted.

The words “**RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**” shall be clearly marked on the front and back of the envelope containing the qualifications.

2. **Due Date and Opening Date:** Qualifications will be received by carrier or in person until Monday, July 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. and will be opened on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. or soon thereafter, in the Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Conference Room “B”, Fourth Floor, Green Cove Springs, Florida. Qualifications will be reviewed by Clay County as soon thereafter as possible.
  - A. All Qualifications will be “clocked” at the time they are received to indicate the time and date of receipt.
  - B. Qualifications WILL NOT be accepted after the time and date specified regardless of the circumstances.
  - C. No postal mail will be accepted.
3. After due consideration, Clay County intends to entertain a short list of firms. Staff will begin negotiations with the number one ranked firm derived from the Clay County Board of County Commissioners short listing. If the negotiation with the firm is successful, contract procedures will be initiated. If a successful negotiation cannot be reached, the County may seek a proposal from the number two, then number three ranked firm if deemed necessary by the County.
4. **Withdrawal of Bid:** Bids may be withdrawn by a written or faxed request by the Bidder and received by the Purchasing Department before the date and time for receiving Bids has expired. Negligence on the part of the Bidder in preparing a Bid is not grounds for withdrawal or modification of a Bid after such Bid has been opened by the County. Bidders may not withdraw or modify a Bid after the appointed Bid Opening. Bidders may not assign or otherwise transfer their Bids.
5. **Inquiries/Questions:** Any questions regarding this Solicitation must be directed to **Donna**

**Fish** (the authorized contact person) via email at [purchasing@claycountygov.com](mailto:purchasing@claycountygov.com) (preferred method) or by calling (904) 278-3761. Written inquiries/questions must be received by **July 12, 2019**. Responses to questions, clarifications, and addenda will be distributed to potential Bidders by email. It is the responsibility of interested Bidders to verify if this information has been issued prior to submitting a Bid.

6. **No Contact Period:** During the Bidding process, all prospective Bidders are hereby prohibited from contacting (1) any member of the Board of County Commissioners, the County Manager or any County employee or agent regarding the solicitation in any respect during the solicitation period, and (2) the County Manager or any County employee or agent regarding the solicitation in any respect during the evaluation period. The violation of this rule shall result in the automatic disqualification of any Bid submitted by the violator, as specified in Section P of Chapter 8 of the Clay County Purchasing Manual. **Exceptions:** The no-contact rule set forth shall not apply to inquiries submitted to the authorized contact person, the pre-bid conference, or to formal presentations by finalists to the Board of County Commissioners or to the County's evaluation committee.
7. **Additional Evaluation:** The County reserves the right to request any additional information from Bidders after Bid Opening and before award as may be necessary to assist in review and evaluation of any Bid prior to submittal of a recommendation for award to the Board of County Commissioners.
8. **Award:** The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be awarded to the responsible Firm submitting a Proposal determined to provide the best value to the County with price, technical, and other applicable factors considered
9. **Waiver of Formalities/Rejection of Bids:** The County reserves the right to waive formalities in any Bid, to reject any or all Bids with or without cause, to waive irregularities/technicalities, and waive technical and non-technical or non-material defects in the Bid document or submittal of any Bid. The County reserves the right to make award either in part or completely, and/or to accept the Bid that, in its judgment, will be in the best interest of the County. Bids in which the prices obviously are unbalanced will be rejected. The County reserves the right to reject any and all Bids and to re-advertise for all or any part of this solicitation as deemed in its best interest.
10. **Cancellation of Bid:** Clay County reserves the right to cancel a solicitation at any time prior to approval of the award. The decision to cancel a solicitation cannot be the basis for a protest under the formal protest process as referenced herein.
11. **No Bid:** Each company not intending to respond to this RFQ should reply with a written "No Bid Statement". Such action will maintain the company on the appropriate active Bidder solicitation list. Three (3) failures to respond to solicitations may result in deletion from the Bidder solicitation list.
12. **Deviations:** Bidders are hereby advised that the County will only consider Proposals that meet the requirements imposed upon them by this RFQ document. In instances where a

deviation is stated in the Submittal. Said Submittal will be subject to rejection by the County in recognition of the fact that said Submittal does not meet the exact requirements imposed upon the Firm by the RFQ or Contract documents.

13. **Bid Protests:** Any company affected adversely by the County's decision may file with the County Purchasing Division a "Notice of Protest" in writing within 72 hours after the posting of the recommended award. Failure to file a written Notice of Protest shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 8 (N) of the Clay County Purchasing Policies. Failure to file a written petition initiating a formal protest proceeding within the time frame and in the manner prescribed in Section 8. (N) of said policy shall constitute a waiver of the right to protest the Bid solicitation, any addendum thereto, or the Bid award recommendation or decision, and to initiate a formal protest proceeding under said policy. The County's Purchasing policy may be viewed at the County's website by following the appropriate links from the Homepage.
14. **Public Entity Crimes:** Pursuant to Section 287.133(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes, a person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a Bid for a Contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a Bid for a Contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit Bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a Contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a Contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list. By submitting a Bid, Bidder attests that they have not been placed on the "Convicted Vendor List".
15. **Debarment:** By submitting a proposal, the proposer certifies that it is not currently debarred from submitting qualifications for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Florida and that it is not an agent of a person or entity that is currently debarred from submitting qualifications for contracts issued by any subdivision or agency of the State of Florida.
16. **Scrutinized Companies Certification:** In compliance with subsection (5) of Section 287.135(5), Florida Statutes the Bidder certifies that the company is not participating in a boycott of Israel as defined in subsection (1) of the Statute; is not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List as referred to in subsection (2) of the Statute; and is not engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria as defined in subsection (1) of the Statute. The included Scrutinized Companies Certification Form must be completed and returned as part of the bid submittal.
17. **Laws and Regulations:** The Firm shall comply with all laws and regulations applicable to provide the goods and/or services specified in this solicitation. The Firm shall be familiar with all federal, state and local laws that may affect the goods and/or services offered. All applicable Federal and State laws, municipal and Clay County ordinances, and the rules and

regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over any part of the project shall apply to the entire project and Contract.

18. **Public Records – Proprietary/Confidential Information:** In accordance with Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes (Public Records Law) and except as may be provided by other applicable State and Federal Law, all proposers should be aware that proposals are public record. Proposers should identify specifically any information contained in their proposal which they consider confidential and/or proprietary and which they believe to be exempt from disclosure, citing specifically the applicable exempting law. Failure to identify confidential and/or proprietary information prior to submission of the proposal may result in such information being subject to release if requested in a public records request.
19. **Copyright Restrictions:** Both the County seal and the County logo are being registered for a copyright. Neither the Clay County seal nor the logo may be used or provided to non-Clay County government users for use on company Proposals, presentations, etc.
20. **Indemnification:** The awarded Firm shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, and its officers and employees, from liabilities, damages, losses, and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of the company and other persons employed or utilized by the company in the performance of the Contract. The provisions of Florida Statute 768.28 applicable to Clay County, Florida apply in full to this Contract. Any legal actions to recover monetary damages in tort for injury or loss of property, personal injury, or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the County acting within the scope of his/her office or employment are subject to the limitations specified in this statute.

No officer, employee or agent of the County acting within the scope of his/her employment or function shall be held personally liable in tort or named as a defendant in any action for any or damage suffered as a result of any act, event, or failure to act. The County shall not be liable in tort for the acts or omissions of an officer, employee, or agent committed while acting outside the course and scope of his/her employment. This exclusion includes actions committed in bad faith or with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property.

21. **Insurance Requirements:** Prior to commencement of the project, the awarded Firm shall provide the County Purchasing Division with proof of the following insurance:

- a. Commercial General Liability

1. General Aggregate	\$1,000,000
2. Products and Completed Operations Aggregate	\$1,000,000
3. Personal and Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000
4. Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
5. Fire Damage (any one fire)	\$ 50,000
6. Medical Expense (any one person)	\$ 5,000

- b. Automobile Liability

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Any automobile-Combined bodily injury/<br>property damage,<br>with minimum limits for all additional<br>coverages as required by Florida law | \$1,000,000      |
| c. Workers Compensation/Employers Liability   |                  |
| 1. Workers Compensation   | statutory limits |
| 2. Employers Liability  |                  |
| a. Each Accident  | \$ 100,000       |
| b. Disease-Policy   | \$ 500,000       |
| c. Disease-Each Employee  | \$ 100,000       |
| d. Professional Liability when required by Contract-per occurrence  | \$ 1,000,000     |

The awarded Firm must maintain insurance coverage at the above-prescribed levels through the date of completion of the project and such coverage must include all independent Contractors and subcontractors. Either prior to, or simultaneously with the execution of the Contract, the awarded Bidder must deliver certificates of insurance for the required insurance coverage to the County naming “Clay County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, the Board of County Commissioners, Clay County, Florida; and all public agencies of Clay County, as their interests may appear” as “Additional Insured.” Said certificates of insurance shall also include a thirty-day prior written notice of cancellation, modification or non-renewal to be provided to the County.

22. **Bid Preparation Costs:** By submission of a Proposal, the Firm agrees that all costs associated with the preparation of his/her Proposal will be the sole responsibility of the Firm and shall not be borne by the County. The Firm also agrees that the County bears no responsibility for any costs associated with the preparation of their Proposal and/or any administrative or judicial proceedings resulting from the solicitation process.
23. **Business Registration Requirement:** In accordance with Chapters 605-623, Florida Statutes, in order to do business in the State of Florida, corporations (and other business designations) are required to be registered and in good standing with the Department of State, Department of Corporations. To be eligible to receive a contract and/or purchase order registration must be accomplished prior to the initial posting indicating intent to award to that vendor. Failure to be registered may be cause for disqualification. Contact the Department of Corporations at (850) 245-6000. Online-filing is available at: <http://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz>
24. **Qualifications and Requirements:** The Firm and all assigned key professional staff shall be properly licensed and registered to practice in Florida. The County shall have the right to review the references, experience of assigned personnel, and qualifications of the Firm in order to make the final determination of acceptability of the Firm to be awarded the Contract.

The Board of County Commissioners may reject, at its sole discretion, any Firm the Commission finds to lack, or who’s present or former executive employees, officers,

directors, stockholders, partners or owners are found by the Commission to lack honesty, integrity, or moral responsibility. The Commission's finding may be based on any of the following factors: the disclosure required herein, the County's own investigation, public records, or any other reliable source of information. The Commission may also reject any Firm failing to make the disclosure required herein. By submitting a Proposal, Firms recognize and accept that the Board of County Commissioners may reject any Bid at its sole discretion and the Firm waives any claim it might have for damages or other relief arising from the rejection of its Bid or resulting directly or indirectly from the rejection of its Proposal based on these grounds or from the disclosure of any pertinent information relating to the reasons for rejection of its Bid.

25. **Interpretation of Plans and Specifications:** No interpretation of the meaning of the plans, specifications, or other Bid documents will be made to any Bidder orally. Every request for interpretation should be in writing addressed to the Purchasing Department. To be given consideration, such requests must be received no later than **July 12, 2019**. Any and all such interpretations and any supplemental instructions will be in the form of a written addendum. All Addenda issued shall become part of the RFQ and Contract documents, and receipt must be acknowledged on the Corporate Details Form, or by completion of the applicable information on the Addendum and submitting it with their Proposal. Failure to acknowledge Addenda which have no effect on the competitive nature of the bidding process may be a waiveable deviation at the County's sole discretion.
26. **Conflict of Interest:** The award hereunder is subject to Chapter 112, Florida Statutes. All proposers must disclose with their Proposal, any personal or organizational conflicts of interest pursuant to Section 112.313, Florida Statutes, the name of any officer, director, or agent who is also an employee of the Clay County Board of County Commissioners. Further, all proposers must disclose the name of any Clay County Board of County Commissioners employee who owns, directly or indirectly, an interest of the proposer's firm or any of its branches.
27. **Use of Contract by other Government Agencies:** At the option of the Vendor/Contractor, the use of the Contract resulting from this solicitation may be extended to other governmental agencies, including the State of Florida, its agencies, political subdivision, counties, and cities.  
  
Each governmental agency allowed by the Vendor/Contractor to use this Contract shall do so independent of any other governmental entity. Each agency shall be responsible for its own purchases and shall be liable only for goods or services ordered, received and accepted. No agency receives any liability by virtue of this bid and subsequent contract award.
28. **Execution of Contract and Notice to Proceed:** The awarded Firm may be required to sign a written Contract. Said Contract will evidence in written form the agreement between the parties.
29. All payments made under this Bid will be made in accordance with the Local Government Prompt Payment Act; in effect, not later than 45 days from receipt of proper invoice.

30. At the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners Finance and Audit Committee or the Evaluation Committee, Firms submitting qualifications may be requested to make oral presentations as part of the evaluation process.

## **RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**

**SUBMITTAL FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:** In addition to the submittal requirements found on page 6, #1 of this request for qualifications, all submittals should contain the following information (at a minimum) for consideration.

**Respondents are advised to carefully follow the instructions listed below in order to be considered fully responsive to this RFQ.** Respondents are further advised that lengthy or overly verbose or redundant submissions are not necessary. Compliance with all requirements will be solely the responsibility of the Respondents. Failure to provide requested information will result in disqualification of response.

The RFQ response must be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" bond paper, unbound, un-laminated, stapled (upper left corner), numbered, typewritten with headings, sections, and sub-sections identified appropriately. A minimum of 12 point font should be used throughout the proposal. Proposals are limited to a total of twenty-five (25) pages (exclusive of the cover page), plus any required forms.

Respondents will be allowed a maximum of two (2) pages not larger than 11" x 17" in size without any restrictions regarding font sizes or paper weight. Said maximum 11" x 17" pages are inclusive of the total twenty-five (25) pages and does not include required forms: Proposal Form, W-9, and Proof of Insurance.

### **Submittal Sections**

- A. Competence
- B. Work Load
- C. Financial Responsibility
- D. Inspection and Post Design
- E. Professional Accomplishments
- F. Location
- G. Small and Minority Businesses
- H. Approach
- I. Time and Budget
- J. Volume

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Professional Services Evaluation Committee shall determine qualifications, interest and availability by reviewing all written responses received that express an interest in performing these services, and when deemed necessary, by conducting formal interviews of selected respondents that are determined to be best qualified based upon the evaluation of written responses. The determinations shall be based upon the following criteria, and respondents are requested to provide, as a minimum, the information listed under each criterion. Failure to provide adequate information on any criterion will result in lower scores and could result in rejection of the proposal as non-responsive. The response to each of the criterion will be evaluated relative to other responses received and awarded a score of 1 through the maximum points. Please note, Category H – Ability to Design a Project Approach and Work Plan has 25 points maximum, Category J – Volume of Work for Clay County has 5 points maximum, and all other categories have a 10 point maximum. Respondents are encouraged to arrange their responses in a format that will offer ready review and evaluation of each criterion.

Unless there is a clear statement that the Consultant is a joint venture, it will be assumed the firm shown on the transmittal letterhead will be the prime Consultant with whom the County would contract and all other firms shown as team members would be sub-consultants.

- A. Competence, including technical education, licensure and training, experience in the kind of project to be undertaken, availability of adequate personnel, equipment and facilities, the extent of repeat business of the persons and, where applicable, the relationship of construction cost estimates by the person to actual costs on previous projects. (10 points maximum)**

Provide written documentation which demonstrates that the Consultant is licensed under Florida Statutes to perform the professional services sought in this RFQ.

Provide a photocopy of a current license issued by the State of Florida Department of Professional Regulation, or other written documentation which authorizes the Consultant in accordance with Florida Statutes to perform the services required by this RFQ.

Provide number and size of staff, and names and resumes of those individuals to be assigned to these services. Discuss overall experience of staff as it relates to the services being sought.

Provide the name and office locations of any sub-consultants proposed to be used on these services and the estimated percentage of the work, which will be done by each such sub consultant. Evaluation of competency criterion will include a consideration of any proposed sub consultants.

Provide description of Consultant's equipment and facilities, which will be used to perform these services.

Provide a detailed description of comparable projects, not to exceed three (3) contracts, similar in scope of services to those requested herein, which the prime firm or its principals is either performing or has completed within the past ten (10) years. Describe the prime firm's

qualifications and experience in the management of comparable projects in size and scope. The specific role of the firm in any project, which is referred to with regard to the firm's experience, shall be described in detail. This information must include client name, address, telephone, contact person, description of work, contract period, a statement as to whether the firm was the prime consultant or sub consultant, and the result of the project.

Provide any other documentation, which the Consultant believes to document his competency to perform the requested services.

**B. Recent, current and projected work load. (10 points maximum score)**

Provide number and size of projects currently being performed in the project office, Personnel assigned thereto and stage of completion of such projects, status of each project relative to completion schedules, reasons for any delayed projects, and projected personnel availability. Discuss ability of firm to prosecute multiple concurrent projects and contracts given its current workload.

**C. Financial responsibility. (10 points maximum score)**

Provide form of business, i.e., proprietorship, partnership, corporation; years in business; changes in ownership; bank references; any other information the applicant may wish to supply to verify financial responsibility.

An Audited Financial Statement Report including Balance Sheet for the most recently completed Fiscal Year must be submitted in order to score maximum points in this criterion. Complete financial information is required for every joint venture partner.

**D. Ability to observe and advise whether plans and specifications are being complied with, where applicable. (10 points maximum score)**

Describe ability and experience of Consultant and assigned personnel in observing and monitoring construction projects, ensuring that construction is proceeding in accordance with the plans and specifications, and other construction phase services. Evaluation of this criterion will also consider the Consultant's ability to interpret specifications as evidenced by the preparation of a response to this RFQ.

**E. Past and present record of professional accomplishments and past record of performance for using Agencies. (10 points maximum score)**

Provide list of completed projects similar in scope to projects under consideration previously performed by Consultant, and references to include owner's contact person and telephone number. Describe any outstanding accomplishments of the Consultant that relates to the specific services being sought. Submit any letters of commendation or awards won which reflect on the professional accomplishments of the Consultant.

Provide description of all projects on which the Consultant has done work during the past 5 years for Clay County. List only those projects where the Consultant was the prime Consultant (not a sub-consultant). Provide a self-assessment of the Consultant's performance on each project.

If the Consultant has performed no work for Clay County in the past five (5) years, the response should so clearly state.

**F. Location. (10 points maximum score)**

Disclose location of the Consultant's corporate headquarters. If Consultant's corporate headquarters are located in Clay County, no further information is required under this criterion and maximum points will be awarded.

If Consultant's corporate headquarters are not located in Clay County, please indicate whether Consultant maintains a branch office in Clay County. If so, please indicate how long the Clay County branch office has been in existence and the number of qualifying employees in the branch office. (Note: Qualifying employees are those who are assigned to the Clay County branch office and have lived in the Clay County area for the previous twelve (12) months)

The following consideration will be giving for location:

Consulting Firm Headquarters in Clay County shall receive the maximum score of 10 points (regardless of the size of the staff or the number of years in business).

If a consulting firm is Headquartered in surrounding counties, award the score of eight (8) points. (regardless of the size of the staff or the number of years in business).

If a consulting firm is not Headquartered in Clay or surrounding counties, award the minimum score of one (1) point.

If a consulting firm does have a local branch office in Clay County, award three (3) points plus additional points based on the chart below:

If a consulting firm does have a local branch office in surrounding counties, award one (1) point plus additional points based on the chart below:

Maximum score for a consulting firm with a local branch office in Clay County is  $3 + 6 = 9$  points

Maximum score for a consulting firm with a local branch office in surrounding counties is  $1 + 6 = 7$  points

Table - Local Branch Office	Number of Years with Local Office									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Number of Employees*										
1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
3	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
4	0	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	4
5	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5
four	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	6

\*Note: Qualifying employees are those who have been assigned to the local office and have lived in Clay County over the previous 12 months.

If the consultant's corporate headquarters are not located in Clay County and Consultant does not maintain a Clay County branch office, the response should so clearly state.

**G. Past and present demonstrated commitment to small, and minority businesses, or utilizing firms located in Clay County, and contributions toward a diverse market place. (10 points maximum score)**

This evaluation criterion is intended to solicit responses from proposers that indicate their past and present commitment to minority, women-owned, small businesses or utilization of firms located in Clay County. More specifically, responses to this evaluation criterion should include, without limitation, statements that document the proposer's:

1. Commitment to diversity among the directors, officers, members and/or employees that make up its firm;
2. Commitment to diversity within its community and beyond;
3. Commitment to and/or utilization of minority, women-owned, small business and/or utilizing a firm located in Clay County for the project solicitation in question.

**H. Ability to design an approach and work plan to meet the project requirements, where applicable. (25 points maximum score)**

Include a narrative to show the proposer has an understanding of the scope and objectives to be performed. The proposer should describe the approach to the services as required and the specific work plan to be employed to complete the work.

Describe the approach to organization, management, and the responsibilities of the management staff and personnel that will perform the work on the project.

**I. Time and budget requirements for the project. (10 points maximum score)**

In an effort to remain consistent with Chapter 287, Florida Statutes, responding to this evaluation criterion necessitates that a proposer include statements and references demonstrating that the proposer met both time and budget requirements on projects of similar size and scope that were completed by the proposer within the past three years and that the proposer is meeting both time and budget requirements on projects of similar size and scope that are currently being performed by the proposer (“Reference Projects”). As part of its response to this evaluation criterion, the proposer:

1. Must submit an expressed statement of its overall willingness to meet both time and budget requirements for the project in question; and
2. Should submit, without limitation, project narratives, schedules, design and construction cost and fee summaries and owner references for any Reference Projects. Any Reference Project which has been completed or for which construction is underway will segregate and identify any design-related schedule or budget impacts. Design schedule and budget information will include both the original and the current or completed schedule and cost data.

During contract negotiations, successful proposers will be required to provide a Schedule of Proposed Rates. Such rates and costs will be used in the negotiation of fees and shall remain in effect throughout the length of the contract, except – at the sole discretion of the County- such rates may be adjusted when an amendment to the original agreement is being negotiated; provided any increases in rates shall not exceed actual increases in the appropriate index (CPI) for the service being provided since the date of the Original Agreement (Contract). Any allowable rate adjustments for sub-consultants shall also follow this procedure.

**J. The volume of current and prior work performed for Clay County shall be considered a minus factor, with the objective of effecting an equitable distribution of contracts among qualified firms, provided such distribution does not violate the principle of selection of the most highly qualified firms. (5 points maximum score)**

Using the format provided in Attachment “A”, submit a list of all Clay County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) projects on which Consultant has been awarded fees during the past five (5) years. Include only those in which consultant was the prime consultant (do not delete fees paid to sub-consultants or others) If the Consultant has not performed work for the BCC during the past five (5) years, the response should so clearly state.

Failure to provide complete and accurate information will result in lower score on evaluation.



## General Scope of Services for Continuing Architectural Services

### General Scope Statement

Clay County is seeking to obtain the services of one or more Architect Firm(s) to perform on a continuing basis, i.e. two (2) year term with an option of two (2) one year extensions. Should two be selected, one will be considered primary and the other secondary. The Architects shall provide and perform the following professional services which shall constitute the general scope of services under the covenants, terms, and provisions of this request for qualifications. The continuing contract(s) will be used for general architectural design services for the County and will cover all aspects of project design for future County facilities including parks or renovations to existing facilities. Anticipated services required but not limited to: projects, studies and master planning, design services, plan updates, and preparation and distribution of bid/contract documents. Consultants will also be required to provide an engineer's estimate (construction cost) for each proposed project. Individual projects assigned by work order will be miscellaneous in scope, of varied size and complexity as required by Clay County. The successful firm will be required to have the ability to take these projects from initial identification through the completion of construction. There is no guaranteed amount of work for this solicitation. Contract can be utilized by any and all County Departments.

### Project Scope of Work

The selected Architect(s) will be required to provide professional architectural and consulting services to be specified more fully in a continuing contract agreement to be negotiated after selection. For each individual project, the exact scope of work and fee will be issued and described by Work Order. It shall be understood, prior to the authorization of any project, the Architect will prepare a detailed scope of work, consulting fee, and project schedule for the County's consideration. **A work performance evaluation will be conducted periodically and at the completion of each various project.**

Work projects may involve one or more of the following: Electrical Design and Evaluation, Architectural Design and Evaluation, HVAC Design and Evaluation, HVAC Modifications, Energy Conservation Evaluation, Planning, Permitting, Financial Reports and Miscellaneous Studies, Other Remodel or New Projects as needed.

Consultants should anticipate the need for Architectural Design as well as sub consultant work for various engineering fields involved in site development and building construction which include but are not limited to civil, structural, and mechanical engineering.

Anticipated Specific Projects Include:

Fairgrounds Improvements

Natural Resource Education Building in Fleming Island

Various repair / remodel projects

Various Park projects

**RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**

**CORPORATE DETAILS:**

Failure to complete all fields may result in your bid being rejected as non-responsive.

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person submitting Bid: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDENDA ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

Bidder acknowledges receipt of the following addendum:

Addendum No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledged by: \_\_\_\_\_

Addendum No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledged by: \_\_\_\_\_

Addendum No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledged by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension,  
Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Form**

**RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**

- (1) The prospective Vendor, \_\_\_\_\_, certifies, by submission of this document, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal Department or Agency.
  
- (2) Where the Vendor is unable to certify to the above statement, the prospective Vendor shall attach an explanation to this form.

**Vendor:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Scrutinized Companies Certification

[Clay County RFQ No. RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services]

Name of Company:<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

In compliance with subsection (5) of Section 287.135(5), Florida Statutes (the Statute), the undersigned hereby certifies that the company named above is not participating in a boycott of Israel as defined in subsection (1) of the Statute; is not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List as referred to in subsection (2) of the Statute; and does not have business operations in Cuba or Syria as defined in subsection (1) of the Statute.

Insert Name of Company:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Seal)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Its \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> “Company” means a sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of such entities or business associations, that exists for the purpose of making profit.

**“NO BID” Statement**  
**RFQ #18/19-36, Continuing Services Contract for Architectural Services**

If your company does not intend to bid on this procurement, please complete and return this form prior to the date shown for receipt of bids to: Clay County Purchasing Division, Attn: Donna Fish, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

We, the undersigned, decline to bid on the above referenced invitation to bid for the following reasons:

- Specifications are too restrictive (please explain below or attach separately)
- Unable to meet specifications
- Specifications were unclear (please explain below or attach separately)
- Insufficient time to respond
- We do not offer this product or service
- Our schedule would not permit us to perform at this time
- Unable to meet bond requirements
- Other (please explain below or attach separately)

Remarks:

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Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHAPTER 8: PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC BID OPENINGS**

(A) **Purpose:** The purpose of this chapter is to specify procedures for the submittal, receipt, opening and recording of all formal bids required by all of the various laws, ordinances, and other procedures and manuals governing the solicitation and awarding of public bids in Clay County, Florida, including but not limited to:

- a. Section 336.44, Florida Statutes (2001).
- b. Applicable Provisions of Clay County Code.
- c. Florida Department of Transportation Standard Specifications, most recent edition.

(B) **Time of Opening:** All bids shall be submitted to the Purchasing division, 4th Floor, Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida, which shall record receipt thereof by date and time on the bid envelope. Upon receipt, the Purchasing division will maintain custody and control of all bid submittals until after they have been opened. The deadline for a particular bid submittal shall be 4:00 P.M., of the Monday immediately preceding the Tuesday upon which the bid is to be opened. No bid shall be opened unless and until proof by publisher's affidavit of publication of the bid solicitation is received and filed by the Purchasing division. Bidders and the public are welcomed to attend the opening and all subsequent committee and commission meetings related to the bids.

(C) **Form of Bid Submittal:** All bids shall be submitted in triplicate, (and if applicable only on the forms provided by the County or its staff). Each bid and its accompanying materials shall be submitted in a single, sealed and opaque envelope. The following items shall be prominently marked on the cover of the envelope by the party making the submittal prior thereto:

- a. The number assigned to the particular bid solicitation.
- b. The title of the bid exactly as it appeared in the published solicitation.
- c. The date of the bid opening.

(D) **Bid Receipt Procedure:** The County Manager shall, in cooperation with his or her Department heads and the Purchasing division, assign a specific and discrete number and title to each bid solicitation, which shall be contained in the Request for Bids, the newspaper publication, specifications and the Bid Form thereof. Three copies of each request for bid shall be submitted to the Purchasing division for distribution as provided in Section F hereof, and the "Request For Bids" shall be signed prior to publication.

(E) **Place of Opening:** All bids properly submitted shall be opened in a public location so designated in the bid solicitation.

(F) **Distribution of Copies:** Upon the opening of a bid, one copy shall be distributed to the head of the originating department. Purchasing shall submit to the Finance committee of the Board a tabulated list of all bidders and their bids, including bid number, name, staff assigned, a recommendation to include but not be limited to the lowest responsive and responsible bid, or in a proper circumstance the best bid, budget information and alternatives (see Example 3 attached). All staff assigned to evaluate bid and RFP responses shall do so observing all

requirements of the Sunshine Law and in meetings noticed at least 72 hours in advance thereof. The Purchasing division shall serve as the permanent record holder for the County Manager.

(G) **Committee Review, Report and Recommendations:** Bids shall be reviewed by the Board's Finance committee following the bid opening. The Committee should, in the absence of unusual circumstances, report its recommendation to the Board at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting, which shall include a tabulated list of all bidders and their bids. In all events, the County Manager shall cause to be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board next following the opening of a particular bid, a list of all bidders and their bids. Upon being awarded a bid, and if a contract is entered into with the successful bidder then the County's Standard Addendum and IRS Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification and Certification must be completed.

(H) **Ineligible Bid:** Any bid that does not meet the foregoing requirements for form, time of submittal, number of copies or the specifications advertised will be rejected and the reasons stated therefor; provided that the Purchasing division shall reject and return unopened all bids which do not meet the foregoing requirements for time of submittal, or envelope markings. Bids that do not meet requirements for form will be rejected and declared "No Bid". The Board reserves the power to reject all bids and in its discretion to re-advertise the solicitation.

(I) **Bid Withdrawal Period:** Any bid submitted requires a five (5) percent bond unless waived by the Board prior to solicitation, which cannot be withdrawn for a period of 30 days subsequent to the date of the bid opening, notice of which shall be incorporated in all requests for bids. As used herein, the term bond shall include cashier or certified checks payable to the County. All such checks shall be held by the Finance department for safekeeping immediately upon acceptance of the bid (but not deposited). The Finance department is hereby authorized to return each bond to the submitting party, as soon as practicable, upon written request to the Finance department, but only after a bid and contract have been awarded and executed between the County and the successful bidder for a particular project, or in the event that all bids have been rejected by the Board, or in the event the time provided that the bid shall remain in effect shall have expired and the bid submitter requests its return in writing.

(1) Vendors bidding on SHIP rehabilitation projects are exempt from the bid bond requirements delineated in 8(I) above or as may be otherwise stated elsewhere in this policy document.

(2) Vendors bidding on commodities price contracts, or any other type of contract that does not commit the Board to an actual exchange transaction (purchase) but rather seeks only a fixed unit price commitment from a vendor in the event a future purchase decision is made, shall be exempt from the bid bond requirements delineated in 8(I) above or as may be otherwise stated elsewhere in this policy document.

(J) **Bid Addenda:** All addenda distributed subsequent to the initial distribution of specifications shall be sent by certified mail/return receipt requested, said return receipt to be returned to the Purchasing division identified by bid number. Prior to mailing, a copy of each addendum shall be received by the Purchasing division, provided that no addendum shall be mailed later than five (5) working days prior to the scheduled bid opening date.

(K) **Bid Tabulation Form:** The bid Tabulation Form used at bid openings shall include a place thereon for three witnesses to sign. This procedure will eliminate the need for signing each individual bid at the time of opening, thus requiring the three witnesses to sign only once for each bid number submitted.

(L) **Authority to Delay Bid Openings:** The County Manager is hereby authorized, without seeking prior approval of the Board in any particular case, to order a delay of any bid opening from its scheduled date and time to a time certain on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, or such special meeting called for such purpose. The delay may be ordered at any time prior to the time of the scheduled opening, provided that such order be in writing, addressed and delivered to the Purchasing division with a copy delivered to the County Manager, and that copies thereof be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested to all responding bidders as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable. Upon receipt of the order, the Purchasing division shall immediately record the date and time thereof. The Purchasing division shall continue to accept sealed bids up until the applicable deadline. At the date and time originally scheduled for the bid opening, the Purchasing division shall announce the delay order to all in attendance and shall continue to maintain in its custody all properly submitted sealed bids until further order of the Board. At the time certain scheduled before the Board, the County Manager shall present his reason or reasons for the delay order and his recommendation for disposition of bids submitted. The Board may order the bids to be opened then and there, or at some other time and date certain; it may cancel the bid and order the return of all bids unopened; it may order a further delay of the bid opening; or it may make any other order appropriate to the circumstances. If the bids are ultimately opened, they shall be reviewed as provided elsewhere herein. If a delay occurs as provided herein, then the 30 day withdrawal period as provided in 8(I) shall commence upon the date of the actual bid opening, provided such date is not more than 60 days subsequent to the originally scheduled date. No delay shall be ordered beyond such 60 day period, unless the parties submitting timely bids consent to such delay in writing. In no event is the County Manager authorized to extend the deadline for bid submittals for any particular project, only the bid opening date.

(M) **Contractor's Insurance Requirement:**

1. Any Contractor submitting a bid for any public works project must include, within its initial bid response, proof of the following insurance, in effect continuously from the date of submittal through the 60 days subsequent to the scheduled bid opening date:

a. Commercial General Liability

1. General Aggregate	\$1,000,000
2. Products and Completed Operations Aggregate	\$1,000,000
3. Personal and Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000
4. Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
5. Fire Damage (any one fire)	\$ 50,000
6. Medical Expense (any one person)	\$ 5,000

b. Automobile Liability

1. Any automobile-Combined bodily injury/property damage, \$1,000,000 with minimum limits for all additional coverages as required by Florida law

- c. Workers Compensation/Employers Liability
  - 1. Workers Compensation statutory limits
  - 2. Employers Liability
    - a. Each Accident \$ 100,000
    - b. Disease-Policy \$ 500,000
    - c. Disease-Each Employee \$ 100,000
- d. Professional Liability
  - 1. When required by contract-per occurrence \$1,000,000

2. Upon being awarded the bid, the contractor must provide proof that such insurance will be in effect from the date of commencement of the project. The contractor will maintain insurance coverage at the above-prescribed levels through the date of completion of the project and that coverage will include all independent contractors and subcontractors. Either prior to or simultaneously with the execution of the contract, the successful bidder must deliver certificates of insurance for the required insurance coverages to the County naming “Clay County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida; The Board of County Commissioners, Clay County, Florida; and all public agencies of Clay County, as their interests may appear” as “Additional Insureds.” Said certificates of insurance shall also include a thirty day prior written notice of cancellation, modification or non-renewal to be provided to the County.

3. The Board reserves the right to waive, raise or lower the minimum coverages required for particular projects prior to bid solicitation by affirmative action. The Board will not waive any defects in a bid submittal pertaining to matters under this subsection.

**(N) Bid Awards and Protests:**

1. Both the **INSTRUCTIONS** and the **PUBLISHED NOTICE** for every sealed bid solicitation shall include conspicuously the following statements:

FOLLOWING THE BID OPENING AND TABULATION, A “NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD BID” OR A “NOTICE OF REJECTION OF ALL BIDS” WILL BE POSTED ON THE INTERNET AT: [insert bid notice web address<sup>2</sup>]. THIS WEBPAGE CAN ALSO BE ACCESSED FROM THE HOMEPAGE OF THE COUNTY’S WEBSITE AT: [insert County’s homepage address<sup>3</sup>] BY [insert suitable directions<sup>4</sup>]. NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE POSTED.

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<sup>2</sup> As of the date on which this Purchasing Policy was adopted, the bid notice web address was: [http://www.claycountygov.com/Departments/Finance/decision\\_bids.htm](http://www.claycountygov.com/Departments/Finance/decision_bids.htm).

<sup>3</sup> As of the date on which this Purchasing Policy was adopted, the County’s homepage address was: <http://www.claycountygov.com/>.

<sup>4</sup> As of the date on which this Purchasing Policy was adopted, suitable directions would be: “FOLLOWING THE “Notice of Intent Bids” LINK UNDER THE “Business” ROLLOVER BUTTON”.

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE NOTIFIED THAT THE FAILURE TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE SEALED BID ENVELOPE A PROPER BID BOND OR OTHER SECURITY APPROVED UNDER THE COUNTY'S PURCHASING POLICY, IF REQUIRED FOR THIS SOLICITATION, OR THE FAILURE TO FILE A WRITTEN NOTICE OF PROTEST AND TO FILE A WRITTEN PETITION INITIATING A FORMAL PROTEST PROCEEDING WITHIN THE TIMES AND IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 8.N. OF SAID POLICY, SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE RIGHT TO PROTEST THE BID SOLICITATION, ANY ADDENDUM THERETO, OR THE BID DECISION, AS APPLICABLE, AND TO INITIATE A FORMAL PROTEST PROCEEDING UNDER SAID POLICY. THE COUNTY'S PURCHASING POLICY CAN BE VIEWED AT THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE BY FOLLOWING THE APPROPRIATE LINKS FROM THE HOMEPAGE ADDRESS SET FORTH ABOVE.

IF A PROSPECTIVE BIDDER IS IN DOUBT WHETHER THIS SOLICITATION REQUIRES A BID BOND, SUCH PROSPECTIVE BIDDER IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING APPROPRIATE INQUIRY.

2. Unless otherwise expressly directed by the Board in its decision on a bid award, immediately following such decision the County Manager shall cause a "Notice of Intent to Award Bid" or a "Notice of Rejection of All Bids" to be posted on the County's website, with the time and date of posting appearing thereon. Notice shall not be posted elsewhere. The notice shall be posted in portable document format or other secure format.
3. The failure on the part of a prospective bidder to include within the sealed bid envelope a proper bid bond or other security approved under this policy, if required for the particular bid solicitation, or the failure by a prospective bidder to file a written notice of protest and to file a written petition initiating a formal protest proceeding within the times and in the manner prescribed in this section shall constitute a waiver of the prospective bidder's right to protest the bid solicitation, any addendum thereto, the Board's bid decision, as applicable, and to initiate a formal protest proceeding hereunder.
4. A prospective bidder is solely responsible for determining whether a particular bid solicitation requires a bid bond, and for resolving any doubt by making appropriate inquiry.
5. The County Manager shall cause a copy of this policy to be posted on the County's website in portable document format or other secure format. The County Manager shall cause to be established conspicuous and easy-to-follow links to the policy from the homepage.
6. Any person who is adversely affected by a bid solicitation, by any addendum thereto, or by a bid decision may file with the County Manager a written notice of protest no later than 4:30 p.m. on the third business day immediately following the date notice is published, with respect to a bid solicitation; no later than 4:30 p.m. on the third business day immediately following the date of issuance, with respect to a bid addendum; and within 72 hours after the posting of the

notice, exclusive of hours occurring during days that are other than business days, with respect to a bid decision.

7. A formal protest proceeding shall be deemed commenced upon the timely filing of a written petition initiating the same. A written petition initiating a formal protest proceeding must be filed with the County Manager no later than 4:30 p.m. on the tenth calendar day immediately following the date on which the written notice of protest was filed; provided, if the tenth calendar day is not a business day, then the petition must be filed no later than 4:30 p.m. on the first business day immediately following said tenth calendar day. The petition must set forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based. The petition must conform substantially with the requirements for petitions set forth in Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. References in this section to a petition shall mean a written petition initiating a formal protest proceeding filed in accordance with this subsection.

8. Any protest of a bid solicitation or bid addendum shall pertain exclusively to the terms, conditions, and specifications contained in a bid solicitation or bid addendum, including any provisions governing the methods for ranking bids, qualifications, or replies, awarding contracts, reserving rights of further negotiation, or modifying or amending any contract.

9. Upon receipt of a formal written notice of protest that has been timely filed, the County Manager shall suspend the bid solicitation or bid award process until the subject of the protest is resolved by final action as specified in this section, unless the County Manager sets forth in writing particular facts and circumstances which require the continuance of the solicitation or award process without delay in order to avoid an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare. Such suspension shall be lifted immediately in the event the protesting party shall have failed to timely file a petition.

10. Intervenors shall be permitted to participate in the formal protest proceeding in accordance with the procedures governing intervenor practice set forth in Rule Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and shall be subject to all limitations provided therein applicable to intervenors.

11. In his or her discretion, the County Manager may provide an opportunity to resolve the protest by mutual agreement between the County Manager and the protesting party within 7 calendar days after receipt of a timely petition. Such agreement must be reduced to writing, signed by the County Manager and the protesting party or such party's authorized agent, and submitted to the Board at the earliest opportunity. The agreement shall not be deemed effective unless ratified by the Board. If the Board shall fail to ratify the agreement, then the protest shall proceed to resolution as hereinafter provided.

12. Within 10 business days following the timely filing of a petition, or, if the Board shall have considered but failed to ratify an agreement submitted to it under subsection 11, then within 10 business days thereafter, a hearing shall be conducted pursuant to subsection 13 before a hearing officer, who shall be the County Manager or his or her designee. The County Manager may designate any department head as the hearing officer; provided a department head who is substantially involved in or connected with the bid solicitation or bid award process shall be

deemed disqualified from serving as the hearing officer, unless such involvement or connection is purely ministerial in nature.

13. All hearings shall be conducted pursuant to written notice to the protesting party, the County Attorney's Office and all intervenors by the hearing officer specifying the time, date and place of the hearing. Particular rules and procedures governing each such hearing are as follows:

- a. The audio thereof shall be recorded electronically.
- b. Prior to the hearing only, motion practice may be permitted by the hearing officer in his or her discretion in accordance with the rules governing the same set forth in Rule Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code. All motions shall be ruled upon prior to or at the start of the hearing, except that rulings on motions in limine may be deferred to an appropriate time during or after the hearing.
- c. Prior to the hearing, the protesting party, the County and all intervenors must confer and endeavor to stipulate to as many relevant and undisputed facts upon which the decision is to be based as may be practicable. Such stipulation must also identify those issues of material fact, if any, that remain in dispute. The stipulation must be reduced to a writing signed by or on behalf of the protesting party, the County and all intervenors, and be submitted to the hearing officer at least two business days prior to the hearing. The stipulation may include an appendix comprising documents that shall be deemed admitted and considered as evidence for purposes of the hearing, or referring to tangible items deemed admitted and considered as evidence for purposes of the hearing, which items shall either be presented at the hearing or, if such presentation is impractical, submitted to the hearing officer by graphic, descriptive, representational, photographic, videotape or similar medium properly depicting or characterizing the items.
- d. The protesting party and all intervenors shall have the right to appear before the hearing officer at the hearing in proper person or through counsel and, as to those issues of material fact, if any, that remain in dispute, as identified in the stipulation, to present relevant testimonial, documentary and tangible evidence, and to be heard on the substantive issues bearing on the protest. The County shall be deemed a party to the proceeding, and the County Attorney or any assistant county attorney may participate in the protest proceeding, appear before the hearing officer, present evidence and be heard on behalf of the County.
- e. All witnesses shall be placed under oath by the hearing officer prior to testifying, and shall be subject to cross-examination by any hearing participant.
- f. Hearsay evidence shall be admissible unless the hearing officer shall determine the same to be redundant, unreliable or prejudicial.
- g. At the hearing any hearing participant may offer appropriate argument and summation, and submit a written brief and a proposed order, but only after the conclusion of the evidentiary portion of the hearing, if any.

h. Immediately following the hearing, the County Manager shall cause a written transcript of all testimonial evidence introduced at the hearing to be prepared expeditiously based upon the audio recording, and shall provide copies of the same to all of the hearing participants.

i. Within 7 business days following the hearing, the hearing officer shall submit a recommended order to the County Manager and serve copies on all hearing participants; provided, if the County Manager is the hearing officer, then within 7 business days following the hearing, the County Manager shall issue a recommended order and serve copies on all hearing participants. The recommended order shall contain findings of fact and, based upon such facts, a disposition of the protest; provided, no finding of fact may be predicated solely upon the basis of hearsay.

j. The recommended order shall thereafter be submitted to the Board along with the transcript of the hearing testimony and the entire written and tangible record of the protest proceedings at the earliest opportunity to be considered at a time certain, with notice thereof served upon the hearing participants. Each of the hearing participants shall be allowed 3 minutes to address the Board regarding the recommended order, unless the Chairman in his or her discretion shall allow additional time. If a hearing participant intends to challenge any finding of fact in a recommended order that was based upon testimonial evidence, such participant shall be allowed 2 additional minutes for such purpose, and may direct the attention of the Board members to any portion of the transcript relevant to the challenge. The other hearing participants shall each have the right to offer argument in rebuttal to the challenge, and to direct the attention of the Board members to any portion of the transcript relevant to the rebuttal. No testimony or other evidence beyond the record and the transcript shall be presented to the Board. Thereafter the Board shall render its decision on the protest. In so doing the Board shall be bound by the findings of fact in the recommended order that are based upon testimonial evidence, except those for which it upholds a challenge. A challenge shall be upheld only if the finding of fact is not supported by competent, substantial evidence in the record or in the transcript. Otherwise, the Board shall not be bound by any of the provisions of the recommended order. The decision of the Board shall be reduced to a written order signed by the Chairman, and shall constitute final action of the County on the protest.

k. The date, type and substance of all ex parte communications between any Board member and a hearing participant, including counsel therefor or any agent thereof, and between any Board member and third party, must be publicly disclosed by the Board member prior to the rendering of the Board's decision. All such communications that are written or received electronically must be filed for the record, and copies thereof provided to each Board member and hearing participant.

14. All proceedings before the hearing officer shall be informal, and customary rules of evidence shall be relaxed. In all respects both the hearing officer and the Board shall observe the

requirements of procedural and substantive due process that are the minimum necessary for accomplishing a fair, just and expeditious resolution of the protest.

15. Ex parte communications between a hearing participant and the hearing officer are forbidden. The hearing officer may take such steps as he or she may deem just and appropriate to prevent or sanction attempted ex parte communications, including promptly disclosing the attempted communication, or requiring the offending hearing participant to disclose promptly the attempted communication, to the other hearing participants. Where necessary, the hearing officer may recuse himself or herself, and the subsequently designated hearing officer may order the offending participant to pay for all or any portion of the costs incurred by the County and any other hearing participant strictly as a consequence of the ex parte communication or attempted ex parte communication, else be excluded from further participation. Neither the County Attorney nor any assistant county attorney shall be subject to this subsection or prohibited from engaging in ex parte communications with the hearing officer.

16. The purpose of this policy is to promote fairness and public confidence in the competitive bidding process. To further such end, and except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the substantive law governing the resolution of bid protests found in the decisions of the Florida appellate courts, as well as any statutes or agency rules that may be applicable to the particular bid solicitation, shall guide the hearing officer and the Board in rendering a decision on a bid protest under this section. The significant principles of law governing the bid protest and the resolution thereof, which shall prevail to the extent not otherwise in conflict with any governing statutes or agency rules, are as follows:

- a. The burden is on the party protesting the award of the bid to establish a ground for invalidating the award.
- b. The standard of proof for the protest proceeding shall be whether the proposed award was clearly erroneous, contrary to competition, arbitrary, or capricious.
- c. The proposed award shall be deemed arbitrary or capricious if it is contrary in a material way to any governing statutes, the County's rules or policies, or the bid or proposal instructions or specifications.
- d. The scope of the inquiry is limited initially to whether the proposed award is improper under the foregoing standard of proof. If and only if the hearing officer first determines on the basis of competent and substantial evidence that the proposed award is improper, then the hearing officer may recommend, in accordance with the law and this policy, an alternate disposition for the proposed award. Such disposition may include, but shall not be limited to, rejecting all bids, or awarding all or a portion of the bid to the protesting party.
- e. A bid protest proceeding may not serve as a vehicle for the Board to revisit the proposed award absent a determination of impropriety as set forth above.

17. By written agreement amongst the protesting party, the County, and all then-existing intervenors, any provision of this section pertaining to the procedures for resolving a protest for which a petition has been timely filed may be modified or waived so long as such modification or waiver shall not hinder or thwart the proper and expeditious resolution of the protest, or otherwise operate to undermine the salutary purposes of competitive, public bidding.

18. Only to the extent necessary to avoid a miscarriage of justice or to prevent a manifest violation of a hearing participant's procedural or substantive due process rights, a hearing officer may modify or suspend the applicability of any of the provisions or requirements of this section in the course of conducting a protest proceeding hereunder; provided, a hearing officer may not modify or suspend any of the provisions or requirements of subsections 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 16, 20, 21 and 22 hereof.

19. Except and to the extent specifically provided in this section, and except and to the extent otherwise specified provided by written agreement amongst the protesting party, the County, and all then-existing intervenors, no provisions of Rule Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, shall be deemed applicable to the resolution of protests under this section.

20. For purposes of this section, the filing with the County Manager of a written notice of protest or of a written petition initiating a formal protest proceeding shall be deemed accomplished only when the original written notice or original written petition has been physically received by the County Manager or his or her designee. A notice or petition shall be deemed original only if it bears the original signature of the protesting party or such party's authorized agent. No notice or petition may be filed by facsimile transmission or by e-mail, and any notice or petition received in such manner shall be deemed unfiled and ineffective. The use of an overnight delivery service or of the United States Postal Service to file a notice or petition shall be entirely at the risk of the person submitting the same, and any such notice or petition so received after the applicable deadline shall be deemed untimely.

21. For purposes of this section, a business day shall mean any 24-hour day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or a holiday observed by the County.

22. For purposes of this section, counsel shall mean an attorney who is a member of the Florida Bar in good standing.

23. For purposes of this section, all notices of protest and petitions initiating formal protest proceedings, and all stipulations, briefs, proposed findings of fact, written motions and proposed orders submitted to a hearing officer shall be on white, opaque paper 8 ½ by 11 inches in size. The pages of all such documents shall have margins on all sides of not less than 1 inch; shall be in Times New Roman or Courier New font no smaller than 12 in size, including footnotes and endnotes; shall have standard double-spacing between lines, excluding quotations, footnotes and endnotes; and shall be numbered at the bottom. All quotations shall be indented. Briefs shall not exceed 15 pages in length, and may not include any appendices. A digital copy of all written stipulations, briefs, proposed findings of fact, written motions and proposed orders submitted to the hearing officer must be simultaneously provided to the hearing officer in Word format, version 2000 or later, on compact disc or 3 ½" diskette.

24. For purposes of this section, a hearing participant shall mean and include the protesting party, the County and any intervenor.

25. This section shall be construed and implemented so as to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution of bid protests.

(O) **UTILITY RELOCATION AGREEMENTS:** Prior to soliciting bids for right of way improvements and other public works projects that require the removal or relocation of utilities, agreements with the affected utilities must be entered into providing for the terms, scheduling and conditions of such relocation and removal. The County Manager may develop and maintain such form of agreement as may be appropriate for accomplishing the requirements of this section. (*Resolution No. 09/10-65*)

(P) **NO-CONTACT RULE:** (*Resolution No. 09/10-81*)

1. As used in this section and unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings herein ascribed:

a. Contacting shall mean communicating or attempting to communicate by any means, whether orally, telephonically, electronically or in writing.

b. Bidder shall mean any person or entity submitting a response to a bid solicitation, and shall include all owners, shareholders, principals, officers, employees and agents thereof.

c. Bid shall mean any bid, request for qualifications and request for qualifications.

d. Solicitation period shall mean the time between the publication of the notice of the bid and the opening of the bid.

e. Evaluation period shall mean the time between the opening of the bid and the award thereof by the Board of County Commissioners.

2. The instructions for all solicitations of bids to be submitted under seal shall include provisions prohibiting bidders from contacting (i) any member of the Board of County Commissioners, the County Manager or any County employee or agent regarding the solicitation in any respect during the solicitation period, and (ii) the County Manager or any County employee or agent regarding the solicitation in any respect during the evaluation period. The violation of this rule shall result in the automatic disqualification of any response to a bid solicitation submitted by the violator, and the foregoing instructions shall so state.

3. The no-contact rule set forth in subsection 2 shall not apply to inquiries submitted to County employees or agents in the manner specifically provided in the bid solicitation package regarding the distribution thereof, or to communications seeking clarification

regarding instructions or specifications submitted to County employees or agents in the manner specifically provided in the bid solicitation package, or to pre-bid conferences provided for in the bid solicitation package, or to formal presentations by finalists to the Board of County Commissioners or any committee thereof specifically contemplated in the bid solicitation package.

4. The purpose of the no-contact rule set forth in subsection 2 is to prevent any one bidder from gaining an advantage over other bidders through lobbying or otherwise attempting to influence the procurement decision through discussions or the presentation of information or materials outside of the process contemplated in the bid solicitation package and this purchasing policy, and also to ensure that the dissemination of information from the County entity to bidders regarding the bid solicitation is equal and uniform.

(Q) **LOCAL PREFERENCE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES:** *(Resolution No. 18/19-2)*

**Local Preference:**

- (a) **Purpose:** The Clay County Board of County Commissioners intends to purchase materials, supplies, and services of quality at the lowest possible cost through widespread competition. If all other considerations are equal, however, the Board prefers to purchase within Clay County from established local businesses. A preference to local businesses in procurement decisions provides support and growing opportunities to the local economy. When local governments spend their money with locally owned businesses, those businesses in turn rely on and generate local supply chains, creating an “economic multiplier” effect. Each additional dollar that circulates locally boosts local economic activity, employment, and, ultimately, tax revenue.
- (b) **Bidding/Quotes:** For procurement secured through competitive bids or written quotes, local preference will be given to a Local Business when its bid/quote is the lowest responsive and responsible local bid and it is within five percent (5%) of and does not exceed by more than \$250,000 the lowest responsive and responsible bid/quote submitted by a non-Local Business. The Local Business will be entitled to match or beat the lowest bid/quote submitted by the non-Local Business and then be considered the lowest, best bidder. The Purchasing Department will notify the responsive and responsible lowest Local Business that they have forty-eight (48) business hours to re-submit a bid or quote that matches or beats the low bid or quote by the non-Local Business. If the lowest local bidder fails to respond as required confirming its ability to match or beat the lowest bid/quote submitted, then award shall be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bid/quote submitted by the non-Local Business.

- (c) Proposals: For procurement secured through competitive request for proposals where price is not the only consideration, 5 points preference will be applied to the total individual selection committee member's score.
- (d) The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to award bids/quotes/proposals which would be in the best interest of the County or reject any and all bids/quotes/proposals. As such, the County reserves the exclusive right to compare, contrast and otherwise evaluate the qualifications, character, responsibility and financial qualifications of all persons, firms, partnerships, companies or corporations submitting bids or quotes in any procurement for goods and services when making an award in the best interests of the County.
- (e) In construing this paragraph, "Local Business" means either:
  - (i) a person or business entity which maintains a permanent place of business with full-time employees within Clay County for a minimum of twelve months prior to the date bids or quotes were received for the purchase or contract at issue, which provides from such permanent place of business the kinds of goods or services solicited, and which at the time of the solicitation submits the Local Business Affidavit of Eligibility identified in paragraph (f) below; or
  - (ii) a person or business entity which utilizes for at least 40% of the solicited work local Clay County sub-contractors or suppliers, meaning sub-contractors or suppliers which maintain a permanent place of business with full-time employees within Clay County for a minimum of twelve months prior to the date bids or quotes were received for the purchase or contract at issue, provide from such permanent place of business the kinds of goods or services solicited, and at the time of the solicitation submit the Local Business Affidavit of Eligibility identified in paragraph (f) below.
- (f) Local Business Affidavit of Eligibility shall accompany the quotation or bid submittal in order to be considered valid and shall include, but not be limited to, the following current information to verify local status:
  - (i) A physical business and location address in Clay County;
  - (ii) Proof of payment of business license, lease agreement, and/or real property tax due to Clay County;
  - (iii) A copy of the business's most recent annual corporation report to the Florida Division of Corporations; and
  - (iv) Any additional information necessary to verify local status.
- (g) The authorized purchasing authority of Clay County shall have the sole discretion to determine if a person or business entity meets the definition of Local Business. Such decision shall not be disputed nor protested.
- (h) **Exemptions:**
  - (i) Purchases resulting from exigent emergency conditions where any delay in completion or performance would jeopardize public health, safety, or

welfare of the citizens of the County, or where in the judgment of the County the operational effectiveness or a significant County function would be seriously threatened if a purchase was not made expeditiously.

- (ii) Purchases with any sole source supplier for services, supplies, materials, or other equipment.
- (iii) Purchases made through cooperative purchasing arrangements.
- (iv) Sub-Contractor consideration does not apply if the invitation to bid or request for quote does not authorize utilization of subcontractors.
- (v) Purchases that are funded in whole or in part by assistance from any federal, state, or local agency where the program guidelines do not permit local preference.
- (vi) Contracts for Professional Services subject to Florida Statutes, Section 287.0555, the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (except as already provided for in County approved Evaluation Criteria).



By signing the filled-out form, you:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and
4. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct. See *What is FATCA reporting*, later, for further information.

**Note:** If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

**Definition of a U.S. person.** For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien;
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States;
- An estate (other than a foreign estate); or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

**Special rules for partnerships.** Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.

In the cases below, the following person must give Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States.

- In the case of a disregarded entity with a U.S. owner, the U.S. owner of the disregarded entity and not the entity;
- In the case of a grantor trust with a U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner, generally, the U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner of the grantor trust and not the trust; and
- In the case of a U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust), the U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

**Foreign person.** If you are a foreign person or the U.S. branch of a foreign bank that has elected to be treated as a U.S. person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 or Form 8233 (see Pub. 515, *Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities*).

**Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien.** Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items.

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

**Example.** Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8 or Form 8233.

## Backup Withholding

**What is backup withholding?** Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS 24% of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

**Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:**

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the instructions for Part II for details),
3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,
4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or
5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See *Exempt payee code*, later, and the separate Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

## What is FATCA Reporting?

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) requires a participating foreign financial institution to report all United States account holders that are specified United States persons. Certain payees are exempt from FATCA reporting. See *Exemption from FATCA reporting code*, later, and the Instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

## Updating Your Information

You must provide updated information to any person to whom you claimed to be an exempt payee if you are no longer an exempt payee and anticipate receiving reportable payments in the future from this person. For example, you may need to provide updated information if you are a C corporation that elects to be an S corporation, or if you no longer are tax exempt. In addition, you must furnish a new Form W-9 if the name or TIN changes for the account; for example, if the grantor of a grantor trust dies.

## Penalties

**Failure to furnish TIN.** If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of \$50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

**Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding.** If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a \$500 penalty.

**Criminal penalty for falsifying information.** Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

**Misuse of TINs.** If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

## Specific Instructions

### Line 1

You must enter one of the following on this line; **do not** leave this line blank. The name should match the name on your tax return.

If this Form W-9 is for a joint account (other than an account maintained by a foreign financial institution (FFI)), list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of Form W-9. If you are providing Form W-9 to an FFI to document a joint account, each holder of the account that is a U.S. person must provide a Form W-9.

**a. Individual.** Generally, enter the name shown on your tax return. If you have changed your last name without informing the Social Security Administration (SSA) of the name change, enter your first name, the last name as shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

**Note: ITIN applicant:** Enter your individual name as it was entered on your Form W-7 application, line 1a. This should also be the same as the name you entered on the Form 1040/1040A/1040EZ you filed with your application.

**b. Sole proprietor or single-member LLC.** Enter your individual name as shown on your 1040/1040A/1040EZ on line 1. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as" (DBA) name on line 2.

**c. Partnership, LLC that is not a single-member LLC, C corporation, or S corporation.** Enter the entity's name as shown on the entity's tax return on line 1 and any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

**d. Other entities.** Enter your name as shown on required U.S. federal tax documents on line 1. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

**e. Disregarded entity.** For U.S. federal tax purposes, an entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner is treated as a "disregarded entity." See Regulations section 301.7701-2(c)(2)(iii). Enter the owner's name on line 1. The name of the entity entered on line 1 should never be a disregarded entity. The name on line 1 should be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner's name is required to be provided on line 1. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity's name on line 2, "Business name/disregarded entity name." If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

### Line 2

If you have a business name, trade name, DBA name, or disregarded entity name, you may enter it on line 2.

### Line 3

Check the appropriate box on line 3 for the U.S. federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one box on line 3.

IF the entity/person on line 1 is a(n) . . .	THEN check the box for . . .
• Corporation	Corporation
• Individual • Sole proprietorship, or • Single-member limited liability company (LLC) owned by an individual and disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes.	Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC
• LLC treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes, • LLC that has filed Form 8832 or 2553 to be taxed as a corporation, or • LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner but the owner is another LLC that is not disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes.	Limited liability company and enter the appropriate tax classification. (P= Partnership; C= C corporation; or S= S corporation)
• Partnership	Partnership
• Trust/estate	Trust/estate

### Line 4, Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the appropriate space on line 4 any code(s) that may apply to you.

#### Exempt payee code.

- Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding.
- Except as provided below, corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, including interest and dividends.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding with respect to attorneys' fees or gross proceeds paid to attorneys, and corporations that provide medical or health care services are not exempt with respect to payments reportable on Form 1099-MISC.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding. Enter the appropriate code in the space in line 4.

- 1—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2)
- 2—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities
- 3—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities
- 4—A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities
- 5—A corporation
- 6—A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. commonwealth or possession
- 7—A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- 8—A real estate investment trust
- 9—An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940
- 10—A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a)
- 11—A financial institution
- 12—A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian
- 13—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

IF the payment is for . . .	THEN the payment is exempt for . . .
Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 7
Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012.
Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 4
Payments over \$600 required to be reported and direct sales over \$5,000 <sup>1</sup>	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5 <sup>2</sup>
Payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4

<sup>1</sup> See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

<sup>2</sup> However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney reportable under section 6045(f), and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

**Exemption from FATCA reporting code.** The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements. A requester may indicate that a code is not required by providing you with a Form W-9 with "Not Applicable" (or any similar indication) written or printed on the line for a FATCA exemption code.

A—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37)

B—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

C—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

D—A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

E—A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated group as a corporation described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

F—A dealer in securities, commodities, or derivative financial instruments (including notional principal contracts, futures, forwards, and options) that is registered as such under the laws of the United States or any state

G—A real estate investment trust

H—A regulated investment company as defined in section 851 or an entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

I—A common trust fund as defined in section 584(a)

J—A bank as defined in section 581

K—A broker

L—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947(a)(1)

M—A tax exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan

**Note:** You may wish to consult with the financial institution requesting this form to determine whether the FATCA code and/or exempt payee code should be completed.

## Line 5

Enter your address (number, street, and apartment or suite number). This is where the requester of this Form W-9 will mail your information returns. If this address differs from the one the requester already has on file, write NEW at the top. If a new address is provided, there is still a chance the old address will be used until the payor changes your address in their records.

## Line 6

Enter your city, state, and ZIP code.

## Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

**Enter your TIN in the appropriate box.** If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). Do not enter the disregarded entity's EIN. If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

**Note:** See *What Name and Number To Give the Requester*, later, for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

**How to get a TIN.** If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local SSA office or get this form online at [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov). You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at [www.irs.gov/Businesses](http://www.irs.gov/Businesses) and clicking on Employer Identification Number (EIN) under Starting a Business. Go to [www.irs.gov/Forms](http://www.irs.gov/Forms) to view, download, or print Form W-7 and/or Form SS-4. Or, you can go to [www.irs.gov/OrderForms](http://www.irs.gov/OrderForms) to place an order and have Form W-7 and/or SS-4 mailed to you within 10 business days.

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, apply for a TIN and write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

**Note:** Entering "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon.

**Caution:** A disregarded U.S. entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.

## Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if item 1, 4, or 5 below indicates otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). In the case of a disregarded entity, the person identified on line 1 must sign. Exempt payees, see *Exempt payee code*, earlier.

**Signature requirements.** Complete the certification as indicated in items 1 through 5 below.

**1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

**2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983.** You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

**3. Real estate transactions.** You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

**4. Other payments.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

**5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), ABLÉ accounts (under section 529A), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions.** You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

### What Name and Number To Give the Requester

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account) other than an account maintained by an FFI	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account <sup>1</sup>
3. Two or more U.S. persons (joint account maintained by an FFI)	Each holder of the account
4. Custodial account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor <sup>2</sup>
5. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee) b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The grantor-trustee <sup>1</sup> The actual owner <sup>1</sup>
6. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner <sup>3</sup>
7. Grantor trust filing under Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 1 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A))	The grantor <sup>4</sup>
For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
8. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
9. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity <sup>4</sup>
10. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553	The corporation
11. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
12. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
13. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee

For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
14. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity
15. Grantor trust filing under the Form 1041 Filing Method or the Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 2 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))	The trust

<sup>1</sup> List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

<sup>2</sup> Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

<sup>3</sup> You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or DBA name on the "Business name/disregarded entity" name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

<sup>4</sup> List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

\*Note: The grantor also must provide a Form W-9 to trustee of trust.

Note: If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

### Secure Your Tax Records From Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, SSN, or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax preparer.

If your tax records are affected by identity theft and you receive a notice from the IRS, respond right away to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft but you think you are at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490 or submit Form 14039.

For more information, see Pub. 5027, Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a systemic problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059.

**Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes.** Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov) or report them at [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint). You can contact the FTC at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) or 877-IDTHEFT (877-438-4338). If you have been the victim of identity theft, see [www.IdentityTheft.gov](http://www.IdentityTheft.gov) and Pub. 5027.

Visit [www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft](http://www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft) to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

## Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons (including federal agencies) who are required to file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, or certain other income paid to you; mortgage interest you paid; the acquisition or abandonment of secured property; the cancellation of debt; or contributions you made to an IRA, Archer MSA, or HSA. The person collecting this form uses the information on the form to file information returns with the IRS, reporting the above information. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their laws. The information also may be disclosed to other countries under a treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce civil and criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Under section 3406, payers must generally withhold a percentage of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to the payer. Certain penalties may also apply for providing false or fraudulent information.