

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SALE**

**\$6,000,000\* LIMITED GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
(BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT) SERIES 2018  
BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Bid Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.**

Time and Place of Sale: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN electronic bids only will be received on behalf of Beaufort County, South Carolina (the “County”) at the offices of the Interim County Administrator, 100 Ribaut Road, Room 156, Beaufort, South Carolina, until 11:00 a.m., South Carolina time, on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, for the purchase of \$6,000,000\* Limited General Obligation Bonds (Bluffton Township Fire District), Series 2018, of the County (the “Bonds”).

**THE SALE MAY BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED OR ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SALE MAY BE AMENDED BY THE COUNTY UPON NO LESS THAN FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS PRIOR NOTICE COMMUNICATED THROUGH THOMSON MUNICIPAL MARKET MONITOR. IF SUCH A POSTPONEMENT, CHANGE OR AMENDMENT OCCURS, BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SALE, AS MODIFIED BY SUCH NOTICE.**

Electronic Bids: Electronic proposals must be submitted through i-Deal’s Parity Electronic Bid Submission System (“Parity”). No electronic bids from any other providers of electronic bidding services will be accepted. Information about the electronic bidding services of Parity may be obtained from i-Deal, 1359 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, New York 10018, Customer Support, telephone (212) 849-5021.

Book-Entry-Only Bonds: The Bonds will be issued in fully-registered form. One Bond representing each maturity will be issued to and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), as registered owner of the Bonds and each such Bond will be immobilized in the custody of DTC. DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry-only form, in the principal amount of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof not exceeding the principal amount of Bonds maturing each year. Purchasers will not receive physical delivery of certificates representing their interest in the Bonds purchased. The winning bidder, as a condition to delivery of the Bonds, will be required to deposit the Bond certificates representing each maturity with DTC.

Interest on the Bonds will be payable semiannually on March 1 and September 1 of each year, until the Bonds mature, commencing September 1, 2019. The Bonds will be dated their date of delivery, and will mature serially in successive annual installments on March 1 in each of the years and in the principal amounts as shown below:

(March 1) <u>Year</u>	Principal <u>Amount*</u>	(March 1) <u>Year</u>	Principal <u>Amount*</u>
2020	\$160,000	2030	305,000
2021	210,000	2031	315,000
2022	220,000	2032	325,000
2023	225,000	2033	340,000
2024	235,000	2034	350,000
2025	245,000	2035	365,000

\*Preliminary; subject to change.

2026	255,000	2036	380,000
2027	270,000	2037	395,000
2028	280,000	2038	410,000
2029	290,000	2039	425,000

\*Preliminary, subject to adjustment

Adjustment of Maturity Schedule: The schedule of maturities set forth above (the “Maturity Schedule”) represents an estimate of the principal amounts and maturities of the bonds which will be sold. If, after final computation of the bids, the County determines that the maturities of the Bonds should be adjusted in order to maintain structured debt service on all of its outstanding bonds, the County reserves the right either to increase or decrease the principal amount of any maturity of the Bonds and to decrease or increase the par amount of the Bonds (all calculations to be rounded to the near \$5,000), provided that any such decrease in par amount shall not exceed 15% of the par amount in the aggregate. If increased, the par amount of the Bonds shall not exceed the total amount of Bonds authorized to be issued.

In the event of any such adjustment of the Maturity Schedule for the Bonds as described herein, no rebidding or recalculation of the bids submitted will be required or permitted. Nevertheless, the award of the Bonds will be made to the bidder whose proposal produces the lowest true interest cost solely on the basis of the Bonds offered, without taking into account any adjustment in the amount of the Bonds pursuant to this paragraph.

Redemption Provisions: The Bonds maturing on or prior to March 1, 2028 shall not be subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities. The Bonds maturing on or after March 1, 2029 shall be subject to redemption at the option of the County on or after March 1, 2028, as a whole or in part at any time, in such order of redemption as the County may determine, at par, plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption.

Registrar/Paying Agent: Regions Bank, Atlanta, Georgia will serve as Registrar/Paying Agent for the Bonds.

Bid Requirements: Bidders shall specify the rate or rates of interest per annum which the Bonds are to bear, to be expressed in multiples of 1/20 or 1/8 of 1%. Bidders are not limited as to the number of rates of interest named, but the rate of interest on each separate maturity must be the same single rate for all Bonds of that maturity from their date to such maturity date. A bid for less than all the Bonds, a bid at a price less than par, or a bid of more than 15% over par will not be considered.

Award of Bid: The Bonds will be awarded to the bidder or bidders offering to purchase the Bonds at the lowest true interest cost (TIC) to the County. The TIC will be the nominal interest rate which, when compounded semiannually and used to discount all debt service payments on the Bonds (computed at the interest rates specified in the bid and on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months) to the dated date of the Bonds, results in an amount equal to the price bid for the Bonds. In the case of a tie bid, the winning bid will be awarded by lot. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive irregularities in any bid. Bids will be accepted or rejected no later than 3:00 p.m., South Carolina time, on the date of the sale.

Good Faith Deposit: No good faith deposit is required.

Official Statement: Upon the award of the Bonds, the County will prepare an official statement (the “Official Statement”) in substantially the same form as the preliminary official statement subject to minor additions, deletions and revisions as required to complete the Official Statement. Within seven (7) business days after the award of the Bonds, the County will deliver the Official Statement to the successful bidder in sufficient quantity to comply with Rule G-32 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The successful bidder agrees to supply to the County all necessary pricing information and any Underwriter identification necessary to complete the Official Statement within 24 hours after the award of the Bonds.

Security: For the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, as they respectively mature, there shall be levied annually by the Auditor of the County and collected by the Treasurer of the County, in the same manner as other County taxes are levied and collected, an ad valorem tax, without limit, on all taxable property in the Fire District, sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds as they respectively mature and to create such sinking fund as may be necessary therefor.

The County Council shall give the Auditor and Treasurer of the County written notice of the delivery of and payment for the Bonds and they are hereby directed to levy and collect annually, on all taxable property in the Fire District, an ad valorem tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest of the Bonds as they respectively mature and to create such sinking fund as may be necessary therefor.

Continuing Disclosure: In order to assist the bidders in complying with S.E.C. Rule 15c2-12(b)(5), the County will undertake, pursuant to an ordinance and a Continuing Disclosure Certificate, to provide certain annual financial information and notices of the occurrence of certain events, if material. A description of this undertaking is set forth in the Preliminary Official Statement and will also be set forth in the final Official Statement.

Legal Opinion: The County shall furnish upon delivery of the Bonds the final approving opinion of McNair Law Firm, P.A., Columbia, South Carolina, which opinion shall accompany each Bond, together with the usual closing documents, including a certificate that no litigation is pending affecting the Bonds.

Issue Price Certificate: The winning bidder shall assist the County in establishing the issue price of the Bonds and shall execute and deliver to the County at Delivery an “issue price” certificate setting forth the reasonably expected initial offering price to the public, with such modifications as may be appropriate or necessary, in the reasonable judgment of the winning bidder, the County and co-Bond Counsel. A sample copy of the certificate may be obtained from McNair Law Firm, P.A.

The County intends that the provisions of Treasury Regulation Section 1.148-1(f)(3)(i) (defining “competitive sale” for purposes of establishing the issue price of the Bonds) will apply to the initial sale of the Bonds (the “Competitive Sale Requirements”) because:

- (1) the County shall disseminate this Official Notice of Sale to potential underwriters in a manner that is reasonably designed to reach potential underwriters;
- (2) all bidders shall have an equal opportunity to bid;
- (3) the County may receive bids from at least three underwriters of municipal bonds who have established industry reputations for underwriting new issuances of municipal bonds; and

- (4) the County anticipates awarding the sale of the Bonds to the bidder who submits a firm offer to purchase the Bonds at the highest price (or lowest interest cost), as set forth in this Official Notice of Sale.

Any bid submitted pursuant to this Official Notice of Sale shall be considered a firm offer for the purchase of the Bonds, as specified in the bid.

In the event that the Competitive Sale Requirements are not satisfied, the County shall so advise the winning bidder. The County may determine to treat the initial offering price to the public as of the sale date of the Bonds as the issue price of the Bonds (the "Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule"). The County shall promptly advise the winning bidder, at or before the time of award of the Bonds, that the Bonds shall be subject to the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule. Bids will not be subject to cancellation in the event that the County determines to apply the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule to the Bonds. Bidders should prepare their bids on the assumption that the Bonds will be subject to the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule in order to establish the issue price of the Bonds.

By submitting a bid, the winning bidder shall (1) confirm that the underwriters have offered or will offer the Bonds to the public on or before the date of award at the offering price (the "Initial Offering Price"), or at the corresponding yield, set forth in the bid submitted by the winning bidder and (2) agree, on behalf of the underwriters participating in the purchase of the Bonds, that the underwriters will neither offer nor sell unsold Bonds to which the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule shall apply to any person at a price that is higher than the Initial Offering Price to the public during the period starting on the sale date and ending on the earlier of the following:

- (1) the close of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) business day after the sale date; or
- (2) the date on which the underwriters have sold at least 10% of the Bonds to the public at a price that is no higher than the Initial Offering Price to the public (the "10% Test").

The winning bidder shall promptly advise the County when the underwriters have sold 10% of the Bonds to the public at a price that is no higher than the Initial Offering Price to the public, if that occurs prior to the close of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) business day after the sale date.

The County acknowledges that, in making the representation set forth above, the winning bidder will rely on (1) the agreement of each underwriter to comply with the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule, as set forth in an agreement among underwriters and the related pricing wires, (2) in the event a selling group has been created in connection with the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, the agreement of each dealer who is a member of the selling group to comply with the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule, as set forth in a selling group agreement and the related pricing wires, and (3) in the event that an underwriter is a party to a retail distribution agreement that was employed in connection with the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, the agreement of each broker-dealer that is a party to such agreement to comply with the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule, as set forth in the retail distribution agreement and the related pricing wires. The County further acknowledges that each underwriter shall be solely liable for its failure to comply with its agreement regarding the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule and that no underwriter shall be liable for the failure of any other underwriter, or of any dealer who is a member of a selling group, or of any broker-dealer that is a party to a retail distribution agreement to comply with its corresponding agreement regarding the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule as applicable to the Bonds.

By submitting a bid, each bidder confirms that: (1) any agreement among underwriters, any selling group agreement and each retail distribution agreement (to which the bidder is a party) relating to the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, together with the related pricing wires, contains or will contain language obligating each underwriter, each dealer who is a member of the selling group, and each broker-dealer that is a party to such retail distribution agreement, as applicable, to (a) report the prices at which it sells to the public the unsold Bonds allotted to it until it is notified by the winning bidder that either the 10% Test has been satisfied as to the Bonds or all Bonds have been sold to the public and (b) comply with the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule, if applicable, in each case if and for so long as directed by the winning bidder and as set forth in the related pricing wires, and (2) any agreement among underwriters relating to the initial sale of the Bonds to the public, together with the related pricing wires, contains or will contain language obligating each underwriter that is a party to a retail distribution agreement to be employed in connection with the initial sale of the Bonds to the public to require each broker-dealer that is a party to such retail distribution agreement to (a) report the prices at which it sells to the public the unsold Bonds allotted to it until it is notified by the winning bidder or such underwriter that either the 10% Test has been satisfied as to the Bonds or all Bonds have been sold to the public and (b) comply with the Hold-the-Offering-Price Rule, if applicable, in each case if and for so long as directed by the winning bidder or such underwriter and as set forth in the related pricing wires.

Sales of any Bonds to any person that is a related party to an underwriter shall not constitute sales to the public for purposes of this Official Notice of Sale. Further, for purposes of this Official Notice of Sale:

- (1) “public” means any person other than an underwriter or a related party,
- (2) “underwriter” means (a) any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract with the County (or with the lead underwriter to form an underwriting syndicate) to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the public and (b) any person that agrees pursuant to a written contract directly or indirectly with a person described in clause (a) to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds to the public (including a member of a selling group or a party to a retail distribution agreement participating in the initial sale of the Bonds to the public),
- (3) a purchaser of any of the Bonds is a “related party” to an underwriter if the underwriter and the purchaser are subject, directly or indirectly, to (a) at least both entities are corporations (including direct ownership by one corporation of another), (b) more than 50% common ownership of their capital interests or profits interests, if both entities are partnerships (including direct ownership by one partnership of another), or (c) more than 50% common ownership of the value of the outstanding stock of the corporation or the capital interests or profit interests of the partnership, as applicable, if one entity is a corporation and the other entity is a partnership (including direct ownership of the applicable stock or interests by one entity of the other), and
- (4) “sale date” means the date that the Bonds are awarded by the County to the winning bidder.

CUSIP Numbers: CUSIP identification numbers and CUSIP Service Bureau charges for assignment of the numbers will be the responsibility of the successful bidder and should be provided to the County within five (5) days of being selected as the winning bidder, but any delay, error or omission with respect thereto shall not constitute cause for a failure or refusal by the successful bidder to accept delivery of and pay for the Bonds in accordance with the terms of this Official Notice of Sale. The successful bidder shall also be responsible for securing DTC eligibility.

Financial Advisor: Hilltop Securities Inc. (“Hilltop”) is acting as Financial Advisor (the “Financial Advisor”) to the County in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. The Financial Advisor’s fee for services rendered with respect to the sale of the Bonds is contingent upon the issuance and delivery of the Bonds. Hilltop, in its capacity as Financial Advisor, has not verified and does not assume any responsibility for the information, covenants and representations contained in any of the legal documents with respect to the federal income tax status of the Bonds, or the possible impact of any present, pending or future actions taken by any legislative or judicial bodies or rating agencies.

Delivery: The Bonds will be delivered on or about December 26, 2018, through DTC in New York, New York, at the expense of the County. The balance of the purchase price then due (including the amount of accrued interest) must be paid in federal funds or other immediately available funds.

Additional Information: The Preliminary Official Statement of the County with respect to the Bonds is available via the internet at <http://www.idealprospectus.com>. The Preliminary Official Statement shall be reviewed by bidders prior to submitting a bid. Bidders may not rely on this Notice of Sale as to the complete information concerning the Bonds. Persons seeking information should communicate with the County’s Bond Counsel, Francenia B. Heizer, Esquire, McNair Law Firm, P.A., telephone (803) 799-9800, e-mail: [fheizer@mcnair.net](mailto:fheizer@mcnair.net) or with the County’s Financial Advisor, Chad Cowan, Director, Hilltop Securities, telephone (704) 654-3454; e-mail: [chad.cowan@hilltopsecurities.com](mailto:chad.cowan@hilltopsecurities.com).

BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA