



# *An Overview of* AMENDMENT #1

## THE JANUARY 29 PROPERTY TAX AMENDMENT

Taxes that are based on value are called ad valorem taxes. Article VII of the Florida Constitution grants local governments the authority to collect ad valorem taxes on both real property and tangible personal property. In addition, the Constitution directs the Florida Legislature to establish requirements for local governments to follow when collecting taxes. All ad valorem taxation must be at a uniform rate within each taxing district and the property must be assessed at just value.

Because property tax revisions are established by Florida's Constitution, the Legislature alone does not have the authority to change them. On October 29, 2007, the Senate and House passed a joint resolution placing a proposed constitutional amendment on Florida's ballot for the Presidential Preference Primary election.

As a result, 10.5 million registered voters will have the opportunity to head to the polls on January 29, 2008 and cast their vote "for" or "against" the proposed amendment titled "Property Tax Exemptions; Limitations on Property Tax Assessments."

### **Amendment Type:**

Legislative/Joint Resolution, this amendment was placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature during the 2007 Special Session D. It was required to pass both the Senate and House by a 60% vote to be eligible for the ballot.

### **Sponsor:**

Florida Legislature  
SJR 2D (2007 Special Session D)  
Sponsor: Senator Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)

### **Were Paid Signature Gatherers Used to Place This on the Ballot?**

N/A - Amendment was placed on the ballot via the Legislature. It was required to pass both the Senate and House by a 60% vote.

### **Financial Impact:**

If approved, the impact of Amendment #1 on an individual taxpayer will depend on many conditions. However, it is estimated that on the average, homeowners will experience an annual savings of \$240.

The Office of Economic and Demographic Research's Revenue Estimating Conference on December 5, 2007 reported the proposed tax reduction for the first five years would be a total of \$9.3 billion.

### **Known Proponents:**

- Governor Charlie Crist
- Associated Industries of Florida
- Florida Association of Realtors
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Florida Medical Association
- Florida Outdoor Advertising Association
- Florida Retail Federation
- National Federation of Independent Business

### **Known Opponents:**

- The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
- Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)
- Florida Association of Counties
- Florida Education Association
- Florida League of Cities
- Florida Professional Firefighters
- The League of Women Voters of Florida



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