

1 Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
 2 A resolution proposing an amendment to Sections 4 and 9
 3 and the creation of Section 19 of Article VII and Section
 4 28 of Article XII of the State Constitution to limit the
 5 growth of assessments of certain real property for the
 6 purposes of ad valorem taxation, to mandate the
 7 elimination of property taxes set as required local
 8 effort, to reduce the maximum millage for school purposes,
 9 and to replace the revenues from property taxes set as
 10 required local effort with other funds.

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 12 Be It Resolved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission:

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 14 That the following amendment to Sections 4 and 9, and the
 15 creation of Section 19 of Article VII, and Section 28 of Article
 16 XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be
 17 submitted to the electors of this state for approval or
 18 rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special
 19 election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

20 ARTICLE VII

21 FINANCE AND TAXATION

22 SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.--By general law
 23 regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just
 24 valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

25 (a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge
 26 to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for
 27 noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general
 28 law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

29 (b) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property

30 held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for
 31 taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be
 32 classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

33 (c) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under
 34 Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at
 35 just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective
 36 date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as
 37 provided herein.

38 (1) Assessments subject to this provision shall be changed
 39 annually on January 1st of each year; but those changes in
 40 assessments shall not exceed the lower of the following:

41 a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior
 42 year.

43 b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all
 44 urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or
 45 successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially
 46 reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of
 47 Labor Statistics.

48 (2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

49 (3) After any change of ownership, as provided by general
 50 law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of
 51 January 1 of the following year, unless the provisions of
 52 paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed
 53 as provided herein.

54 (4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value
 55 as of January 1st of the year following the establishment of the
 56 homestead, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. That
 57 assessment shall only change as provided herein.

58 (5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to

59 homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general
60 law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any change,
61 addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be
62 assessed as provided herein.

63 (6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the
64 property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

65 (7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If any
66 of the provisions of this amendment shall be held
67 unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the
68 decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining
69 provisions of this amendment.

70 (8)a. A person who establishes a new homestead as of
71 January 1, 2009, or January 1 of any subsequent year and who has
72 received a homestead exemption pursuant to Section 6 of this
73 Article as of January 1 of either of the two years immediately
74 preceding the establishment of the new homestead is entitled to
75 have the new homestead assessed at less than just value. If this
76 revision is approved in January of 2008, a person who
77 establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled
78 to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only
79 if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1,
80 2007. The assessed value of the newly established homestead
81 shall be determined as follows:

82 1. If the just value of the new homestead is greater than
83 or equal to the just value of the prior homestead as of January
84 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the
85 assessed value of the new homestead shall be the just value of
86 the new homestead minus an amount equal to the lesser of
87 \$500,000 or the difference between the just value and the

