



ADVISORY

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Florida TaxWatch Makes Recommendations to the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission

TALLAHASSEE — As a prelude to the first meeting of Florida's Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Florida TaxWatch today released a [compendium of major tax issues](#) identified by its research over the past decade. The three major issues identified in the report are:

- ◆ Property Taxes and Local Government Spending
- ◆ Sales Tax Exemptions
- ◆ Taxation of Remote Sales

“For the past 27 years, Florida TaxWatch has been examining the fiscal policies of our state and how our taxpayers’ hard-earned money is being spent,” said John Turcotte, Senior Vice President of Research at the non-profit, non-partisan watchdog group. “It’s important for the newly formed Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to review these issues and we stand ready to assist commissioners in any way possible during their work over the next year and a half,” said Turcotte.

In addition to the three areas it identifies in the report, Florida TaxWatch also recommends the Commission pay special attention to tax issues that can affect the competitiveness of Florida businesses and their employees, and promote healthy economic growth.

Today’s report follows the release of a TaxWatch primer on the Commission, [The Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission Set to Begin Meeting Again 2007, November 2005](#).

This past Friday, Governor Crist named his 11 members to the Commission, which follow appointments made the week before by Senate President Pruitt and House Speaker Rubio, who each named seven members to the Commission. It is expected that the Commission will begin meeting in April. Four of the Governor’s appointments include an immediate past Chairman of Florida TaxWatch, Barney Barnett, as well as three current or former TaxWatch board members. [News release of Friday, February 16](#).

MEDIA NOTE: John Turcotte and Dominic Calabro are available for interviews today and tomorrow on this subject. Please contact Becky Reese at the above number.

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Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan taxpayer research institute and government watchdog that over its 28 year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens’ hard-earned tax dollars. Our mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida Government. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.