



# **NEWS**

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## **FORMER FLORIDA TAXWATCH CHAIRMAN APPOINTED TO TAX COMMISSION**

### ***Three Other TaxWatch Board Members Also Appointed By Governor***

**TALLAHASSEE** — Governor Crist today named former Florida TaxWatch Chairman Barney Barnett as a member of the upcoming Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. Barnett is joined on the Commission by Florida TaxWatch Treasurer Martha Barnett and Board of Trustees member Mark Bostick. The three are among 11 people appointed by the Governor today to the constitutionally created commission that will meet for the next year and a half, reviewing Florida's tax and budget system.

"The Governor couldn't have chose three finer individuals to serve," said Dominic M. Calabro, President & CEO of the non-profit, non-partisan government watchdog group. "Each brings an intelligence, enthusiasm, and keen perspective on public policy and issues of taxpayer fairness," said Calabro.

All three served on the first Taxation and Budget Reform Commission from 1990-1992.

Mr. Barnett, Vice Chairman of Publix Super Markets, is immediate past Chairman of Florida TaxWatch. He served on the group's Intangibles Tax Task Force of 1998, which studied the impact of that tax on taxpayers and the economy of Florida. In 2002-2003, he chaired the group's Cost Savings Task Force, which identified \$2.8 billion in cost savings, productivity enhancements and revenue maximization measures for state government to pursue.

Ms. Barnett, a partner in the Holland & Knight law firm, has been a member of the Florida TaxWatch Board of Trustees nearly since its beginning and is currently serving as the group's Treasurer. A nationally-recognized legal scholar, she served on the 1998 Florida Constitutional Revision Commission.

Mr. Bostick, President of ComCar Industries in Auburndale, is another long-standing member of the group's Board of Trustees and has been involved in several of the past Florida TaxWatch task forces concerning competitiveness.

A fourth appointee, Nancy Riley, President of the Florida Association of Realtors, has served as a Florida TaxWatch Board member in the past.

"We commend Governor Crist for wise choices in putting into public service people with a history and knowledge of taxpayer issues and a true concern for developing fair, predictable, and sustainable tax and fiscal policies to the benefit of all Floridians," said Calabro.

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Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute 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](http://www.FloridaTaxWatch.org).