



NEWS

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Statement from Florida TaxWatch on the Property Tax Reform Proposal by the Florida Senate

TALLAHASSEE — Florida TaxWatch applauds the Florida Senate for their bi-partisan initiative to provide immediate relief to all of Florida's property taxpayers who have been affected by the increase in spending and taxation. Taxpayers deserve, and must get, immediate legislative relief now and this plan would provide that.

The Senate's plan contains several concepts that have previously been recommended by Florida TaxWatch, including a roll back of taxes and limits on future tax growth, as well as a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property. This plan also addresses the inequities of the "highest and best use" assessment issue that Florida TaxWatch has asked legislators to examine.

This plan is a good step in the right direction and will meet the Florida TaxWatch call for tax relief now, but most of the inequities created by Save Our Homes amendment remain. Florida TaxWatch also recommends that the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission continue to examine property tax reform with special attention being paid to the remaining inequities.

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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. Its 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.