



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 14, 2008

CONTACT: Robert Weissert
Director of Communications
& External Relations
850-222-5052, ext. 20
850-321-5052 (cell)
robert@floridatxwatch.org

Florida TaxWatch Statement on the Circuit Court Striking Amendment 5 from the Ballot

Statement by Dominic M. Calabro: “It is absolutely necessary that the voting public is appropriately informed about dramatic changes to the constitution when they are placed on the ballot. Amendment 5 will permanently and radically alter the taxes that Floridians pay and the way that public education is funded in this state – and could likely have a striking impact on the essential services that Florida provides to its people. Such amendments to our constitution should only be placed on the ballot when the voter at the ballot box is adequately informed about the nature, subject, and implications of the amendment by the ballot title and summary because the stakes are so high and the consequences so significant.

“We agree with the Circuit Court that the current amendment summary does not meet that standard. Amendment 5 is a fiscal Trojan Horse that does not provide any constitutional assurance that education funding will be ‘held harmless’ after the first year, a fact that is not made clear by the ballot summary. If the amendment ultimately does not appear on the ballot, which we feel is the appropriate outcome in this case, Florida TaxWatch will work with Governor Crist, legislative leaders, and key groups across the state to put together meaningful tax and spending reforms – at the state and local level – that will provide long term value and accountability for all of Florida’s taxpayers.”

#

Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 29 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 state and local government. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.