



NEWS

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TAXWATCH REPORT CALLS AMENDMENT 5 “A DANGEROUS IDEA” **Report Details Task Force Model Process for Modernizing Tax System**

TALLAHASSEE – A new report released today by Florida TaxWatch calls Amendment 5 a dangerous idea that needs to be removed from the ballot, and charges that it strikes at the very heart of good government and defies fundamental principles of representative democracy.

While urging voters to reject Amendment 5, the Florida TaxWatch Special Report outlines support for modernizing Florida’s tax system through a thoughtful and comprehensive manner. The Center for a Competitive Florida Task Force – a branch of Florida TaxWatch – has launched an unprecedented effort to determine how Florida’s current and alternative tax system models would meet the state’s revenue needs now and over the next ten years under varying economic conditions.

“Florida TaxWatch supports a meaningful modernization of the state’s tax system and is taking direct action to assure our tax system will be able to meet the challenges of the new global economy in a manner that is healthy for citizens, employees, businesses and the state’s overall economy,” said TaxWatch President Dominic Calabro. THIS QUOTE IS TOO LONG (4 lines....)

Florida TaxWatch believes the Amendment should be rejected because:

1. The process outlined in the Amendment takes power from the body of the legislature and confers it to a small group of legislators.
2. The content of the Amendment was not deliberated on by the full legislature and many legislators were unaware of the real impact of the Amendment.
3. It takes significant power away from the Governor, by not providing him with any veto authority.

For the first time in the debate over Amendment 5, Florida TaxWatch has confirmed with the nations leading legislative and policy organizations that Florida is the only state to take away power from the legislature and the governor by giving a minority number of legislators the authority to raise taxes. The National Council of State Legislatures, the National Association of State Budget Officers and the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University agree that no other state has dared to drastically change the fundamental principals whereby taxes can be raised.

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The Florida TaxWatch Special Report, *A Dangerous Idea: Amendment 5 Would Put the Power to Raise Taxes in the Hands of Too Few*, details the taxpayer organizations efforts to achieve meaningful tax modernization. A complete copy of the report can be found at www.floridataxwatch.org.

Florida TaxWatch is a non-partisan, non-profit research institution supported by homeowners, small businesses, corporations, labor unions, individuals and philanthropic foundations. The organization is dedicated to improving taxpayer value, government accountability and citizen understanding and participation in their state and local government fiscal policies.

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