



NEWS

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DEFEAT OF AMENDMENT 5 CLEARS PATH FOR REAL REFORM
Florida TaxWatch Report Details Task Force Model Process for
Modernizing Tax System

TALLAHASSEE – As the court order striking Amendment 5 from the November ballot was issued Wednesday, Florida TaxWatch was working with the Center for a Competitive Florida to assure continued focus on the very real need for modernization of the state tax system.

“Amendment 5 is a dangerous idea because it strikes at the very heart of good government, defies fundamental principals of representative democracy and wipes out the essential constitutional checks and balances that are the bulwark of our freedoms,” said Dominic M. Calabro, President of Florida TaxWatch. “While fighting this fake reform in court, we have also moved forward in our efforts to provide the citizens of Florida with thoughtful and comprehensive reform that will encourage a healthy and diversified economy.”

When Florida TaxWatch first announced its court challenge to Amendment 5, the non-partisan, non-profit public interest research group also promised to take a leadership role in developing sound recommendations to be presented to the legislature. The Center for a Competitive Florida – a branch of Florida TaxWatch – assembled a task force in June to launch 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. While many opponents of Amendment 5 are hoping defeat of the measure will end all discussion of tax reform, Florida TaxWatch is taking direct

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action in collaboration with key civic, business and professional leaders and statewide groups 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 Florida’s overall economy,” Calabro said.

The task force objectives and the progress made to date are outlined in a report released today by Florida TaxWatch. The full report can be found online at www.floridataxwatch.org.

Florida TaxWatch is a non-partisan, non-profit public interest 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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