



# NEWS

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## Florida TaxWatch Releases Voter Guide to the Proposed Constitutional Tax Amendments on the November 4, 2008 Ballot

**TALLAHASSEE** — On November 4, 2008, Floridians will vote on six proposed amendments to the *Florida Constitution*, four of which concern taxation and were brought to the ballot by the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC). In anticipation of these important decisions, Florida TaxWatch today released a report, *Voter Guide to the Proposed Constitutional Tax Amendments on the November 4, 2008 Ballot*, explaining and analyzing the four tax-related amendments. While providing details of the pros and cons of proposals, the Florida TaxWatch recommendation for every one of the four tax related amendments – Amendments 3, 4, 6, and 8 – is that Floridians vote yes.

“Amending the constitution, which is the organic law of Florida, is one of the most significant and serious tasks that citizens are asked to do,” said Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of the nonpartisan, nonprofit government research institute and watchdog Florida TaxWatch. “Florida TaxWatch is honored to provide this analysis of the four tax-related amendments in hopes of educating and informing the citizens and taxpayers of the implications of these changes. Obviously, more work remains to be done in the area of tax reform, but these proposals are positive measures that will benefit Florida and the taxpayers now and in the future.”

The report provides the ballot title and summary as they will appear on the November ballot, and an in-depth analysis of the effects of each of the four tax-related amendments, including a section detailing the pros and cons of each amendment. The report also provides a conclusion with a recommendation for Florida voters with respect to each amendment.

Originally, the TBRC passed seven constitutional amendments that were to be placed on the November ballot, but three of the proposed amendments – Amendments 5, 7, and 9 – were struck by the Florida Supreme Court in early September. At that time, Dominic Calabro noted: “Amendment 5 would have been a fiscal Trojan Horse. The Supreme Court unanimously accepted the Florida TaxWatch position, explained to the Court in an Amicus Curiae brief, that the ballot summary and title were misleading.”

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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](http://www.FloridaTaxWatch.org).