



NEWS

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PALM BEACH COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES AND BUDGET ON THE WAY BACK UP

County Continues to Have One of the Highest Tax Burdens in Florida

TALLAHASSEE – The Palm Beach County government budget for this new fiscal year that began October 1, reflects a nearly 15% increase in the property tax millage rate and a spending increase of two-and-a-half percent, while county taxpayers' personal income and combined inflation and population continue to decline. That's one of the insights provided in recently updated information by Florida TaxWatch to its 2006 report of Palm Beach County's budget process.

Although both property tax and total county tax collections fell in the previous two fiscal years, and with them the county's spending, this year the county resumed its increased spending, which has grown significantly over the past ten years, outpacing increases in residents' personal income, inflation, and population, according to the independent, non-partisan research institute and government watchdog based in Tallahassee. The update is part of a broader statewide review under development.

"Palm Beach County, and all taxing authorities, must continue to find and seize opportunities to achieve greater efficiencies in their operations without adversely impacting essential services and without raising taxes," said Dominic M. Calabro, President & CEO of Florida TaxWatch.

Florida TaxWatch, through its Center for Local Government Studies, first reviewed historical budgets for Palm Beach County government in 2006. Over a ten-year period (2000-2009), property taxes grew 130%, total taxes grew 128%, while personal income grew by 72%, inflation increased 30%, and the county's population grew 17%.

"Florida TaxWatch stands ready to assist Palm Beach County officials with any of our previous suggestions or other issues on which they'd like to proceed toward providing the services its citizens need, while providing maximum taxpayer value," said Calabro.

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MEDIA NOTE: Dominic M. Calabro, President of Florida TaxWatch, will be available for media interviews tomorrow (October 28) afternoon in West Palm Beach. Please contact Harvey Bennett at the above number or email to make arrangements.

- See attached graph and table, which represents the updated information.
- [Florida TaxWatch Palm Beach Budget Study with Addendum, July 2006](#)

Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 30 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. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.