



NEWS

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CONTACT: Kim MacQueen
Communications Director
850-222-5052

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAN SAVE TAXPAYERS TENS OF MILLIONS WITH AWARD-WINNING EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

TALLAHASSEE — With budget cuts looming and local governments threatening to cut services in order to deal with reductions in property tax rates, all Florida taxpayers and elected or appointed county and/or city officials would do well to review the hundreds of tried-and-true, money-saving and efficiency-boosting ideas in a new Florida TaxWatch Special Report released today. **“Florida’s Local Governments Can Use State Productivity Improvements to Save Millions”** is a list of achievements by state employees that resulted in \$100 million in cost savings, cost avoidances and increased revenue collections as part of the 2007 Florida TaxWatch Prudential Financial - Davis Productivity Awards (DPA). These achievements can and should be adapted by city and county governments to save money and improve efficiency at the local level – before those governments cut services to taxpayers.

The Prudential Financial - Davis Productivity Awards program is a major government improvement initiative chaired by Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and sponsored by Florida TaxWatch, The Florida Council of 100 and the State of Florida. Cash awards of \$250 to \$2,500 plus commemorative plaques and certificates of commendation are given annually to state employees, teams and work units that clearly exceed performance expectations in ways that improve service delivery and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses. Since 1989, more than 12,000 individuals, teams, work units and partnerships have been honored for producing more than \$5.6 billion worth of added value.

County and City governing bodies currently are acting to comply with legislatively directed property tax rollbacks as they develop spending plans for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2007. Adapting cost-saving efficiencies and productivity improvements at the local level may enable cities and counties to avoid unnecessary hiring freezes, layoffs and reduction of public safety, library and other core and popular services being forecasted now.

This Florida TaxWatch Special Report is divided into 64 work areas and sub-areas that contain a total of 535 adaptable, cross-referenced achievements applicable to both state and local governments from the 2007 and four preceding years’ awards cycles. Contact information is provided so that interested persons can learn more about each achievement and request assistance.

Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 28 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. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.