



# NEWS

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## **NEW SENIOR VP AT FLORIDA TAXWATCH**

**TALLAHASSEE** — Florida TaxWatch is pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Lou Rajchel as its Senior Vice President of Research & Development. She will oversee the non-profit research institute's core mission of studying state government taxing and spending policies.

In a career spanning more than 25 years in the private and public sectors, Rajchel has worked in public finance, growth management, public education, business regulation, environmental protection, and law enforcement policy arenas. She has extensive association management experience, serving most recently as President & CEO of the Florida Phosphate Council, an association for the phosphate mining and fertilizer manufacturing industry.

"Mary Lou brings a tremendous wealth of policy and research expertise in a broad range of government operations," said Dominic M. Calabro, President & CEO of Florida TaxWatch. "Her outstanding leadership and public policy awareness will guide us as we continue to build and evolve into a stronger research team."

Rajchel began her career as a lawyer in private practice and later became Assistant General Counsel for the Florida Department of Commerce, which focused on tourism and economic development. In 1987, she went to work for the Florida Department of Education, as Director of Cabinet Affairs under Commissioner Betty Castor, and was her chief advisor on all Cabinet-related regulatory and public policy issues.

In 1992, Rajchel joined the Florida Phosphate Council, overseeing its regulatory affairs department, where she worked closely with policymakers in the state Departments of Environmental Protection, Community Affairs, and Health, as well as with regional planning councils and water management districts. She became its President & CEO in 1999.

Along the way, Rajchel further broadened her public policy experience, serving on a variety of state boards and commissions. She is the Immediate Past President of the Council for a Sustainable Florida, where she was the first recipient of the Rosendahl award for outstanding board service. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Economic Club of Florida, the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering Advisory Board, and Leadership Florida Board of Regents. She served on the Florida Chamber's Board of Governors and was active on the Chamber's Legislative, International Trade, and Infrastructure & Environmental Committees.

Rajchel has also served on several environmental and land management councils and was the first woman elected as Chair of the state Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. She is also a member of the Florida Bar.

Rajchel is no stranger to TaxWatch, having served on its Board of Trustees, its Research Committee, and as a member of the advisory committee to its Center for Educational Performance & Accountability.

As its Senior Vice President of Research, Rajchel will lead the TaxWatch research effort to help make Florida government more productive and accountable to taxpayers. "I have known and respected the work of Florida TaxWatch for years and am proud to now be a part of the team that so positively contributes to the public policy discourse in Florida," said Rajchel.

Rajchel holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of Central Florida, a Master of Science in Education from Southern Illinois University, and a law degree from the Florida State University. She is married to Gerald Jaski and has one child.

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**MEDIA NOTE: A black & white picture of Mary Lou Rajchel accompanies this release.**

Florida TaxWatch is a private, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 25 year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. Our 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](http://www.floridataxwatch.org)