



NEWS

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Statement by Dominic M. Calabro, Florida TaxWatch President, on the Governor's Executive Order 06-141 Creating the "Property Tax Reform Committee"

"Florida TaxWatch strongly commends Governor Bush for creating this committee in advance of next year's Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, which will be charged with examining Florida's tax system. This is part of a long overdue effort at fixing the inequities in our local property taxes. Citizens are being socked with ever increasing property taxes without knowing whom to blame. As Florida TaxWatch has pointed out since 1992, the Save Our Homes amendment creates a tax shift, not a tax savings. Property taxes on similarly situated homes are increasingly different, with serious unintended consequences. One home may be taxed at \$2,000 while the one next door is taxed at \$4,800. We hope this committee's efforts will also help bring about more transparent tax administration policies. Florida TaxWatch stands ready to assist this committee and the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to make property taxes more transparent, accountable and equitable.

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Florida TaxWatch is a private, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 26 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.floridatxwatch.org