

By Commissioner Ford-Coates

1 A proposal to revise
2 ARTICLE VII, s. 3, Fla. Const.; providing an
3 exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain
4 tangible personal property.

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6 It is proposed by the Florida Constitution Revision Commission
7 that:

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9 Section 1. Section 3 of Article VII of the Florida
10 Constitution is revised by amending that section to read:

11 ARTICLE VII

12 FINANCE AND TAXATION

13 SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.--

14 (a) All property owned by a municipality and used
15 exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be
16 exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside
17 the municipality, may be required by general law to make
18 payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located.
19 Such portions of property as are used predominantly for
20 educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable
21 purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

22 (b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively,
23 to every head of a family residing in this state, household
24 goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law,
25 not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or
26 widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently
27 disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less
28 than five hundred dollars.

29 (c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of
30 its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this
31 subsection and general law, grant community and economic

1 development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and
2 expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law.
3 Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the
4 county or municipality, and only after the electors of the
5 county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum
6 authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances.
7 An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real
8 property made by or for the use of a new business and
9 improvements to real property related to the expansion of an
10 existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal
11 property of such new business and tangible personal property
12 related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount
13 or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified
14 by general law. The period of time for which such exemption
15 may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing
16 business shall be determined by general law. The authority to
17 grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of
18 approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and
19 may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

20 (d) By general law and subject to conditions specified
21 therein, there may be granted an ad valorem tax exemption to a
22 renewable energy source device and to real property on which
23 such device is installed and operated, to the value fixed by
24 general law not to exceed the original cost of the device, and
25 for the period of time fixed by general law not to exceed ten
26 years.

27 (e) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of
28 its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this
29 subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad
30 valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties
31 engaging in the rehabilitation or renovation of these

1 properties in accordance with approved historic preservation
2 guidelines. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance
3 of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the
4 amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible
5 properties must be specified by general law. The period of
6 time for which this exemption may be granted to a property
7 owner shall be determined by general law.

8 (f) In addition to any other exemption granted to
9 tangible personal property pursuant to this section, all
10 tangible personal property in a county held by the same owner
11 shall be exempted from ad valorem taxation up to a total
12 cumulative value of \$5,000. The maximum exempt value shall be
13 adjusted to reflect inflation. This exemption does not apply
14 to tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade
15 and livestock, which are subject to Section 4(b) of this
16 Article.