

1                                   A proposal to revise  
2       ARTICLE VII, s. 3, Fla. Const.; allowing a  
3       local option tax exemption for owners of land  
4       used for conservation purposes; providing for  
5       authorization by general law.

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

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

12                                   ARTICLE VII  
13                                   FINANCE AND TAXATION

14           SECTION 3.   Taxes; exemptions.--

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

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

30           (c)   Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of  
31   its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this

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

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

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

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

9 (f) A county or municipality may be authorized by  
10 general law to grant ad valorem tax exemptions for real  
11 property used for conservation purposes as defined by general  
12 law.