

By Commissioner Henderson

1 A proposal to revise
2 ARTICLE VII, s. 4, Fla. Const.; adding lands
3 used for conservation purposes to those lands
4 that may by law be assessed for tax purposes on
5 the basis of their character or use.

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

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10 Section 1. Section 4 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 4. Taxation; assessments.--By general law
15 regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just
16 valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

17 (a) Agricultural land, land producing high water
18 recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for
19 non-commercial recreational or conservation purposes may be
20 classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of
21 character or use.

22 (b) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property
23 held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued
24 for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be
25 classified for tax purposes ~~purposes~~, or may be exempted from
26 taxation.

27 (c) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption
28 under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead
29 assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following
30 the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall
31 change only as provided herein.

1 1. Assessments subject to this provision shall be
2 changed annually on January 1st of each year; but those
3 changes in assessments shall not exceed the lower of the
4 following:

5 (A) three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior
6 year.

7 (B) the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for
8 all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or
9 successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially
10 reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of
11 Labor Statistics.

12 2. No assessment shall exceed just value.

13 3. After any change of ownership, as provided by
14 general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just
15 value as of January 1 of the following year. Thereafter, the
16 homestead shall be assessed as provided herein.

17 4. New homestead property shall be assessed at just
18 value as of January 1st of the year following the
19 establishment of the homestead. That assessment shall only
20 change as provided herein.

21 5. Changes, additions, reductions or improvements to
22 homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by
23 general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any
24 change, addition, reduction or improvement, the property shall
25 be assessed as provided herein.

26 6. In the event of a termination of homestead status,
27 the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

28 7. The provisions of this amendment are severable. If
29 any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held
30 unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the
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1 decision of such court shall not affect or impair any
2 remaining provisions of this amendment.
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