

1 Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
 2 A resolution proposing an amendment to Section 3 of
 3 Article VII and the creation of a new section in Article
 4 XII of the State Constitution to require the Legislature
 5 to provide by law for an ad valorem tax exemption for real
 6 property used for conservation purposes as defined by
 7 general law.

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 9 Be It Resolved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission:

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 11 That the following amendment to Section 3 of Article VII
 12 and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State
 13 Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors
 14 of this state for approval or rejection at the next general
 15 election or at an earlier special election specifically
 16 authorized by law for that purpose:

17 ARTICLE VII

18 FINANCE AND TAXATION

19 SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.—

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

28 (b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to
 29 every head of a family residing in this state, household goods
 30 and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less

31 than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or
32 person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled,
33 property to the value fixed by general law not less than five
34 hundred dollars.

35 (c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its
36 respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this
37 subsection and general law, grant community and economic
38 development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and
39 expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law.
40 Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county
41 or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or
42 municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize
43 the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An
44 exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real
45 property made by or for the use of a new business and
46 improvements to real property related to the expansion of an
47 existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal
48 property of such new business and tangible personal property
49 related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or
50 limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by
51 general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be
52 granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business
53 shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such
54 exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by
55 the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable
56 by referendum as provided by general law.

57 (d) By general law and subject to conditions specified
58 therein, there may be granted an ad valorem tax exemption to a
59 renewable energy source device and to real property on which
60 such device is installed and operated, to the value fixed by

61 general law not to exceed the original cost of the device, and
 62 for the period of time fixed by general law not to exceed ten
 63 years.

64 (e) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its
 65 respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this
 66 subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad
 67 valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This
 68 exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or
 69 municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this
 70 exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be
 71 specified by general law. The period of time for which this
 72 exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined
 73 by general law.

74 (f) By general law, there shall be granted an ad valorem
 75 tax exemption for real property used for conservation purposes
 76 as defined by general law.

77 ARTICLE XII

78 SCHEDULE

79 The amendment to Article VII, Section 3, requiring the
 80 creation of an ad valorem tax exemption for real property used
 81 for conservation purposes, and this section, shall take effect
 82 upon approval by the electors and shall be implemented by
 83 January 1 2010.

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 85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
 86 placed on the ballot:

87 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

88 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3;

89 ARTICLE XII

90 AD VALOREM TAXATION OF LAND USED FOR CONSERVATION
91 PURPOSES.--This amendment to the State Constitution authorizes
92 the Legislature to provide by law for an ad valorem tax
93 exemption for real property used for conservation purposes as
94 defined by general law.