

1 Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission  
2 A resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of  
3 Article VII of the State Constitution providing for the  
4 classification of land used for conservation purposes and  
5 assessment of that land solely on the basis of character  
6 of use.

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8 Be It Resolved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission:  
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10 That the following amendment to Section 4 of Article VII of  
11 the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to  
12 the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next  
13 general election or at an earlier special election specifically  
14 authorized by law for that purpose:

15 ARTICLE VII

16 FINANCE AND TAXATION

17 SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.—By general law  
18 regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just  
19 valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

20 (a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge  
21 to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for  
22 noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general  
23 law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

24 (b) Land used for conservation purposes shall be  
25 classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of  
26 character of use.

27 (c) ~~(b)~~ Pursuant to general law tangible personal property  
28 held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for  
29 taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be  
30 classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

31        ~~(d)~~(e) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under  
32 Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at  
33 just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective  
34 date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as  
35 provided herein.

36        (1) Assessments subject to this provision shall be changed  
37 annually on January 1st of each year; but those changes in  
38 assessments shall not exceed the lower of the following:

39            a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior  
40 year.

41            b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all  
42 urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or  
43 successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially  
44 reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of  
45 Labor Statistics.

46        (2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

47        (3) After any change of ownership, as provided by general  
48 law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of  
49 January 1 of the following year. Thereafter, the homestead shall  
50 be assessed as provided herein.

51        (4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value  
52 as of January 1st of the year following the establishment of the  
53 homestead. That assessment shall only change as provided herein.

54        (5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to  
55 homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general  
56 law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any change,  
57 addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be  
58 assessed as provided herein.

59        (6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the  
60 property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

61 (7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If any  
62 of the provisions of this amendment shall be held  
63 unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the  
64 decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining  
65 provisions of this amendment.

66 (e)~~(d)~~ The legislature may, by general law, for assessment  
67 purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow  
68 counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that  
69 historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of  
70 character or use. Such character or use assessment shall apply  
71 only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The  
72 requirements for eligible properties must be specified by  
73 general law.

74 (f)~~(e)~~ A county may, in the manner prescribed by general  
75 law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead  
76 property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of  
77 that property which results from the construction or  
78 reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing  
79 living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents  
80 or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse  
81 if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the  
82 living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a  
83 reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

84 (1) The increase in assessed value resulting from  
85 construction or reconstruction of the property.

86 (2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the  
87 property as improved.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
89 placed on the ballot:

90 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

91 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 4  
92 AD VALOREM TAXATION OF LAND USED FOR CONSERVATION  
93 PURPOSES.--This proposed amendment to the State Constitution  
94 requires the Legislature to classify land used for conservation  
95 purposes and requires such land to be assessed for the purposes  
96 of ad valorem taxation on the basis of character of use.