

By Senator Baker

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution, relating to taxation and assessments, to prescribe methods of assessment of working marine facilities and property used for commercial purposes.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE AND TAXATION

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

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

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

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

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

10 a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior
11 year.

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

17 (2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

18 (3) After any change of ownership, as provided by
19 general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just
20 value as of January 1 of the following year. Thereafter, the
21 homestead shall be assessed as provided herein.

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

26 (5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to
27 homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by
28 general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any
29 change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property
30 shall be assessed as provided herein.

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

3 (7) The provisions of this amendment are severable.
4 If any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held
5 unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the
6 decision of such court shall not affect or impair any
7 remaining provisions of this amendment.

8 (d) The legislature may, by general law, for
9 assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this
10 subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by
11 ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the
12 basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment
13 shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance.
14 The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by
15 general law.

16 (e) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general
17 law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of
18 homestead property to the extent of any increase in the
19 assessed value of that property which results from the
20 construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose
21 of providing living quarters for one or more natural or
22 adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property
23 or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents
24 or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62
25 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the
26 lesser of the following:

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

29 (2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the
30 property as improved.

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1 (f) Lands used as working marine facilities, as
2 defined by general law, shall be assessed on the basis of
3 their existing or current use.

4 (g) Property used for commercial purposes shall be
5 assessed at its just value on January 1 following the
6 effective date of this subsection. Thereafter, the value may
7 be changed annually; however, the change may not exceed a
8 percentage specified by the legislature by general law, but
9 not lower than three percent.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
11 placed on the ballot:

12 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

13 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 4

14 ASSESSMENT OF WORKING MARINE FACILITIES AND LANDS USED
15 FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.--Proposing an amendment to the State
16 Constitution to require assessment of working marine
17 facilities, as defined by general law, on the basis of
18 existing or current use and to limit annual increases in the
19 assessment of lands used for commercial purposes to a
20 percentage, not less than 3 percent, specified by the
21 Legislature.