

RESOLUTION NO. 07-62

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO OPPOSE THE JANUARY 29, 2008 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 3, 4, AND 6 OF ARTICLE VII AND THE CREATION OF SECTION 27 OF ARTICLE XII IN THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, Leon County is the level of government closest to the people it serves, and;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Leon County elect county commissioners who are charged with balancing the needs of the County and determining the appropriate funding to support the provision of essential services to the residents of Leon County, and;

WHEREAS, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners invites the citizenry to participate in the County's annual budget process, and;

WHEREAS, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners has exercised fiscal constraint and responsibility in balancing the County's annual budget each year, and;

WHEREAS, Leon County has the smallest budget per capita of any comparable Florida county and the sixth-lowest of all 67 counties, and;

WHEREAS, Leon County has the lowest ratio of county employees per capita of any comparable Florida county, and;

WHEREAS, 42% of the property in Leon County is exempt from taxation, placing a higher tax burden on non-exempt properties, and;

WHEREAS, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners has provided tax relief by lowering the millage rate from 8.54 to 7.21 over the past two years, and;

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature continues to balance the State budget by passing unfunded mandates down to local governments, forcing Leon County to fund additional services previously funded by the State, and;

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution recognizes the powers of local self-government and provides limitations for local government taxation, and;

WHEREAS, the Leon County Home Rule Charter, approved by voters in 2002, recognizes the belief that governmental decisions affecting local interests should be made locally, rather than by the State, to achieve a more responsive and efficient government, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, that:

1. The State of Florida continues to provide an obsolete tax structure for its citizens and political subdivisions.
2. The proposed amendment will exacerbate the current property tax inequities that can only be corrected through the Florida Constitution.
3. The State of Florida does not recognize the challenges of Florida's local governments to provide services to an aging population, maintain deteriorating infrastructure, and bear significant increases in operational and capital costs.
4. The State of Florida has disguised the proposed amendment for January 29, 2008 as property tax reform but it does not address, mitigate, or resolve the inherit inequities in Florida's tax structure.
5. The proposed amendment offers a one size fits all approach for local governments and school districts without taking in to consideration the needs of the local citizenry.
6. The proposed amendment restricts local citizen involvement and flexibility in shaping government to best meet the County's unique and changing needs.
7. The proposed amendment is estimated to reduce the County's tax base by \$10.7 million, threatening some of the services that Leon County citizens depend on.
8. A reduction in services could significantly jeopardize the quality of life in Leon County which has been a proud distinction of many County residents.

DONE AND ADOPTED BY THE LEON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FLORIDA THIS 18th DAY OF December, 2007.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Jane G. Sauls
Jane G. Sauls, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

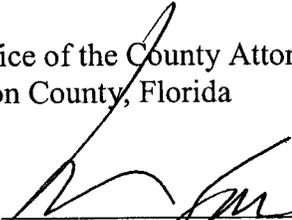
ATTEST:

Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: 
Bob Inzer, Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

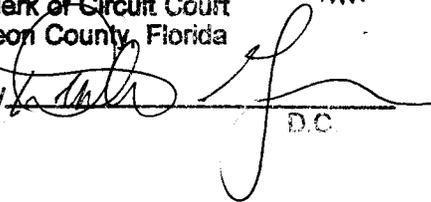
Office of the County Attorney
Leon County, Florida

By: 
Herbert W.A. Thiele
County Attorney

A Certified Copy
Attest

Bob Inzer

Clerk of Circuit Court
Leon County, Florida

By: 
D.C.

