

## Were Paid Signature Gatherers Used to Place This on the Ballot?

N/A - Amendment was placed on the ballot to go before voters by the Florida Legislature passing a joint resolution during an 18 day Special Session.

### Financial Impact:

If approved, the impact of Amendment #1 on an individual taxpayer will depend on many conditions. However, it is estimated that on the average, homeowners will experience an annual savings of \$240.

The Revenue Estimating Conference on December 5, 2007 reported the proposed tax reduction for the first five years would be \$9.3 billion. The \$9.3 billion five-year taxpayer savings estimate is likely overstated. The proposal does not restrict local governments' ability to increase millage rates to recoup revenue losses, thereby lessening the savings for some and shifting more tax burden to others.

### Known Proponents:

- Governor Charlie Crist
- Associated Industries of Florida
- Florida Association of Realtors
- Florida Chamber of Commerce, [www.votesmartflorida.org](http://www.votesmartflorida.org)
- Florida Medical Association
- Florida Outdoor Advertising Association
- Florida Retail Federation
- National Federation of Independent Business

### Known Opponents:

- The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
- Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
- Florida Association of Counties
- Florida Education Association
- Florida League of Cities
- Florida Professional Firefighters
- Florida Tax Watch, [www.floridatxwatch.org](http://www.floridatxwatch.org)
- The League of Women Voters of Florida

**Vote YES**, if you approve of Amendment #1 and/or you agree with the state government that it is the next step toward lowering Floridians' property tax bills.

**Vote NO**, if you would like the state government to address tax reform differently and /or you agree with local governments that Amendment #1 would result in a loss of revenue and services to local governments.

[www.ccfla.org](http://www.ccfla.org)



# 2008 Presidential Preference Primary Voter Guide



**Vote: January 29th, 2008**

Positions of candidates on issues were verified or determined using voting records and/or public record. Authorized by the Christian Coalition of Florida - P.O. Box 520578 - Longwood, FL 32752 - [www.ccfla.org](http://www.ccfla.org). The Christian Coalition of Florida is a pro-family, citizen action organization. This voter guide is provided for educational purposes only and is not to be considered an endorsement of any candidate or party.

# Amendment 1

## The Ballot Language:

### PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

**NO. 1  
CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION  
ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 3, 4, AND 6  
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 27  
(Legislative)**

#### **Property Tax Exemptions; Limitations On Property Tax Assessments**

This revision proposes changes to the State Constitution relating to property taxation. With respect to homestead property, this revision:

- (1) increases the homestead exemption except for school district taxes and
- (2) allows homestead property owners to transfer up to \$500,000 of their Save-Our-Homes benefits to their next homestead. With respect to nonhomestead property, this revision
- (3) provides a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property and
- (4) limits assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property except for school district taxes.

In more detail, this revision:

- (1) Increases the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000. This exemption does not apply to school district taxes.
- (2) Provides for the transfer of accumulated Save-Our-Homes benefits. Homestead property owners will be able to transfer their Save-Our-Homes benefit to a new homestead within 1 year and not more than 2 years after relinquishing their previous homestead; except, if this revision is approved by the electors in January of 2008 and if the new homestead is established on January 1, 2008, the previous homestead must have been relinquished in 2007. If the new homestead has a higher just value than the previous one, the accumulated benefit can be transferred; if the new homestead has a lower just value, the amount of benefit transferred will be reduced. The transferred benefit may not exceed \$500,000. This provision applies to all taxes.
- (3) Authorizes an exemption from property taxes of \$25,000 of assessed value of tangible personal property. This provision applies to all taxes.
- (4) Limits the assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property to 10 percent each year. Property will be assessed at just value following an improvement, as defined by general law, and may be assessed at just value following a change of ownership or control if provided by general law. This limitation does not apply to school district taxes. This limitation is repealed effective January 1, 2019, unless renewed by a vote of the electors in the general election held in 2018.

Further, this revision:

- a. Repeals obsolete language on the homestead exemption when it was less than \$25,000 and did not apply uniformly to property taxes levied by all local governments.
- b. Provides for homestead exemptions to be repealed if a future constitutional amendment provides for assessment of homesteads "at less than just value" rather than as currently provided "at a specified percentage" of just value.
- c. Schedules the changes to take effect upon approval by the electors and operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, if approved in a special election held on January 29, 2008, or to take effect January 1, 2009, if approved in the general election held in November of 2008. The limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property shall first apply to the 2009 tax roll if this revision is approved in a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first apply to the 2010 tax roll if this revision is approved in the general election held in November of 2008.

## Overview of Amendment #1

Taxes that are based on value are called ad valorem taxes. Article VII of the Florida Constitution grants local governments the authority to collect ad valorem taxes on both real property and tangible personal property. In addition, the Constitution directs the Florida Legislature to establish requirements for local governments to follow when collecting taxes. All ad valorem taxation must be at a uniform rate within each taxing district and the property must be assessed at just value.

Because property tax revisions are established by Florida's Constitution, the Legislature alone does not have the authority to change them. On October 29, 2007, at the end of an 18 day "Special Session" called by the Governor, the Senate and House passed a joint resolution placing a proposed constitutional amendment on Florida's ballot for the Presidential Preference Primary election.

As a result, you (as a registered voter) will have the opportunity to head to the polls on January 29, 2008 and cast your vote "for" or "against" the proposed amendment titled "Property Tax Exemptions; Limitations on Property Tax Assessments."

### Amendment Type:

Legislative/Joint Resolution, this amendment was placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature during the 2007 Special Session D. It was required to pass both the Senate and House by a 60% vote to be eligible for the ballot.

### Sponsor:

Florida Legislature  
SJR 2D (2007 Special Session D)  
Sponsor: Senator Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)

# Democrats on the January 29th Ballot



**Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**



**Hillary Clinton**



**Christopher J. Dodd**



**John Edwards**



**Mike Gravel**



**Dennis J. Kucinich**



**Barack Obama**



**William "Bill" Richardson III**

## Information

Marital Status:  
Number of Children:  
Religion:  
Occupation:  
Campaign Website:

Married<sup>1</sup>  
One Child<sup>1</sup>  
United Methodist<sup>1</sup>  
Lawyer, U.S. Senator<sup>1</sup>  
[hillaryclinton.com](http://hillaryclinton.com)

Married<sup>1</sup>  
Four Children<sup>1</sup>  
Methodist<sup>1</sup>  
Trial Lawyer<sup>1</sup>  
[johnedwards.com](http://johnedwards.com)

Married<sup>1</sup>  
Two Children<sup>1</sup>  
Unitarian<sup>1</sup>  
Politician, former U.S. Senator<sup>1</sup>  
[gravel2008.us](http://gravel2008.us)

Married<sup>1</sup>  
One Child<sup>1</sup>  
Roman Catholic<sup>2</sup>  
U.S. Congressman<sup>1</sup>  
[dennis4president.com](http://dennis4president.com)

Married<sup>1</sup>  
Two Children<sup>1</sup>  
United Church of Christ<sup>1</sup>  
Lawyer, U.S. Senator<sup>1</sup>  
[barackobama.com](http://barackobama.com)

## Issues

Federal Marriage Amendment		Opposes <sup>3</sup>		Opposes <sup>4</sup>	Opposes <sup>5</sup>	Opposes <sup>6</sup>	Opposes <sup>4</sup>	
Federal Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research		Supports <sup>4</sup>		Supports <sup>4</sup>	Supports <sup>5</sup>	Supports <sup>7</sup>	Supports <sup>4</sup>	
Federal Ban on Partial Birth Abortion		Opposes <sup>8</sup>		Did not vote <sup>8</sup>	No Response	Supported <sup>9</sup> / Opposes <sup>10</sup>	Opposes <sup>11</sup>	
Allow Parents to Use Vouchers for School Choice		Opposes <sup>12</sup>		Opposes <sup>13</sup>	Supports <sup>14</sup>	Opposes <sup>13</sup>	No Response	
Add "Sexual Orientation" to the Definition of "Hate Crimes"		Supports <sup>15</sup>		Supports <sup>15</sup>	No Response	No Response	Supports <sup>16</sup>	
Ban Lawsuits against Gun Manufacturers for Gun Violence		Opposes <sup>17</sup>		Did not vote <sup>17</sup>	No Response	Opposes <sup>18</sup>	Opposes <sup>19</sup>	
Grant Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants		Opposes <sup>20</sup>		Opposes <sup>21</sup>	No Response	No Response	Supports <sup>20</sup>	
Permanently Repeal the Death/Estate Tax		Opposes <sup>22</sup>		Opposes <sup>23</sup>	Supports <sup>5</sup>	Opposes <sup>24</sup>	Opposes <sup>25</sup>	

1 - Washington Post Presidential Candidate Profile retrieved from <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates>  
 2 - Presidential Candidate Biography retrieved from [http://vote-smart.org/election\\_president.php?dist=bio.php](http://vote-smart.org/election_president.php?dist=bio.php)  
 3 - Senate Joint Resolution 40, Senate Roll Call Vote #155. July 14, 2004  
 4 - Washington Post Presidential Candidate "On the Issues" retrieved from <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates>  
 5 - Project Vote Smart, "Issue Positions (Political Courage Test)" retrieved from [www.vote-smart.org/election\\_president.php?dist=bio.php](http://www.vote-smart.org/election_president.php?dist=bio.php)  
 6 - House Joint Resolution 88, vote number 2006-378. July 18, 2006  
 7 - U.S. House Bill HR 3, vote number 2007-020. January 11, 2007  
 8 - Senate Bill 3, Senate Roll Call Vote #51. October 21, 2003  
 9 - U.S. House Bill HR 3660, vote number 2000-104. April 5, 2000  
 10 - Senate Bill S.3, vote number 2003-530. October 2, 2003  
 11 - Wilson, John K. "The Improbable Quest," p.147-148. Oct 30, 2007 (referring to an Illinois Legislative Vote)  
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 15 - Senate Bill S.625, vote number 2002-147. June 11, 2002  
 16 - 1998 Illinois State Legislative National Political Awareness Test. July 2, 1998  
 17 - Senate Bill S 1805, vote number 30. March 2, 2004  
 18 - Senate Bill S 397, vote number 2005-534. October 20, 2005  
 19 - Senate Bill S 397, vote number 2005-219. July 29, 2005  
 20 - 2007 Democratic debate in Las Vegas, Nevada. November 15, 2007  
 21 - CNN Late Edition: 2007 presidential series with Wolf Blitzer. November 18, 2007  
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 23 - House Bill HR 8, vote number 2000-197. July 14, 2000  
 24 - House Bill HR 8, vote number 2001-84. April 4, 2001  
 25 - House Bill HR 8, vote number 2006-164. June 8, 2006

# Republicans on the January 29th Ballot



## Information

	Rudy Giuliani	Mike Huckabee	Duncan Hunter	Alan Keyes	John McCain	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Tom Tancredo	Fred Thompson
Marital Status:	Married <sup>1</sup>	Married <sup>1</sup>	Married <sup>1</sup>	Married <sup>1</sup>	Married <sup>1</sup>	Married <sup>1</sup>	Married <sup>1</sup>		Married <sup>1</sup>
Number of Children:	Three Children <sup>1</sup>	Three Children <sup>1</sup>	Two Children <sup>1</sup>	Three Children <sup>1</sup>	Seven Children <sup>1</sup>	Five Children <sup>1</sup>	Five Children <sup>1</sup>		Five Children <sup>1</sup>
Religion:	Roman Catholic <sup>1</sup>	Baptist <sup>1</sup>	Baptist <sup>1</sup>	Catholic <sup>1</sup>	Episcopal <sup>1</sup>	Protestant <sup>1</sup>	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints <sup>1</sup>		Church of Christ <sup>2</sup>
Occupation:	Lawyer, Businessman <sup>1</sup>	Businessman, Baptist Minister <sup>1</sup>	Lawyer, U.S. Congressman <sup>1</sup>	Diplomat, Broadcaster, Author <sup>1</sup>	Military Officer, U.S. Senator <sup>1</sup>	Medical Doctor, U.S. Congressman <sup>1</sup>	Businessman <sup>1</sup>		Actor, Lawyer and Lobbyist <sup>1</sup>
Campaign Website:	<a href="http://joinrudy2008.com">joinrudy2008.com</a>	<a href="http://mikehuckabee.com">mikehuckabee.com</a>	<a href="http://gohunter08.com">gohunter08.com</a>	<a href="http://alankeyes.com">alankeyes.com</a>	<a href="http://johnmccain.com">johnmccain.com</a>	<a href="http://ronpaul2008.com">ronpaul2008.com</a>	<a href="http://mittromney.com">mittromney.com</a>		<a href="http://fred08.com">fred08.com</a>

## Issues

	Rudy Giuliani	Mike Huckabee	Duncan Hunter	Alan Keyes	John McCain	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Tom Tancredo	Fred Thompson
Federal Marriage Amendment	Opposes <sup>3</sup>	Supports <sup>3</sup>	Supports <sup>4</sup>	Supports <sup>5</sup>	Opposes <sup>6</sup>	Opposes <sup>4</sup>	Supports <sup>7</sup>		Supports <sup>3</sup>
Federal Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research	Supports <sup>8</sup>	Opposes <sup>8</sup>	Opposes <sup>9</sup>	Opposes <sup>10</sup>	Supports <sup>11</sup>	Opposes <sup>9</sup>	Opposes <sup>8</sup>		Opposes <sup>3</sup>
Federal Ban on Partial Birth Abortion	Opposed <sup>12</sup> / Supports <sup>3</sup>	Supports <sup>3</sup>	Supports <sup>13</sup>	Supports <sup>5</sup>	Supports <sup>14</sup>	Supports <sup>13</sup>	Supports <sup>3</sup>		Supports <sup>15</sup>
Allow Parents to Use Vouchers for School Choice (including Private Schools)	Supports <sup>16</sup>	No Response	Supports <sup>17</sup>	Supports <sup>18</sup>	Supports <sup>16</sup>	Supported <sup>19</sup> / Opposes <sup>20</sup>	Supports <sup>21</sup>		Supports <sup>16</sup>
Add "Sexual Orientation" to Definition of "Hate Crimes"	No Response	Opposes <sup>5</sup>	Opposes <sup>17</sup>	Opposes <sup>5</sup>	Opposes <sup>22</sup>	Opposes <sup>5</sup>	Opposes <sup>31</sup>		Opposes <sup>22</sup>
Ban Lawsuits against Gun Manufacturers for Gun Violence	Opposes <sup>23</sup>	Supports <sup>24</sup>	Supports <sup>25</sup>	No Response	Supports <sup>26</sup>	Opposes <sup>25</sup>	No Response		No Response
Allow Illegal Immigrants to Earn Citizenship (Unique from other Immigrants)	Supports <sup>27</sup>	Opposes <sup>28</sup>	Opposes <sup>29</sup>	Opposes <sup>10</sup>	Supports <sup>30</sup>	Opposes <sup>29</sup>	Opposes <sup>36</sup>		Opposes <sup>16</sup>
Position on the "FairTax" or a Flat Tax Rate	Unclear <sup>32</sup>	Supports <sup>24</sup>	Supports <sup>33</sup>	Supports <sup>34</sup>	Supports <sup>30</sup>	Opposes <sup>35</sup>	Opposes <sup>37</sup>		Supports <sup>38</sup>

WITHDRAWN FROM RACE

1 - Washington Post Presidential Candidate Profile retrieved from <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates>  
 2 - Presidential Candidate Biography retrieved from [http://vote-smart.org/election\\_president.php?dist=bio.php](http://vote-smart.org/election_president.php?dist=bio.php)  
 3 - Washington Post Presidential Candidate "On the Issues" retrieved from <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates>  
 4 - House Bill H. J. Res 88, vote number 2006-378. July 18, 2006  
 5 - 2007 GOP Values Voter Presidential Debate. September 17, 2007  
 6 - Senate Bill S. J. Res. 1, vote number 2006-163. June 7, 2006  
 7 - Hewitt, Hugh "A Mormon in the White House?" p.130-133. March 12, 2007  
 8 - 2007 GOP primary debate, at Reagan library, hosted by MSNBC. May 3, 2007  
 9 - House Bill HR 3, vote number 2007-020. January 11, 2007  
 10 - Campaign website, [www.alankeyes.com](http://www.alankeyes.com), "Issues." October 1, 2007  
 11 - Senate Bill S.5 & H.R.3, vote number 2007-127. April 11, 2007  
 12 - CNN.com, "Inside Politics." December 2, 1999  
 13 - Senate Bill S 3, Roll Call Vote #530. October 2, 2003

14 - Senate Bill S.3, vote number 2003-51. March 12, 2003  
 15 - Senate Bill S. 1692, vote number 1999-340. October 21, 1999  
 16 - 2007 Republican primary debate on Univision. December 9, 2007  
 17 - Campaign website, [www.gohunter08.com](http://www.gohunter08.com), "Core Principles." Sept. 1, 2007  
 18 - Vote-Smart.org, "2000 National Political Awareness Test." January 13, 2000  
 19 - House Bill HR 2746, vote number 1997-569. November 4, 1997  
 20 - Amendment to House Bill HR 4380, vote number 1998-411. August 6, 1998  
 21 - Boston Globe review of 1994 campaign issues. March 21, 2002  
 22 - Senate Bill S.625, vote number 2002-147. June 11, 2002  
 23 - NYC.gov press release, "Lawsuit." June 26, 2000  
 24 - Campaign website, [www.mikehuckabee.com](http://www.mikehuckabee.com), "Issues." September 1, 2007  
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 28 - Fox News Sunday: 2007 "Choosing the President" interviews. Dec. 9, 2007

29 - 2007 GOP Presidential Forum at Morgan State University. September 27, 2007  
 30 - 2007 GOP YouTube debate in St. Petersburg, Florida. November 28, 2007  
 31 - Colbert, Chuck. "Romney/Healey tactics delay anti-bullying guide." *In Newsweekly*. October 11, 2006  
 32 - 2007 GOP Iowa Straw Poll debate. August 5, 2007  
 33 - 2007 Republican debate in Dearborn, Michigan. October 9, 2007  
 34 - 2007 Des Moines Register Republican debate. December 12, 2007  
 35 - Meet the Press: 2007 "Meet the Candidates" series. December 23, 2007  
 36 - Meet the Press: 2007 "Meet the Candidates" series. December 16, 2007  
 37 - Beaumont, Thomas "Romney Calls Flat Tax Unfair," *Des Moines Register*. April 5, 2007  
 38 - Fox News Sunday: 2007 "Choosing the President" interviews. November 25, 2007