

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RE: SARASOTA COUNTY STATEMENT ON PROPERTY TAX REFORM

WHEREAS, Sarasota County strives to set the standard and best practice for other units of government in the United States through strong and consistent fiscal policies; and

WHEREAS, in support of that belief, the County seeks to be a proactive partner with the State of Florida Legislators; and

WHEREAS, the County believes that the property tax system in the state of Florida is fundamentally broken; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks a fair and equitable solution in tax reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the County understands the financial hardship that the property tax inequity places on local business owners, of both commercial and residential rentals; and

WHEREAS, the County sees the double burden of rising insurance costs and property taxes on local businesses and the local economy as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the County understands the detrimental effects this financial cost has on economic development and the cost of living in Sarasota; and

WHEREAS, the County has spent only a limited amount of money on government operations; and

WHEREAS, the County has limited the growth of county expenses to no higher than the growth in the consumer price index and the growth in county population; and

WHEREAS, the County has controlled expenditures in the past decade well below its available revenues through the voluntary application of fiscal constraints to County operations; and

WHEREAS, the County has accomplished unprecedented reductions in the Countywide property tax rates over the past decade coupled with conservative maintenance of County and special district rates which are well below the limits allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, in these accomplishments, the County believes that this fiscal discipline can be practiced by all local governments allowing for tax relief to our residents and business owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County, Florida at a duly-advertised public meeting that:

1. **Property Tax Reform** be accomplished through a system that improves fundamental equity and fairness among classes of taxpayers as well as individual taxpayers.
2. **Business Relief** be granted by the establishment of an exemption of \$25,000 of value per taxpayer from Tangible Personal Property Taxes.
3. **Non-Homestead Property Relief** be added by the establishment of an annual assessment limitation for non-homestead property of ten percent with revaluation upon change of ownership or use of the property.
4. **Portability Relief** be accomplished with the allowance of a one time transfer of the Save Our Homes Exemption with subsequent portability contingent on property owner acceptance of a phased reduction in the Save Our Homes cap until it matches that for non-homesteaded properties.
5. **Renter's Relief** be granted with the assessment of affordable rental property that offers and covenants to continue to offer rents that meet HUD fair rent standards based upon the actual rental income of the property.
6. **Commercial and Recreational Working Waterfronts Relief** be granted by the allowance of commercial and recreational working waterfront real property to be value-based upon the current use of the property by local option with recapture of three years property taxes once converted from this category.
7. **Truth in Millage** be improved with the revision of the Truth in Millage process to allow the expenditures of constitutional officers to be individually stated and to provide better information on functional expenditures.

PASSED, AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY., FLORIDA THIS ____ DAY OF
_____, 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
NORA PATTERSON, CHAIR

ATTEST:

KAREN E. RUSHING,
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex-Officio Clerk
To the Board of County Commissioners
of Sarasota County, Florida