

RESOLUTION NO. 12-204

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, CONCERNING AMENDMENT 4 TO THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION WHICH, IF ADOPTED, WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL INEQUITIES IN FLORIDA'S TAX SYSTEM BY GRANTING CERTAIN TAX BREAKS TO SOME TAXPAYERS AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER TAXPAYERS.

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WHEREAS, a proposed constitutional amendment sponsored by the Florida Legislature will be placed on the 2012 general election ballot as "Amendment 4"; and

WHEREAS, this proposed constitutional change reduces the current assessment limitation on non-homestead real property from 10 percent to 5 percent; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment grants first-time homesteaders an additional homestead exemption equal to 50 percent of the just value of the property up to the county median home value; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment creates a provision that allows the Legislature by general law to prohibit increases in the assessed value of homestead property if the just value of the property decreases; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 4 creates inequities for non-homestead properties by allowing identical properties to be taxed differently, and Amendment 4 extends the sunset provision already in the Florida Constitution from 2019 to 2023, which allows these inequities to be in place longer; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 4 shifts the tax burden to new or growing businesses, creating an unfair disadvantage for new businesses that would have to pay higher property taxes than their more established counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the non-homestead assessment cap reduction and the first-time homesteader provision apply to city and county taxes and not to school property taxes; and

WHEREAS, over the last few years, several property tax initiatives, including additional homestead exemptions, Save Our Homes portability and statutory millage caps, have also contributed to the unequal treatment of Florida's taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, there are estimates of the total tax impact of Amendment 4 of \$1.6 billion cumulatively over a four-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2014, with approximately \$447 million borne by cities;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City of Fort Lauderdale will evaluate the impact Amendment 4 may have on its property taxes.

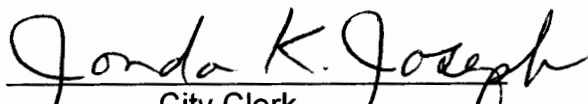
SECTION 2. That the City of Fort Lauderdale urges its residents to carefully consider the potential adverse consequences of Amendment 4 before voting in the November 2012 general election.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Florida League of Cities, Inc. and other interested parties.

ADOPTED this the 16th day of October, 2012

  
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Mayor  
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk  
JONDA K. JOSEPH

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