

## Summary of Constitutional Amendment

- ✓ Let's trade high property taxes for tax reform that guarantees our children a place in the higher education system.
- ✓ What exactly does the amendment do?
  - Replaces the Required Local Effort (RLE) Property taxes with sales tax exemptions where no public purpose is served without increasing the current sales tax rate.
  - Constitutionally directs the legislature to appropriate general revenue funds for state public community colleges, universities and regionally accredited private colleges and universities not less than one-third of the sum of the general revenue appropriated for public schools and RLE property taxes that were in place in the state fiscal year 2008 budget.
  - Continues the exclusion from sales tax for food, prescription drugs, health services, residential rent, electricity and heating fuel.
- ✓ How will this benefit Floridians?
  - Provides access to higher education
  - Enhances the quality of public and private higher education institutions in Florida
  - Ensures the national competitiveness of our students
  - Enhances the state's economic development in Florida
  - Keeps the community college's open door policy open
  - Maintains the viability of private colleges
- ✓ Currently you pay a property tax called the required local effort (RLE) which is often as much as 30% of your property tax bill.
- ✓ The requirement that the legislature appropriate for state public community colleges, universities and regionally accredited private colleges and universities not less than one third of the sum of the general revenue appropriated for public schools and the local required effort property taxes would constitutionally require one-third of \$18.1 billion or \$5.97 billion to be spent on higher education in Florida.
- ✓ Why should Floridians pay this offensive tax when there are billions of dollars in tax exemptions that serve no or little public interest? A few examples include:
  - fish breeding
  - commercial leases/space flight
  - sale of boats or airplanes removed from the state
  - printing for out-of-state customers when they provide the paper
  - paint color cards and samples
  - feed for poultry and livestock, including racehorses and ostriches
  - film rentals, when admissions are charged
  - boats temporarily docked in Florida