



## A Special Message on Property Tax Relief

Today in Tallahassee we started before daybreak, and I am writing this to you long after the sun has set. I am still hard at work tonight, however, I wanted to share with you some important developments from the Capitol that you might not read about in your local paper or see on your television set this evening.

As you know, the Legislature is now meeting in special session to consider a property tax plan proposed by Governor Charlie Crist. This plan essentially doubles the homestead exemption and provides portability for those who want to move and take their accrued Save Our Homes benefit with them. The plan, as originally proposed by Governor Crist, was a step toward much needed relief, but for most Floridians the savings contained within the plan will not meet expectations.

The good news I wanted to share with you tonight is that the House of Representatives made significant improvements to the Governor's plan, and meaningful property tax relief is once again within reach if our colleagues in the Senate move forward with us.

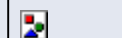
Earlier today, I co-sponsored a measure which created much-needed protections for non-homestead and commercial properties and I am proud that this amendment passed with bi-partisan support in the House Policy and Budget Council. By implementing a 3% assessment cap on the amount of value a non-homestead or commercial property could increase on the tax rolls each year, this action will bring fairness to our state's property tax system. It provides the property tax predictability and protection that non-homestead and commercial property owners in

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Florida desperately need - while protecting Save Our Homes for existing homesteaded property owners.

We have also passed a "penny sales tax swap" - which will eliminate almost half of the school property taxes you pay in exchange for a 1 cent sales tax increase. This will produce a property tax savings of up to 20% for ALL property owners - homesteaders, non-homesteaders and commercial.

These measures will now go to a full vote before the House chamber and could be considered by the Senate sometime thereafter. It is important to recognize, however, that despite overwhelming support for these measures by House Republicans, without cooperation from House Democrats and the Senate, these measures will not become law.

As you recall, during the 2007 legislative session earlier this year, House Republicans successfully passed a measure which would have rolled back all property taxes - homestead, non-homestead, and commercial - to 2001 levels, and cap them going forward to protect all Floridians against outrageous future increases. House Republicans were also successful in securing bi-partisan support for a measure to allow voters to choose to eliminate property taxes altogether on all homestead property. Unfortunately, largely due to strong opposition by local governments, the Senate differed with our bold approach and these measures eventually failed. Although we ultimately passed a plan to roll back taxes for your upcoming bill, the savings for most were not meaningful enough.

The political climate in Tallahassee right now is very challenging. While I will continue to fight hard for meaningful property tax relief, the legislative process is one that tends to require difficult to achieve consensus among Democrats and Republicans, as well as between the House and Senate. Clearly, there is a struggle between those like you and me who want to return dollars back to Floridians and those who want to protect the excessive spending of government. Our number one mission is to revitalize

Florida's economy and reenergize our real estate market to make Florida affordable again. Our guiding principle is that we should not focus on how much government wants to spend, but rather on how much Floridians can afford.

With the meaningful additions I described above, we now have a responsible and effective proposal that builds on the Governor's plan and makes it better for all taxpayers. But I urge you to engage and make a difference in this debate. It is critical to let House Democrats, as well as members of the Senate, know you stand for immediate and meaningful tax relief, the type House Republicans worked together to move forward today.

I fully believe that this should be a bi-partisan issue. That is why I am leading the fight here in the House of Representatives to ensure you have the opportunity to vote in the January 29 special election on a plan that could cut property taxes and bring more fairness to our tax system, but I need your help. Please make sure your voice is heard with those legislators who are attempting to thwart our attempts at passing the type of reform necessary to revitalize Florida's economy.

Thank you again for standing with me as we fight for more aggressive tax relief that we need and deserve. I am confident that continued advocacy and vigilance from Floridians like you will help continue to move this critical issue in the right direction.

All my best,

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Adam Hasner, Republican for State Representative - District 87.

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