



2007 Legislative Session Enters the Final Stretch

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Fighting for Meaningful Property Tax Relief

I truly appreciate the notes and letters I have received from so many who have contacted me to share their concerns and voice their opinions on Florida's current property tax crisis.

We are truly at a crossroads. Rising property taxes and insurance rates are making our state unaffordable and we must be bold and innovative to get Florida back on the right track. The status quo is unacceptable. Floridians need relief and we need it sooner rather than later.

After weeks of hard work and debate, the House passed our two part plan that delivers meaningful and immediate relief to ALL property owners and also proposes to empower voters to change the state's tax structure to provide for much needed comprehensive reforms.

I have provided some information on the two House plans below. The statutory roll back and cap on property taxes ([HB 7001](#)) passed unanimously 118-0; while the proposed ballot initiative that would require

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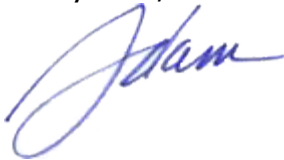
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[More about Adam Hasner](#)
[Official Legislative Website](#)
[100 Ideas for Florida's Future](#)

voter approval ([HJR 7089](#)) for replacing property taxes with sales taxes passed 77-41. Other property tax reforms included [HB 261](#) to clarify how certain properties are valued by the appraiser in order to protect property owners.

The House and Senate are now meeting around the clock to work on a compromise proposal, and I am optimistic that during the final two weeks of session, along with the leadership of our Governor, we can work together to forge an agreement that will address this crisis and help keep Florida On the Move!

All my best,



House Passes Historic Property Tax Relief and Reform Plan

Click below for more detailed information on our plan:

[The House Proposal for Property Tax Relief & Reform Policy Brief](#)

THE HOUSE PLAN FOR IMMEDIATE TAX RELIEF **(Passed Unanimously 118-0)**

- **\$6 Billion in savings in year one.**
- **\$41 Billion in savings in over 5 years.**
- **Provides immediate tax relief averaging 19% savings on the total tax bill for all property owners - homesteaders, non-homesteaders and commercial.**
- **Requires an immediate reduction in millage rates** for all local taxing authorities **except** school districts, hospital districts, and Children's Services Councils. Millage rates will be limited to what they would have

been if revenues had only grown in proportion to inflation plus community growth since FY 2000-01.

- **Links future growth of local revenues to community growth and inflation.** Beginning in FY 2008-09, growth in property tax revenues is limited to the "rolled-back-rate" plus changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- **Requires a supermajority vote** of the governing authority to exceed the revenue cap. Approval by the greater of 2/3 of the governing board or a majority plus one can exceed the cap for the current fiscal year.
- **Taxpayers will see meaningful relief on their next tax bill (in November 2007)**
Visit www.myfloridahouse.gov to calculate your savings under the proposal.
- The average affected county's total budget will be reduced by about 9%, and the average city's total budget will be reduced by about 7%.

THE HOUSE PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM **(Passed 77-41)**

- **A Cut:** Requires all local governments except schools to set property tax rates to where they would have been if tax revenues had grown only in proportion to community growth and inflation since FY 2003-04.
- **A Cap:** Limits future local government revenues to the rolled-back-rate (which allows revenue growth in proportion to community growth) plus changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- **A Swap:** Establishes a formula that provides local control and flexibility to further reduce property taxes on homestead properties:

--> **Automatic:** Abolishes the required local effort (RLE) school district tax on all homestead properties and replaces it with a one cent sales tax. The RLE tax comprises of about 25% of property taxes statewide.

--> **Optional:** By local county referendum, voters may choose to further reduce homestead property taxes by **replacing the discretionary millage for school boards** with a 1/2 cent sales tax. The referendum must be held by 2010.

--> **Optional:** By local county referendum, voters may adopt an additional reduction of homestead property taxes by **replacing all remaining property tax levies** (i.e. county/city, special districts, MSTUs, etc.) with a 1 cent sales tax. The referendum must be held by 2010.

--> **If both referendums pass, all homestead properties in the jurisdiction will be exempt from ad valorem taxes.** County governments will distribute sales tax funds within their county based on the existing sales tax distribution model.

- **Creates a tangible personal property exemption of \$25,000 for businesses.** This would create \$180 million in savings to Florida businesses at current tax rates.
- **Creates more options for renters' tax relief** by granting the legislature broader authority to create statutory programs that target rental properties.

HOUSE BILL (HB) 261 - JUST VALUATION OF PROPERTY

Creates Stricter Criteria for "Highest and Best Use"

- Changes appraisal factor for residential and leased commercial property from "highest and best use" to "market rent."
- Shifts the burden to property appraisers to justify their increases and provides for reimbursement of filing and attorney's fees when the taxpayer wins an administrative hearing.
- Requires the county and the school board to each appoint a homestead owner from the county and a business owner from the county to the value adjustment board, and prohibits appointees from being members or employees of any taxing authorities.

HOW MUCH YOU WOULD SAVE UNDER EACH PROPOSAL:

HOUSE COMPREHENSIVE REFORM PROPOSAL ([HJR 7089](#))

Statewide Tax Savings:

- 1st Year: \$5.8 Billion
- 5 Years: \$23.5 Billion

Average Taxpayer Savings (1st Year):

- Homestead: \$1,244 (38%)
- Non-Homestead Residential: \$760 (16%)
- Commercial/Industrial: \$3,260 (16%)

SENATE COMPREHENSIVE REFORM PROPOSAL ([SJR 3034](#))

Statewide Tax Savings:

- 1st Year: \$400 Million
- 5 Years: \$1.5 Billion

Average Taxpayer Savings (1st Year):

- Homestead: \$40 (1.2%)
- Non-Homestead Residential: \$34 (0.7%)
- Commercial/Industrial: -

HOUSE STATUTORY RELIEF ([HB 7001](#))

Statewide Tax Savings:

- 1st Year: \$6.3 Billion
- 5 Years: \$41.8 Billion

Average Taxpayer Savings (1st Year):

- Homestead: \$438 (19%)
- Non-Homestead Residential: \$777 (19%)
- Commercial/Industrial: \$3,395 (19%)

SENATE STATUTORY RELIEF ([SB 1020](#) & [SB 1022](#))

Statewide Tax Savings:

- 1st Year: \$1.1 Billion
- 5 Years: \$10.8 Billion

Average Taxpayer Savings (1st Year):

- Homestead: \$89 (3.5%)
- Non-Homestead Residential: \$148 (3.5%)
- Commercial/Industrial: \$641 (3.5%)

WHAT EACH PLAN MEANS FOR YOU:

[\(as it appeared in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel on 4/20/07\)](#)

Current homeowners

HOUSE: The House plan would be a major boon because it calls for the elimination of property taxes on primary residences. Overall, property tax collections would drop 18 percent statewide, according to House estimates. The more a homeowner's property is worth, the more in taxes would be saved. The downside: The state sales tax could rise to as much as 8.5 cents on the dollar to replace lost revenue.

SENATE: Not as good for homeowners because property taxes on homes wouldn't be abolished but rolled back to 2005-06 levels. The Senate's plan would reduce property taxes by an estimated 12 percent statewide but include no sales tax increase.

GOVERNOR CRIST: Supports doubling the homestead exemption available to year-round residents to \$50,000.

First-time homebuyers

HOUSE: No specific breaks, but home ownership would become more affordable because of the elimination of property taxes on primary residences.

SENATE: A \$50,000 homestead exemption if they buy a home valued at more than \$100,000.

GOVERNOR CRIST: No specific proposal.

Homeowners seeking to move

HOUSE: If the new property is a primary residence, it would be free of property taxes under the House proposal.

SENATE: Residents could transfer up to \$500,000 of their current tax savings under the Save Our Homes amendment, which limits annual increases in property tax payments to 3 percent. But those benefits would be reduced, and in seven to eight years, the average homeowner who moved would pay the same taxes as a newcomer to Florida.

GOVERNOR CRIST: Supports allowing Floridians to take their Save Our Homes tax-cap savings with them.

Snowbirds

HOUSE: Nonresidents get modest, unspecified tax relief, but more than the Senate offers.

SENATE: Tax bills would be trimmed slightly, by a yet-to-be-defined amount.

GOVERNOR CRIST: No specific proposals.

Renters and landlords

HOUSE: Landlords would see greater savings than what the Senate is offering, but there are no guarantees renters would share in them. House leaders say they will try to guarantee some benefits to renters. Like the Senate's plan, the House proposal changes how commercial properties and affordable housing units are assessed for tax purposes, which means taxes might be reduced for those owners and their tenants.

SENATE: Landlords would enjoy modest tax savings that senators say could stave off rent increases. Also, owners of affordable housing units would see their properties assessed differently, potentially reducing their taxes and the rents charged tenants.

GOVERNOR CRIST: No specific proposals.

Business owners

HOUSE: Provides a \$25,000 tax break for business equipment.

SENATE: Eliminates tangible personal property taxes paid on the first \$25,000 of equipment such as computers and desks. That would erase the tax for as many as 1 million of the 1.3 million commercial properties that now pay it.

GOVERNOR CRIST: No specific property tax cut for businesses, but he supports sales-tax breaks for sectors such as the film industry.

Cities and counties

HOUSE: Scales back municipal tax rates to 2000-01 levels and pegs future increases to inflation.

SENATE: Starting in 2008, would roll local government tax rates back to 2005-06 levels. From that year forward, tax collections could not grow faster than the population and inflation rates.

GOVERNOR CRIST: Would reduce local- government tax collections by doubling

the state's homestead exemption and allowing homeowners to transfer their Save Our Homes tax cap savings to a new home.

House Acts on Other Important Issues

In addition to property tax relief, there are also several other important issues I have been working on this session. Here's just a few:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Gang violence has become a major threat in our community and throughout the state and the legislation I am sponsoring ([HB 1363](#)) to provide law enforcement with additional tools and resources unanimously passed the House and is now being considered by the Senate.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Ensuring that our local schools receive our fair share of student funding has always been a top priority for me. The ongoing debate as to whether South Florida's school districts deserve more per student funding than other areas of the state will continue to be a regional power struggle. With the support of our local school districts, I secured an appropriation in the state budget for an independent study that will better determine the cost differentials throughout Florida and improve upon the equity in our state's student funding formula. One way or another, this will hopefully put to rest an ongoing debate.

PROJECTED 07-08 STATE FUNDING FOR:

-->Palm Beach County:

- \$1.27 Billion (\$60 Million increase)
- \$7,490 per student

-->Broward County:

- \$1.88 Billion (\$80 Million increase)
- \$7,208 per student

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Although it is a powerful tool, the Internet has also created a new threat to the safety of our children. This week the House and Senate unanimously passed a measure ([SB 1004](#)) to increase penalties for anyone who meets with a minor for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity that was initiated via the Internet. The bill also creates tougher penalties for anyone who lies about their age in this act of solicitation and requires mandatory reporting of sexual offenders' and predators' email addresses and IM screen names.

DIVESTING STATE DOLLARS FROM TERROR NATIONS

I have also taken a leadership role in legislation ([HB 703](#)) that will require Florida's pension funds to divest holdings in companies that are doing business in Iran and Sudan. We are currently funding both sides of the war against terrorists and we invest in these companies at our own peril. With the support of the groups that represent current and former state employees and teachers, I am proud to be leading the charge in this far reaching effort that sends an important message and will ultimately prove to be more fiscally responsible.

LOCAL HEALTHCARE

I have also secured \$4.7 million to transform the FAU/University of Miami medical school program into a full four year program. That will eventually produce over 60 physicians a year. In conjunction with the development of the Schmidt Medical Center, a new 500 bed teaching facility on the Boca Raton campus, this will greatly expand and improve access to quality healthcare in our local community.

"Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against The West" Movie Event



From left to right: FSC Members - Elaine Roy, Mike Tranchina and Tom Trento with Rep. Hasner and Frank Gaffney.

On Monday, April 16th, Rep. Hasner hosted a National Security Briefing designed to inform, educate and motivate elected officials to more seriously consider, and effectively respond to the threat of radical Islam on both a state-wide and national level. This was the first time this documentary was shown at an IMAX Theater to such a large, bi-partisan group of legislators, their staff and many others - over 150 attended.

The briefing combined a series of meetings with key members of the legislature and executive branch, as well as the showing of the award winning documentary, "[Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West.](#)" After the one-hour movie, nationally recognized security expert, Frank Gaffney, President of the [Center for Security Policy](#) in Washington, DC, gave a thirty-minute presentation on security intelligence, followed by a question and answer period.

The Florida Security Council, LLC, sponsored this event and was formed to assist those members who want to educate their constituents in properly preparing for and responding to this "clear and present danger."

ASPIRA Student Leaders Visit Tallahassee



Rep. Hasner meets with teen leaders from ASPIRA of Florida.

The overall purpose of ASPIRA of Florida is to foster the social advancement of the Puerto Rican/Latino community by empowering its youth in the pursuit of educational excellence through leadership development programs that emphasize commitment to the community.

ASPIRA of Florida develops the leadership capacity of its youth by engaging them in weekly leadership club meetings guided by a curriculum designed to develop cultural

and self awareness, as well as critical thinking and social skills.

Adam Hasner...In The News

[4/22/07 - *The music of violence* \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

A bill before the Florida Legislature, co-sponsored by State Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, would make it illegal to sell or post on the Internet any video that contains criminal activity and that furthers the interest of an organized crime group or results in a profit.

[4/20/07 - *Drivers face increased speeding fines in 'enhanced penalty zones'* \(Boca Raton News\)](#)

The pilot program was developed through legislation passed during the 2006 legislative session by State Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, whose district includes parts of Broward and Palm Beach counties; State Rep. Thad Altman, R-District 30, whose district includes a section of Brevard County and State Rep. Gayle Harrell, R-District, who represents parts of Martin and St. Lucie counties.

[4/18/07 - *House, Senate debate property taxes* \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

"Only in Tallahassee could a bunch of politicians declare that a \$7 billion net tax savings is a tax increase," said Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach. "This is a political stunt and it is, quite frankly, hypocritical."

[4/18/07 - *Sales Tax Swap Survives In House Relief Measure* \(The Tampa Tribune\)](#)

Democrats, meanwhile, called the sales tax portion of the equation the largest tax increase in state history. Saunders suggested that bumping the sales tax from 6 cents on the dollar to 8.5 cents actually represents a 41 percent increase in the tax.

Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, maintained that the Democrats were flat-out wrong. "Do the math. Nothing could be further from the truth," Hasner said.

[4/17/07 - *The property tax plan\(s\); House votes tomorrow* \(Boca Raton News\)](#)

However, in general, the new Senate plan is at philosophical and financial odds with the property tax reduction plan produced by House Republicans in late February. And the most obvious difference is that the House plan gives immediate and larger individual relief, according to House Deputy Majority Leader Rep Adam Hasner, (R-Delray Beach).

"We provide more relief, and we give it sooner," Hasner told the Boca Raton News - some \$25 billion over 5 years, and an 18 percent tax rate decrease in the first year "for all property owners," Hasner said, versus \$11 billion with the new Senate plan,

"and over five years."

[4/16/07 - EDITORIAL: Crime \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

State Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Boca Raton, likens gang activity to domestic terrorism, and he's not exaggerating...

Hasner is offering one such strategy in a bill to give Florida a shot at turning back the tide -- if used responsibly. HB 1363 would redefine gangs as "organized crime," establish a database of convicted and suspected gang members and dole out \$3 million in grants to help police officers get gang-bangers off the streets and stymie their efforts at recruitment.

[4/12/07 - P.B. County shift to Broward gains \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

"What started off and appeared to be a very simple annexation piece of legislation got a little bit complicated," Hasner told the House's Government Efficiency and Accountability Council Wednesday. "But I'm proud to say that we reached a compromise that everybody is very pleased with."

[4/11/07 - Florida House advances anti-gang legislation \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

"This is a form of domestic terrorism," said state Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Boca Raton, who sponsored the bill (HB 1363). "These people are taking over the streets and becoming a real threat.

"They're extremely well organized, they're extremely sophisticated and they're extremely dangerous. This is no longer about the Sharks and the Jets."

[4/9/07 - Legislators: Keep pension money away from firms linked to Iran, Sudan \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

State Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Boca Raton, helped round up support. "We invest in these companies at our own peril," he said.

[4/5/07 - Freed Prisoner Still Seeking Justice \(The Tampa Tribune\)](#)

Crotzer and his attorneys met with state Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, on Wednesday. Hasner, who is the House deputy majority leader, called Crotzer's case "very compelling."

Acknowledging time is short, Hasner said he is committed to putting a process in place to address wrongful incarcerations.

"Important issues like this take time," he said. "It's definitely an issue I'm committed to."

Important News from Around the State

[4/23/07 - Education budget is close to completion \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[4/22/07 - Property tax relief: What is portability? \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[4/22/07 - House: Cut pork to help disabled \(St. Petersburg Times\)](#)

[4/19/07 - Crist stays out of property tax fray, lets House and Senate work on compromise \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[4/19/07 - One property tax cut, but House slices it 2 ways \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[4/19/07 - Florida could divest billions from U.S. foes \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[4/19/07 - Palm Beach County expects big budget cuts if property taxes are reduced \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[4/18/07 - Other states joining Florida in revot against rising property taxes \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[4/18/07 - CLIMATE CHANGE: Global warming may tame hurricanes \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[4/18 /07 - Paper trail for votes gains pace across both chambers \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

[4/17/07 - Florida is next to last in amount of young people who volunteer, study says \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[4/16/07 - Realtor says Save Our Homes cap chokes life out of Florida real estate \(Sarasota Herald-Tribune\)](#)

[4/16/07 - Many options, no easy answer on property taxes \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[4/15/07 - Rubio gives up on 'consensus' in pushing dramatic tax plan \(The Orlando Sentinel\)](#)

[4/12/07 - House committee OKs rebate for renters bill \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

[4/12/07 - Lawmakers agree not to cut funding for gifted classes \(The Gainesville Sun\)](#)

[4/12/07 - Senate property tax bill has less savings \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[4/11/07 - Bill proposes \\$50,000 a year for false imprisonment \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

[4/11/07 - Can P.E. make comeback? \(The Orlando Sentinel\)](#)

[4/11/07 - State expands storm reviews \(St. Petersburg Times\)](#)

[4/5/07 - Florida attorney general orders Lauderdale condo to allow Jewish mezuzahs on doors \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

Governor Crist to Hold Property Tax & Insurance Town Hall Meeting in Palm Beach

What: Governor's Property Tax & Insurance Town Hall Meeting

When: Tuesday, April 24th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Arrive early)

Where: Palm Beach Community College

Meldon Lecture Hall - BB Classroom Building

3160 PGA Boulevard

Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

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

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