



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Crist Signs Legislation Providing Largest Tax Cut in Florida History

*~ Governor and Lt. Governor highlight savings for homeowners in
Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee, Tampa and West Palm Beach ~*

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today signed landmark legislation rolling back all property taxes to at least last year's levels, and possibly further, pending voter approval of a constitutional amendment on January 29, 2008. The two bills, House Bill 1B and House Bill 5B, were passed during the special legislative session that took place from June 12-14, 2007.

"I admire the Florida Legislature for their tremendous effort to last week bring Florida's property owners the largest tax cut in Florida history. The hard work of Senate President Ken Pruitt and House Speaker Marco Rubio – and the rest of the Legislature – will make property taxes drop like a rock," Governor Crist said. "In signing these laws today, we put people's money back where it belongs – in their wallets and pocketbooks."

Governor Crist signed the legislation in Tallahassee and then traveled to West Palm Beach, Miami and Tampa for ceremonial signings in citizen's homes. In each community, Governor Crist highlighted the tax savings homeowners will receive from both the rollback and the additional property-tax savings provided by the constitutional amendment if it is approved by voters on January 29, 2008. Lt. Governor Kottkamp highlighted the tax savings of a homeowner in Orlando.

"Today I am signing the people's tax cut, and the power to cut taxes even further is now in the hands of the people," Governor Crist said. "On January 29, you will have the power to cut your property taxes in a historic way. Floridians will once again live the American dream of home ownership and have the freedom to follow their dreams of moving to a different home better suited to their needs."

About the Property-Tax Reform

House Bill 1B will provide relief on 2007 property taxes for all property owners, including homeowners and those who own second homes, rental homes or commercial properties. Tax rates are reduced to last year's level, and further cuts are based on each local government's past property tax increases. For example, property owners in communities where the property taxes increased at higher rates will receive bigger tax cuts. Additionally, the legislation will limit future growth of property taxes to the change in personal income.

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Depending on the county, property owners should receive tax cuts of five to ten percent. The average taxpayer will see savings of almost \$200 this year, and all property owners are expected to save approximately \$15 billion over the next five years. The tax cut does not reduce school taxes.

House Bill 5B provides for a special election to be held on January 29, 2008, giving voters the opportunity to vote on further reductions to property taxes beginning in 2008. If the constitutional amendment is approved, first-time home buyers – as well as current homeowners who want to move – will see a substantial decrease in their property taxes.

One reduction would replace the current standard \$25,000 homestead exemption and the Save Our Homes tax-cap with an exemption equal to 75 percent of the first \$200,000 of the home's value, and 15 percent of the home value's next \$300,000. At a minimum, the super homestead exemption will double the current \$25,000 homestead exemption, fulfilling a campaign promise. Homeowners will have a one-time choice of continuing with their current homestead exemption and 3-percent cap of Save Our Homes or the new exemption.

Other exemptions provided by the constitutional amendment include the following:

- A minimum \$100,000 homestead exemption for low-income seniors.
- Taxing of affordable housing based on the landlord's income from the property.
- Taxing of working waterfronts based on the income from the property.
- The first \$25,000 of tangible personal property will be exempt.

The four-year savings from these tax exemptions is expected to be between \$10 and \$15 billion.

Tallahassee

In Tallahassee, Governor Crist highlighted the property-tax savings of Steven Proffitt and Malia-Jaye Lewis. Steven owns his primary residence as well as two rental properties. He initially purchased the rental properties as an investment and to make a little extra money and save for his retirement. However, property taxes have increased more quickly in recent years than he would like to increase the rent for his tenants, providing little return on his investment. The legislation signed today will allow Steve to keep his rental property affordable.

“Steve bought these properties as an investment, and instead of saving, he is paying for someone else to live on his property,” said Governor Crist. “This limitation goes against the American dream of home ownership and free enterprise. Now, thanks to the hard work of the Florida Legislature, we can restore that dream for Steve and for millions of other Floridians.

Malia-Jaye Lewis, an attorney for the Florida Department of Revenue, and her husband Milton are first-time home buyers. With three children – ages six, three and three months – they built their house in 2005 for their growing family. Last year, they were surprised to learn that their property taxes almost doubled due to the increase in the property's value once the house was included in the assessment of the property. With the increase, the Lewises feared they were “digging themselves in a hole” too deep for them to escape.

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The legislation signed today will reduce their \$2,250 property-tax bill by \$150. With the approval of the constitutional amendment, their tax bill will be \$700 – a savings of more than a third.

Miami

In Miami, Governor Crist ceremonially signed the property-tax reform legislation at Sarojini “Soma” and Michael Mohan’s home. They moved to a new, larger house two years ago to start their family. When they were unable to sell their previous home, the couple decided to rent it, hoping to one day give it to their daughters. However, taxes were skyrocketing faster than they felt comfortable increasing the rent, so their rental property ended up costing them nearly \$500 per month to cover the rising cost of property taxes.

Additionally, since moving into their new home, the Mohan’s taxes have increased from around \$2,000 per year to \$4,750. The legislation signed by Governor Crist today will reduce their taxes by \$350 per year. With the additional savings brought with the approval of constitutional amendment and the super homestead exemption, the family would save nearly \$3,100 per year, with their 2008 tax bill being \$1,300.

“While the Mohans saw significant relief from a reduction in their property insurance rates this year, they were unable to invest those savings in their daughters’ college funds as they had hoped. Instead, rising property taxes forced them to put their insurance savings toward their property taxes,” said Governor Crist. “This legislation will give Mike and Soma the opportunity to save for their girls’ futures, instead of worrying about how to pay the government.”

West Palm Beach

In West Palm Beach, Governor Crist visited the home of Michael and Jeanette Waddle. Jeanette wrote to Governor Crist in April about her high property taxes and visited with him during an April town hall meeting at Palm Beach Community College. Jeanette shared how her family’s property taxes have more than doubled since 2005, jumping from \$2,062 to \$4,650 in 2006 and straining the family’s budget. Her husband Michael, a firefighter for the City of Greenacres, is the primary provider for their family, which includes three children, ages 2, 6 and 9.

The property-tax rollback will save the Waddles \$350 this year. After the constitutional amendment passes in January, by choosing the super homestead exemption, their tax bill will be less than \$1,600, a savings of 66 percent. Jeannette encourages people to participate in the local government budget process. “Just like Florida’s families and everyone else – local government has to live within their means,” she said. “They must first pay for the most important things, and then determine their spending priorities.”

Tampa

Maria de Lourdes Bello-Garcia of Tampa wrote a letter to Governor Crist last December when she received her property tax bill for the year. Maria and her husband Jose had saved money for their property taxes throughout the year and were expecting to pay an amount similar to the previous year. However, the family was shocked to find their property taxes had

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more than doubled to \$2,800. The immediate tax rollback will save them \$200 while the super-sized homestead exemption will save them nearly \$1,800, with their 2008 taxes totaling \$800.

“Last year, the Bello-Garcia’s received an enormous tax bill right as the young family was preparing for Christmas,” said Governor Crist. “If a family with two young boys can tighten their belts to live within their means certainly our cities and counties can also.”

Orlando







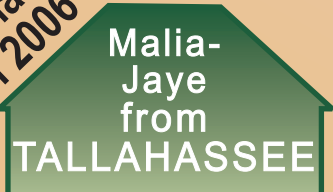


Lt. Governor Kottkamp visited Micheal Hill of Orlando to highlight her property-tax savings. She is a grandparent currently raising her two grandchildren on her own. She has seen a substantial increase in her property taxes since she bought her home in 2000, and is worried that if property taxes continue to rise, she will be unable to enjoy a secure retirement. Her property taxes last year were \$1,171, and the rollback will save her \$49 on her tax bill, while the super homestead exemption will cut her tax bill in half.

“Lower property taxes will relieve the financial strain on Florida’s families and those living on a fixed income,” Lt. Governor Kottkamp said. “Florida’s families, retirees and businesses will experience relief from the strain of soaring property taxes.”

“Lower property taxes will ignite Florida’s real estate market, and Florida’s economy will continue to boom,” Governor Crist said. “Lowering property insurance rates and cutting property taxes, we will create a better bottom line for Floridians – and all of Florida.”

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Largest Tax Cut in Florida History

Florida Family	IMMEDIATE TAX CUT		VOTER-APPROVED TAX CUT	
	2006 Taxes	New 2007 Taxes	2008 Taxes	New 2008 Taxes
Purchased in 2006  Mike & Soma from MIAMI	\$ 4,750	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400	\$ 1,300
		 2007 Savings \$ 350		 2008 Savings \$ 3,100
Purchased in 2005  Jose & Maria from TAMPA	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ 800
		 2007 Savings \$ 200		 2008 Savings \$ 1,800
Purchased in 2006  Malia-Jaye from TALLAHASSEE	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 700
		 2007 Savings \$ 150		 2008 Savings \$ 1,400

Largest Tax Cut in Florida History

2007 Immediate Tax Cut

- ✓ **Taxes rolled back to 2006 levels.**
- ✓ **Average Floridian receives tax cuts of almost \$200 this year.**
- ✓ **Five-year savings of almost \$15 billion.**

2008 Voter-Approved Tax Cut

- ✓ **Super exemption equal to 75% of the first \$200,000, and 15% for the next \$300,000.**
- ✓ **Homeowners have option of retaining Save-Our-Homes benefit.**
- ✓ **Four-year savings of \$10 to \$15 billion.**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OPB-FED Tampa, 12-29-06

Dear Mr. Governor

As resident of the city of Tampa and citizen of the United State of America and I may say a voter of yours; I would like to ask you, as you promised to take action on the raise of the property taxes... It is terrible and sad that probably a lot of people will have to move Florida because of property taxes and insurance prices... You understand for sure these are "not good" for business.

Attached to this letter you will find my taxes bill for the 3rd Installment of the taxes in my property on 8230 Pinehurst Circle, Tampa, FL 33615. As you can see they went up the double I was paying last year... I'm supposed to pay this amount \$1,117.46 by 12/31/06, so I have to tell you... We can not pay this amount by that day... I already tried to have money lend for this matter since we don't own credit cards but in the middle of the "Holidays" (what a Holidays) is not possible for us to pay this amount at this moment. We are planning to pay asap by February, when our taxes refund come back...

If you, sir, can do something about penalties on this matter I would be really thankful of you. Please sir, is not that we don't want to pay we are only asking to pay a little bit later.

I want to thank in advance for the attention you can bring to this matter. Have yourself and your family a wonderful New Year's celebration and best wishes for a great 2007

Always yours,
Maria de Lourdes Gallo-Garcia
(813) 885-6310

P.S: Sir, I tried to fax this letter but there was not answer, thanks again.

#627589 Garcia, Jose
Recd: 1/5/2007 DEO: JAJ
To: OPB-FEA - PLEASE HANDLE
Due: 1/19/2007

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NOTICE OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

2006		AD VALOREM TAXES			FOLIO NO.	4445-6626
P/M ID	2462224	PIN	U-23-28-17-08C-000094-00005.0		TAX DISTRICT	N
TAXING AUTHORITY	ASSESSED VALUE	EXEMPTION	TAXABLE VALUE	MILLAGE RATE (DOLLARS PER \$1000 OF TAXABLE VALUE)	TAX AMOUNT	
COUNTY OPERATING	149631	25000	124631	6.52000	812.59	
CHILDRENS BOARD	149631	25000	124631	0.50000	62.32	
ENVIRONMENTAL LAND	149631	25000	124631	0.06670	8.31	
COUNTY M.S.T.U.	149631	25000	124631	4.99540	622.58	
LIBRARY-SERVICE	149631	25000	124631	0.69230	85.28	
HILLS CO TRANSIT AUTHORITY	149631	25000	124631	0.50000	62.32	
PORT AUTHORITY	149631	25000	124631	0.22000	27.42	
SCHOOL I-SF	149631	25000	124631	0.00000	.00	
WATER MANAGEMENT	149631	25000	124631	0.42200	52.59	
WATER MANAGEMENT N	149631	25000	124631	0.26800	33.40	
PARK BONDS - UNINCORPORATED	149631	25000	124631	0.02860	3.56	
SCHOOL - LOCAL	149631	25000	124631	2.76000	343.98	
SCHOOL - STATE	149631	25000	124631	5.06300	631.01	

TOTAL MILLAGE 22.03600 AD VALOREM TAXES 2,746.36

NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

AUTHORITY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
COUNTY SOLID WASTE SW	SW DISPOSAL	85.43
COUNTY SOLID WASTE SWC	SW COLLECTION	85.16
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	STORMWATER CONTROL	12.00
LIGHTING DISTRICT 24	STREET LIGHTS	55.10

ASSESSED OWNER(S) GARCIA-LEDON JOSE EMILIO BELLO-GARCIA MARIA DE LOURDES 8230 PINEHURST CIR	NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS	237.69
	COMBINED TAXES & ASSESSMENTS	2,984.05
	CREDIT	-680.00
	BALANCE	2,304.05

LEGAL DESC. TOWNIN COUNTRY PARK UNIT NO 62 LOT 5 BLK 94
ESCROW CODE

If paying by mail, Please detach and return bottom part with your payment.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NOTICE OF AD VALOREM TAXES & NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

Amount - If Paid by: **1,117.46** PIN U-23-28-17-08C-000094-00005.0 PROP ID 2462224 Tax Year 2006

Please make checks payable in U.S. funds in Cheryl Belden

< DEC 31 '06
Third
Installment
Payment Due

ASSESSED VALUE	ESCROW CODE	MILLAGE CODE	FOLIO NO.
149631		N	4445-6626
FX5	25000		
NET VALUE	149631		

TOWNIN COUNTRY PARK UNIT NO 62 LOT 5 BLK 94

JOSE EMILIO GARCIA-LEDON ET AL
8230 PINEHURST CIR
TAMPA FL 33615-1218



DOUG BELDEN, TAX COLLECTOR
PO Box 172920
TAMPA, FL 33672-0920

Received Via Internet Contact Form

Category: Taxes - Property
Subject:
Agency: Citizen Services

Status: Filed
Public Record

Information for Citizen Services

Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
County:
Phone:
Website:

Users Questions/Comments

How soon can we expect to see property tax reduction?
Please help our state, our family and hope to stay in the sunshine state. It is unbearable, I am not making payments to my escrow any more with my mortgage bank because I cannot afford to pay my mortgage on a monthly basis. For example my mortgage went up to \$2,365 per month when only my principal and interest is only \$1,109 per month. I really do not have any disposable income when the month is up, I have two toddlers to take care of. Please Governor we need your help. Thank you so much for the changes in homeowners it was a great relieve. I just bought a policy with citizens because Tower Hill dropped us, I got a great price one that is affordable. Please once again save our homes.
Thank you and keep the good work up

Assigned To

Section: Citizen Services
Coordinator: Barbara White
Author: Barbara White

<u>Email Date</u>	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Reply</u>	<u>Filed</u>
04/05/2007 03:28 PM	04/05/2007	04/12/2007	04/12/2007	04/12/2007

From .. sarojinimohan@bellsouth.net
Received From Mrs Sarojini Mohan

Address: 13101 SW 185 Terrace
Miami, FL 33177

General comments and related documents

Modification History

Created: 04/05/2007 03:31:55 PM .. Notes Control
Last Edited: 04/12/2007 01:41:28 PM .. Alan Moudy
>>>> 04/10/2007 11:08 AM Lon Barker
Status changed from Received to Assigned
>>>> 04/12/2007 01:41 PM Alan Moudy
Reply date changed from blank to 04/12/2007.
04/12/2007 01:46:56 PM Scheduled Reply Sent>>>> 04/12/2007 01:46 PM Status changed to Filed
>>>> 04/12/2007 08:00:56 PM Moved to Filed Correspondence