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Voters in Florida Welcome Property Tax Relief

Amendment 1 overwhelmingly approved in the Sunshine State

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Amidst the backdrop of presidential politics, approximately 64 percent of Florida voters supported a massive tax relief package at the ballot on Tuesday. The approved ballot measure, Amendment 1, amends the state constitution to reduce the property tax burden of Florida homeowners and businesses by over \$9 billion dollars in the first 5 years of implementation.

In particular, Amendment 1 doubles the homestead exemption for property owners and provides portability by allowing Floridians to take the exemption with them if they move. The passage of Amendment 1 will also result in a 10 percent cap on annual tax increases on non-homestead property and allow businesses to exempt from taxation the first \$25,000 in tangible property.

“In yesterday’s vote, Floridians sent a resounding message that out of control government spending and annual tax hikes are unacceptable,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“With a record number of Florida voters coming out to the polls yesterday, the passage of Amendment 1 is a mandate to lawmakers- tax cuts are and will continue to be accepted with open arms.”**

In recent years soaring property values have resulted in ballooning tax collections by local governments. Rather than reduce rates or return surplus revenue to taxpayers, municipal spending increased at a rate that outpaced inflation and population growth combined. As a result, taxpayers across the country have been crying out for some form and measure of property tax relief.

“Taxpayers can and will make better use their hard-earned dollars than local bureaucrats,” continued Norquist. **“This type of tax relief is what makes the Sunshine State a destination for taxpayers across the country. I urge legislators from every state to take note of the overwhelming approval of this large tax cut package- and do their very best to emulate it.”**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or at jkartch@atr.org.

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