

Legislative Lines

Florida Supreme Court's Decision Sides With PAF in Striking Down So-called "FAIR Amendments" Initiative

PAF scored a major victory for members when Florida's Supreme Court rejected the proposed so-called "FAIR Amendments" to Florida's constitution.

The initiative, sponsored by Floridians Against Inequities in Rates ("FAIR") would have allowed imposition of a new sales tax on services and would have repealed most existing sales tax exemptions unless the legislature intervened to reenact them.

PAF has been opposing these initiatives for some time because of their negative effect on Florida's economy and particularly on PAF members. Imposing a new sales tax on services makes no sense in terms of the financial well-being of member companies. And, sunseting PAF's sales tax exemptions on capital equipment, electricity, film and plates, and equipment repair, which the legislature granted to support Florida's graphic arts industry – the largest manufacturing employer in the State – and which are meeting their goals is totally unwarranted in PAF's view.

In light of the significantly detrimental effect on members of these proposals, PAF joined a coalition of like-minded business organizations to support and help fund a lawsuit brought in Florida's Supreme Court to oppose them. PAF was a named party in the suit.

The court case became drawn out, with numerous briefs, motions, and responses being filed by the law firms which were engaged by both sides and which culminated with oral arguments.

PAF members enjoyed the positive results of all this effort when the Court struck down "FAIR's" initiative on March 22nd.