



PAF Joins Suit to Remove ‘Tax Swap’ Proposal from November Ballot

As it stands now, “Amendment 5,” more commonly referred to as the “tax swap,” is scheduled to appear on the November 2008 ballot for voter consideration.

PAF aggressively opposed this initiative as it moved its way through Florida’s Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, both individually and in concert with the Coalition to Protect Florida’s Economy – the group of like-minded organizations which has successfully fought back related initiatives on three past occasions and in which PAF has been an active participant.

Numerous, diverse groups are lined up in opposition to this proposed amendment to Florida’s constitution – from those representing retirees, to school officials, to farmers, to health-care organizations, and to small and large businesses, just to name a few.

If passed, the proposed amendment would lead to the largest tax increase in Florida’s history by replacing \$9.5 billion in education funding previously generated through property taxes with increased sales taxes, the elimination of sales tax exemptions, and the potential of a services tax.

Florida’s printing industry would be especially hard hit, since it places the capital equipment, electricity, equipment repair, and film and plates sales tax exemptions in extreme jeopardy. It threatens Florida printers’ ability to compete with graphic arts companies in other states, diminishes capital for expansion, and reduces employment for Florida’s citizens in the largest manufacturing sector of the State’s economy.

On July 3, PAF joined with a number of education, business, and community leaders who are members of the Coalition in a lawsuit before the Leon County Court to remove “Amendment 5” from the November ballot.

Representing PAF and the Coalition is attorney Barry Richard, a longtime veteran and legal expert on constitutional challenges. At issue is whether the misleading title and ballot summary describe to voters what they are voting on.

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