



# The House Majority Office

REPRESENTATIVE MARTY BOWEN, MAJORITY LEADER



## ***Property Tax Relief and Reform -Bringing Affordability Back-***

The \$31 billion property tax cut is the largest tax cut in Florida history.

Under our plan, every property owner- homestead, non-homestead residential, and commercial/industrial- is going to get a tax cut this year.

### **Significant Savings for Taxpayers**

Homeowners will receive a 32 percent property tax cut in the first year of the constitutional plan (2008-09)-a savings which **70 percent of Floridians** define as a “significant” cut according to the latest Quinnipiac poll.

### **Closing the Affordability Gap**

Since 2002-03, property tax revenues without school funding have grown by \$8.8 billion, an 83.8 percent increase. Over the same period, per capita income growth plus population (new construction) growth has only increased 38.1 percent.

That's a difference next year of \$4.8 billion above where property taxes would have been had they grown at a reasonable rate during the same period.

**Our \$6.2 billion tax cut in the first year of our constitutional plan (2008-09) brings property taxes back to a reasonable level and brings affordability back to Florida's property tax system.**

### **Making the Tax System Fair**

Our constitutional plan gives a super-exemption to our homesteaded property owners, which eliminate the inequities in our current system. While every homestead property owner benefits from this restored fairness, our seniors and growing families who are trapped in their current homes and first-time homebuyers who have been priced out of the market by property taxes will especially benefit from our approach.

### **Keeping Florida's Economy Moving**

Businesses, second homeowners, and rental property owners all get tax cuts under our plan. Just as important, for the first time they will benefit from the cap on property taxes, bringing predictability and fairness to all taxpayers.

Because of the \$25,000 exemption, over 1 million of all tangible personal property taxpayers- 77 percent of the total- will not have to pay tangible personal property taxes at all after the constitutional amendment passes. And after the first year under the constitutional amendment, they won't have to prepare and file the burdensome tax returns either.

### Making it Harder to Increase Property Taxes In the Future

Right now Florida's property tax system is unfair, unaffordable, and unsustainable. With property taxes rising faster than Floridians' incomes, we need to make sure that the taxpayers are protected from this happening again.

Under our plan, local governments will have to go to an extraordinary measure to increase property taxes. Depending on the size of the increase, super majority votes, unanimous votes, or even a vote of the people must occur before property taxes can be raised.

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According to the Quinnipiac poll released June 6, 2007:

*In defining what would be a "significant" property tax cut:*

- *10 percent of Florida voters say less than 10 percent;*
- *33 percent see a tax cut of 10 - 20 percent;*
- *27 percent say 21 - 40 percent is significant;*
- *16 percent say more than 40 percent.*

<http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x1297.xml?ReleaseID=1072>