

November 12, 2007

Good Morning.

I would like to thank all of you for participating in this morning's telephone summit. Your participation and input is much appreciated and necessary if we are to work together for successful property tax reform. I would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize certain key points.

As you may be aware, I am Dr. Jose H. Valladares, a physician and President of "Fair Property Tax for All," www.fairpropertytaxforall.org, a not-for-profit organization created in an attempt to solve the existing property tax crisis -a crisis that was created and not solved by the authorities who had the power to do so.

The crisis is evident and acknowledged by everyone. Our organization does not endorse any political, religious or social affiliations. We are all residents of the State of Florida who are cognizant that it is only through a grassroots citizen's initiative that real tax reform can be accomplished.

We were able to have our proposal drafted into a bill for a constitutional amendment. We were able to do so with the assistance of Representative Julio Robaina, a Republican and supported by Representative Luis Garcia, a democrat as well as Senator Rudy Garcia, a Republican. The bill unfortunately was not presented or considered. This leaves us with two avenues: the first would be to able to place enough pressure on the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission who have the capacity to place more than one issue on the ballot. Unfortunately at this point we do not know where they stand or what they will present.

The other avenue would be to collect signatures from a minimum of 13 of the 24 districts with a percentage in accordance with the voters from the last presidential election. A 10% initial collection is necessary in order to present the petition for legal consideration with the knowledge that a citizen's initiative can only present one issue.

It is obvious that time is of the essence and the clock is ticking and there is deadline. Therefore we must do the following: 1. We must all be united statewide. 2. We must consider all proposals from all groups and attempt to synthesize these into one knowing that every possible and feasible legal attempt will be made by special interests to void it and therefore exceed the time frame. We must therefore exercise extreme caution in construction a petition since we do want the courts to throw it out and have us start from scratch 3. Confusion, fear, apathy and finally anger with learned helplessness are the opposition's tools to try and defeat us. Knowledge of the issues and unity is our offensive which is also the best defense.

On Wednesday, November 7, 2007, Speaker Rubio met with our group in Miami for approximately 2 hours. A recap of this meeting is as follows:

1. Ballot Initiative Petitions Language should be of 75 words, simple, popular and meaningful
2. Proposal to be presented in front of the Tax and Budget Commission
Residential Homestead properties will keep SOH, a super exemption and a cap
Non-residential or second homes will have a cap and exemption
Commercial properties will have a cap
3. Summit with all property tax advocates to support plan.

Today we had this core group telephone summit as an initial effort to get to know each other and begin to define our objectives which in my opinion should include contacting all radio and TV stations, newspapers and other groups in order to clarify the message of unity, provide the necessary and ongoing information to everyone and rally public support. We must also be careful to not make the mistake of exciting the press and then disappointing the public as was pointed out in the conference.

We need to continue to work together intensely to formulate a unified proposal. It cannot be emphasized enough that time is of the essence.

I look forward to continue working with all of you.

Thank you.

Jose H. Valladares, MD
President, Fair Property Tax for All, Inc



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