

Amendment 3



PROPERTY

TAX REFORM

What is It?

- Amendment would increase homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028
- Directs legislature to establish procedure for exemption to be raised up to the full assessed value
- Does not eliminate or reduce school district property taxes

Why Is It Important?

Property taxes are the primary source of revenue counties and cities use to pay for services, including law enforcement, Fire Rescue, EMS, etc. If Amendment 3 passes, those services will be significantly impacted. The \$129M loss represents 28.5% of all property tax revenues and 86% of revenues that fund services, programs, and facilities.

What Options Will Local Governments Have?

If the proposed constitutional amendment passes, Volusia County will still be required by law to adopt a balanced budget and provide mandated services. A combination of options would have to be considered, including:

- Eliminate or reduce services, programs, and facilities
- Increase the millage rate
- Implement new fees
- Increase existing fees

Who Pays Under a Tax Shift?

Businesses, commercial property owners, renters, military families, young Floridians, visitors, and tourists

- Commercial and rental properties could experience increases in rents, higher millage rates, and new fees
- Businesses and nonprofit agencies would likely experience significantly fewer contracts and financial support

What Could Potentially Be Affected?

Law Enforcement:



Potential \$37 M loss in funding for deputies, vehicles, and equipment

Fire Rescue:



Potential \$16 M loss resulting in fewer firefighters, closed fire stations, and longer response times

EMS:



Fewer EMTs, fewer paramedics, and longer ambulance response times

Beach Safety:



Fewer lifeguards, new and increased fees for beach access and parking

Emergency Management:



Fewer resources to respond to major emergencies or natural disasters

Animal Services:



Fewer shelter, service, and public safety resources

Stormwater & Flood Protection:



Less frequent infrastructure maintenance and improvements

Roads, Sidewalks, and Drainage:



Less maintenance and improvements

Mosquito Control:



Longer wait times, less proactive treatments

Veterans Services:



Longer wait times, reduced hours, and fewer staff to assist veterans

Library Services:



Closed libraries, fewer days open, reduced hours, less community programs

Parks and Recreation:



Reduced parks, delayed maintenance, increased fees

Votran/VoRide:



Fewer routes, increased fares, shorter operating hours

Environmental & Wildlife Protection:



Reduced sea turtle protection, water quality monitoring, and habitat restoration

Volusia Forever and Volusia ECHO:



Reduced funding and fewer opportunities to conserve land and provide environmental learning, cultural experiences, historic discoveries, and outdoor recreation



What's the Bottom Line?

If Amendment 3 Passes, public safety services such as law enforcement, Fire Rescue, EMS, and Animal Services will potentially face significant service level reductions. Additionally, quality of life services and programs including parks, recreation, libraries, environmental protection, and veterans services will compete for a much smaller funding source, and in some cases, no funding may be available for some services, programs, and facilities.