

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 26, 2018 **Contact: Ann Howard** (850) 212-5009

IF AMENDMENT 2 FAILS, FLORIDA GETS A TAX INCREASE Renters, business owners, workers and consumers will all suffer

Pensacola, Fla. – Vote "yes" on Amendment 2 this November and make sure the existing 10 percent cap on the annual increase in non-homestead property tax assessments becomes permanent!

"In 2008, voters approved a constitutional amendment capping non-homestead property taxes at 10 percent annually. But in 2019, the cap expires, unless Amendment 2 passes per Florida voters this November," says Beth Matuga, the campaign manager for the Amendment 2 campaign, Everybody is for 2. "Prior to the 10 percent cap being approved, there was no limit to the amount of value a non-homestead property could increase from year-to-year. These unchecked increases resulted in huge tax increases. From 2005 to 2006, nearly 30 percent of *all* non-homestead properties across Florida suffered an increase of 70 percent or more in a single year!"

Non-homestead properties include commercial/business parcels, vacant lots and residential rentals. Today, the majority of non-homestead properties are residential rentals.

"Florida has been a hot-bed for business for the last many years and we need to keep the positive momentum for everyone's benefit," says Chuck Kimball, Director of HR & Benefits with Payday, a human resources company. "We've seen established businesses expand, creating more jobs. We've seen new businesses open their doors, again creating jobs. The non-homstead tax cap has been a part of this boom in Florida business. If it fails to stay as law in Florida, we'll do a horrible u-turn."

Florida TaxWatch, a nonprofit taxpayer research institute, explains, the 10 percent nonhomestead assessment cap is the only protection non-homestead properties have. So, if you're a renter, a consumer or have a job, this cap affects you directly. When the cost of business goes up, the cost of what that business sells goes up. No one would be immune from the increase.

"In Florida we cannot we drive the cost of doing business up," says Matuga. "Floridians should vote 'yes' on Amendment 2."

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact The Amendment 2 Team at 850.212.5009 or email at <u>Ann@Everybodyisfor2.com</u>.

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