

1 Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
2 A resolution proposing an amendment to Section 3 of
3 Article VII of the State Constitution to authorize the
4 Legislature to provide by law for an ad valorem tax
5 exemption for real property used for conservation purposes
6 as defined by general law.

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8 Be It Resolved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission:
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10 That the following amendment to Section 3 of Article VII of
11 the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to
12 the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next
13 general election or at an earlier special election specifically
14 authorized by law for that purpose:

15 ARTICLE VII

16 FINANCE AND TAXATION

17 SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.-

18 (a) All property owned by a municipality and used
19 exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be
20 exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside
21 the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment
22 to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such
23 portions of property as are used predominantly for educational,
24 literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be
25 exempted by general law from taxation.

26 (b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to
27 every head of a family residing in this state, household goods
28 and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less
29 than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or
30 person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled,

31 property to the value fixed by general law not less than five
32 hundred dollars.

33 (c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its
34 respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this
35 subsection and general law, grant community and economic
36 development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and
37 expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law.
38 Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county
39 or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or
40 municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize
41 the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An
42 exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real
43 property made by or for the use of a new business and
44 improvements to real property related to the expansion of an
45 existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal
46 property of such new business and tangible personal property
47 related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or
48 limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by
49 general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be
50 granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business
51 shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such
52 exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by
53 the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable
54 by referendum as provided by general law.

55 (d) By general law and subject to conditions specified
56 therein, there may be granted an ad valorem tax exemption to a
57 renewable energy source device and to real property on which
58 such device is installed and operated, to the value fixed by
59 general law not to exceed the original cost of the device, and

60 for the period of time fixed by general law not to exceed ten
61 years.

62 (e) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its
63 respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this
64 subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad
65 valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This
66 exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or
67 municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this
68 exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be
69 specified by general law. The period of time for which this
70 exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined
71 by general law.

72 (f) By general law, there shall be granted an ad valorem
73 tax exemption for real property used for conservation purposes
74 as defined by general law.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
76 placed on the ballot:

77 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

78 ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3

79 AD VALOREM TAXATION OF LAND USED FOR CONSERVATION
80 PURPOSES.--This amendment to the State Constitution authorizes
81 the Legislature to provide by law for an ad valorem tax
82 exemption for real property used for conservation purposes as
83 defined by general law.