



ABOUT FLORIDA TAXWATCH

As an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit taxpayer research institute and government watchdog for 40 years, it is the mission of Florida TaxWatch to provide the residents of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and analysis of issues related to state and local government taxation, expenditures, policies, and programs.

Florida TaxWatch works to improve the productivity and accountability of Florida government. Its research recommends productivity enhancements and explains the statewide impact of fiscal and economic policies and practices on residents and businesses.

A 501(c)3 organization, Florida TaxWatch is supported by voluntary, tax-deductible memberships and private grants, and does not accept government funding. Memberships provide a solid, lasting foundation that has enabled Florida TaxWatch to bring about a more effective, responsive government that is more accountable to, and productive for the residents it serves since 1979.

FOREWORD



DOMINIC M. CALABRO PRESIDENT & CEO

TaxWatch was founded by patriots, by statesmen, and by some of Florida's most iconic and successful business leaders. From George Jenkins and Mark Hollis of Publix Super Markets, to J.E. Davis and T. Wayne Davis of Winn-Dixie, to the legendary state Senators Phil Lewis and Kenneth Plante, a small group was formed called the Citizens Council for Budget Research. While we renamed it a few years later, Florida TaxWatch has remained what the Tampa Tribune called "an honest watchdog... a credible guidedog... and a tireless birddog," in keeping with the original intent of protecting the taxpayers no matter what.

Just as the founders of this country built the United States upon enduring principles, the founders of TaxWatch made sure that the purpose and direction of the endeavor was crystal clear: be an advocate for the taxpayers, promote and help nurture effective, efficient government, and do so while remaining constructive, independent, nonpartisan, and unrelenting.

As with the nation, Florida TaxWatch has endured because we have been dedicated to these principles, making sure that each and every day we are working to live up to the high bar that was set 40 years ago.

TaxWatch has thrived because in remaining consistent and sticking to our mission, we are able to withstand changes in administrations,

party rule, the ebb and flow of the economy, the massive growth in the state's population, and myriad other challenges that typically make life difficult for policy-focused nonprofits.

It is, in fact, because of our adherence to our mission and our values that we are perfectly positioned to continue this work into the future. Administrations will come and go, House and Senate leaders will make their marks and move on, committee staff will say goodbye to long-time leadership, but Florida TaxWatch will be there for generations.

I hope that you enjoy reviewing this Annual Report and seeing a snapshot of the history of this extraordinary organization. It has been my tremendous honor to lead Florida TaxWatch for nearly four decades, and I am excited to see where the future will take us and the Sunshine State.

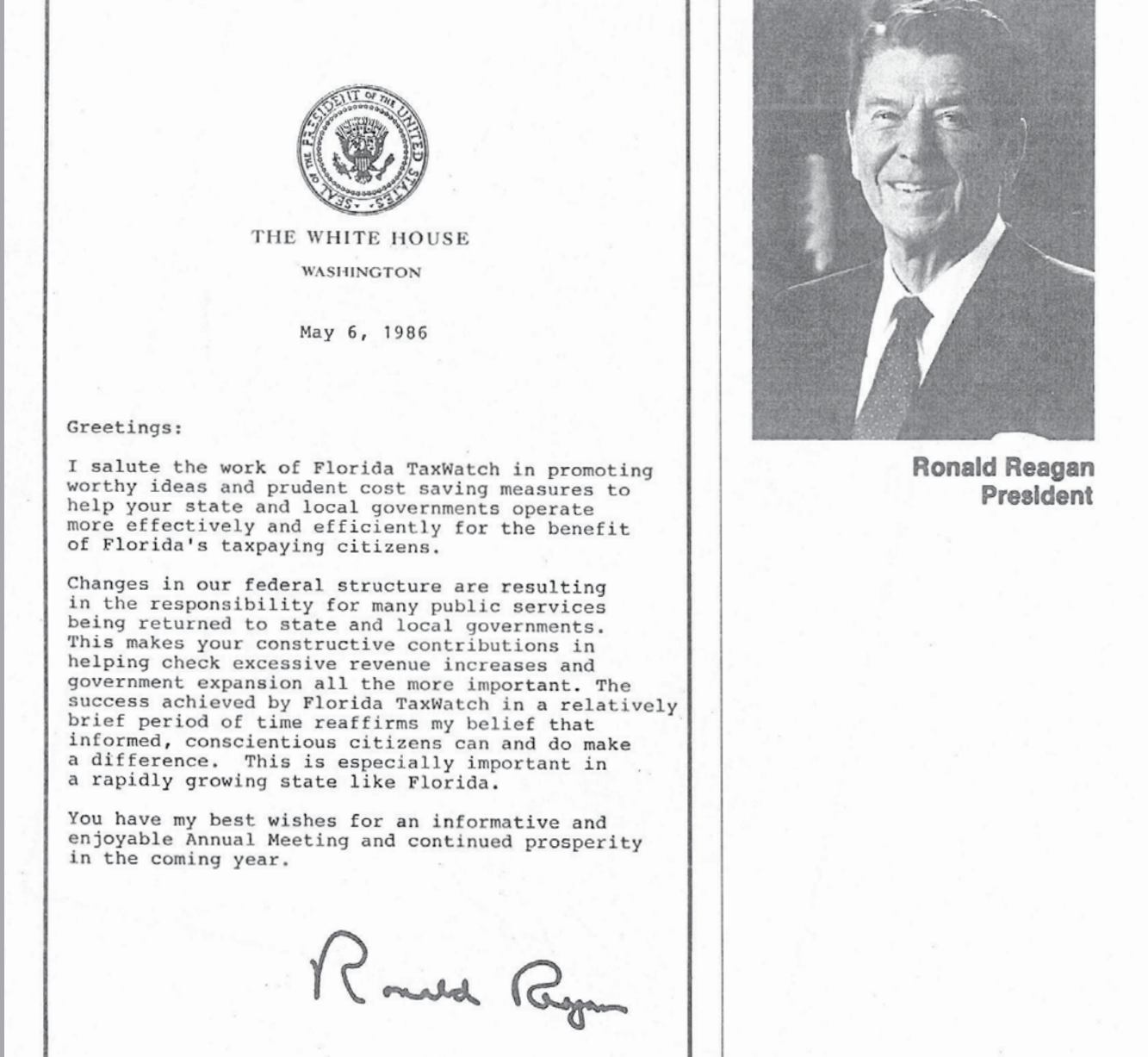
Looking forward to the next forty years, I firmly believe that we will greet that future with resolve, and with principled stewardship that creates a better Florida for those who follow. You and the taxpayers of our Sunshine State deserve and should expect nothing less.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dominic M. Calabro".

Dominic M. Calabro
President & CEO

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



President Ronald Reagan, May 6, 1986

40 YEARS OF
EXTRAORDINARY
RESULTS FOR ALL
FLORIDA
TAXPAYERS



SENATOR PAT NEAL
CHAIRMAN—2018-2020

When I began my term as Chairman of this storied organization, I wanted to make sure that we were seen as trusted and reliable partners for both taxpayers and the new administration of the Governor and Cabinet, as well as leadership in both chambers of the Legislature.

Now halfway through that term, I can report that Florida TaxWatch stands firmly in place as the taxpayers’ advocate, as elected officials’ best resource for unbiased information, and as the leading independent public policy group in Florida.


As Chairman of this extraordinary nonprofit organization, I have had the unique opportunity to dig deeper, to get more involved in the details, and to see the real mechanisms that drive the organization. What are its priorities when things get rough? What is the solid foundation upon which the group is built?

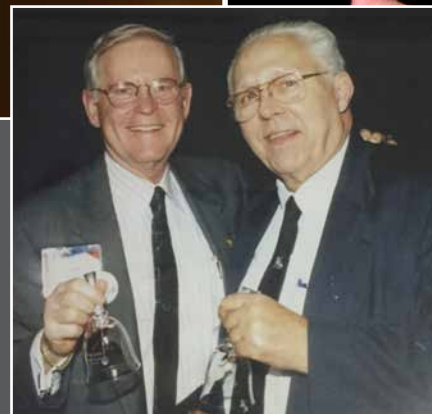
Having now been immersed in Florida TaxWatch from the ground up, I am increasingly more excited to be involved each and every day. Whether it is the look on the faces of the students whose lives we are able to change, or speaking to a small business owner about their relief following the passage of Amendment 2 to control property tax assessments on all

commercial and non-homestead properties in November 2018, or sharing with a neighbor one of the great pocket guides that TaxWatch produces to keep us all informed, it is comforting to know that this organization is on the job.

Like the 20 Chairmen and Chairwomen who have come before me, I imagine that I am not alone in being proud to show elected officials that while I am a businessman with my own priorities and my own issues, being Chairman of a group like TaxWatch means something more. It means that we are all looking out for each other, making sure that taxes and spending are reasonable and necessary, that government programs are effective and efficient, and that we are providing the next generation with a state they want to raise their families in.

The track record of Florida TaxWatch is remarkable, and I am honored to be a part of building the next chapter. Cheers to forty years, and thank you all for being a part of this unique organization.

Respectfully,

State Senator Pat Neal
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



THE FOUNDING

In 1977, incoming Senate President Phil Lewis (above left) approached Mark Hollis (above right), then Vice President of Publix Super Markets, about the business community coming to the Legislature to seek increases in consumer taxes rather than finding ways to hold the line on spending. The challenge “rang a bell” and the idea for a state government watchdog was born.

An organizational meeting convened in Tampa two years later resulted in the formation of the Citizens Council for Budget Research, which five years later was renamed Florida TaxWatch. The founders were Winn-Dixie Chairman **J.E. Davis, T. Wayne Davis**, Publix Super Markets founder **George Jenkins** and President **Mark Hollis, Senator Phil Lewis**, and **Senator Ken Plante**.

The founders’ vision was to create a citizen-funded, independent public guardian to monitor how taxpayers’ money is spent, root out government waste and inefficiency, and serve as a catalyst for positive change while balancing the interests of business, labor, government and

all taxpayers. They sought to implement their vision by focusing on how the organization could best make independent, research-driven recommendations to encourage state government to be more competitive, productive, and accountable.

They understood that spending government tax dollars more wisely means taxes will not have to be raised as steeply or as often, and could even be reduced, while improving the quality and positive impact of essential government services. Now, four decades later, the founders’ vision to improve taxpayer value, citizen understanding, and government accountability endures.

Over the past four decades, Florida TaxWatch has become one of the most respected independent government watchdog groups in the country. Florida’s Governors, Cabinet officers, lawmakers, agency heads and state employees listen closely to what TaxWatch has to say in its research reports. TaxWatch recommendations help to shape state laws, constitutional amendments, budgets, and new programs. An unrelenting pursuit of better government is the key to TaxWatch’s success.

TAXWATCH 2019 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

For Florida TaxWatch in 2019, the focus was largely on health care and education policy, two of Florida’s most critical policy areas, and a continued focus on protecting Florida taxpayers from unnecessary and onerous taxes.

This year, we again published our highly successful pocket guides *How Florida Compares: Taxes* and the *Taxpayers’ Guide to the Florida State Budget*, and the *How Florida Counties Compare* pocket guide will arrive in December of 2019. In addition, our education research and activities provided what may be the most meaningful impact any organization can hope to achieve: transforming the lives of children who are most in need.

We also continued to beat the drum for a solution to the “E-Fairness” issue, which has been a consistent part of TaxWatch research for nearly two decades. With the recent US Supreme Court decision in the *Wayfair* case, Florida stands on the edge of being able to pass meaningful legislation to enforce the collection of sales tax from online sellers, rather than making thousands of ordinary Floridians unwittingly break the law by not reporting and remitting the taxes themselves.

“Florida TaxWatch’s report “How Florida Counties Compare” is a priceless resource to government watchdog reporters like myself.”

— George Andreassi
VERO NEWS/ST. LUCIE VOICE

Once TaxWatch gets focused on an issue like E-Fairness, we will continue to pursue its resolution until the job is done, regardless of how long it takes, which demonstrates our dedication to protecting taxpayers all across the state.

Florida TaxWatch research touches nearly every corner of public policy. Reports in 2019, for example, promoted the use of incentives to bring Florida’s film and television in line with neighboring Georgia (whose incentives portfolio has allowed the industry to put down deep and stable roots in the state), examined the potential use of Independent Medical Review to reform the state’s workers’ compensation system (which is facing a potential crisis if the economy takes a downturn), and pressed the Legislature on the importance of putting the “trust” back in the affordable housing trust funds (as opposed to the all-too-common practice of sweeping the housing trust funds to pay for other programs).

Florida TaxWatch focused on a number of areas this year, and the following represents the highlights of that work. For a more complete list of our research in 2019, please see the Selected Research section in the back of this Annual Report.



DEP SECRETARY NOAH VALENSTEIN AT THE TAXWATCH PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS



DR. JERRY PARRISH SPEAKS TO THE CFC INSTITUTE CLASS IV AT TAXWATCH HQ



REP. DANIEL DAVIS ADDRESSES THE TAXWATCH BOARD IN PONTE VEDRA, FL

HEALTH CARE & AGING POLICY

Both Floridians facing chronic conditions and those facing just a simple flu bug or strep throat got a boost this year from Florida TaxWatch research in the healthcare arena, as reports were released showing the benefits of palliative care providing the right care at the right time to improve a patient’s life, and showing the potential convenience and cost-savings of point-of-care testing, which would allow pharmacists to diagnose and treat these common ailments without patients needing to visit their primary doctor’s office. The point-of-care report was done at the request of state Representative Rene Plasencia, who sponsored legislation on the issue in 2019.

Additionally, there are few more pressing policy issues than the provision and funding of high-quality medical care for Florida’s rapidly expanding senior demographic.

Florida’s aging population is growing rapidly. While Florida’s overall population is expected to grow by almost 5.1 million between 2010 and 2030, elder Floridians will account for most of Florida’s population growth, representing 55.2 percent of the gains in population.

As Florida’s population continues to age, the elderly population will require vastly different and more costly forms of health care, such as long-term care

for chronic conditions, more frequent examinations and follow-ups, and services and care for cognitive and mental impairments. A TaxWatch report on the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (known as PACE) examined how PACE offers Florida’s seniors high-quality care without the costs of hospice and other expensive alternatives.

CITIZENSHIP INSTITUTE

This year saw the graduation of the fourth class of the Florida Citizenship Institute, a multi-phase leadership training program focused on Florida’s young business leaders. The Institute focuses on preparing the participants to engage with local and state government in an informed, effective manner.

Through hands-on workshops with current and former agency leaders, legislators, and the close involvement of Governor Bob Martinez and other high-profile TaxWatch volunteer leaders, graduates gain an understanding of the intricacies of the process and structure of government that were previously available only to those working in the process.

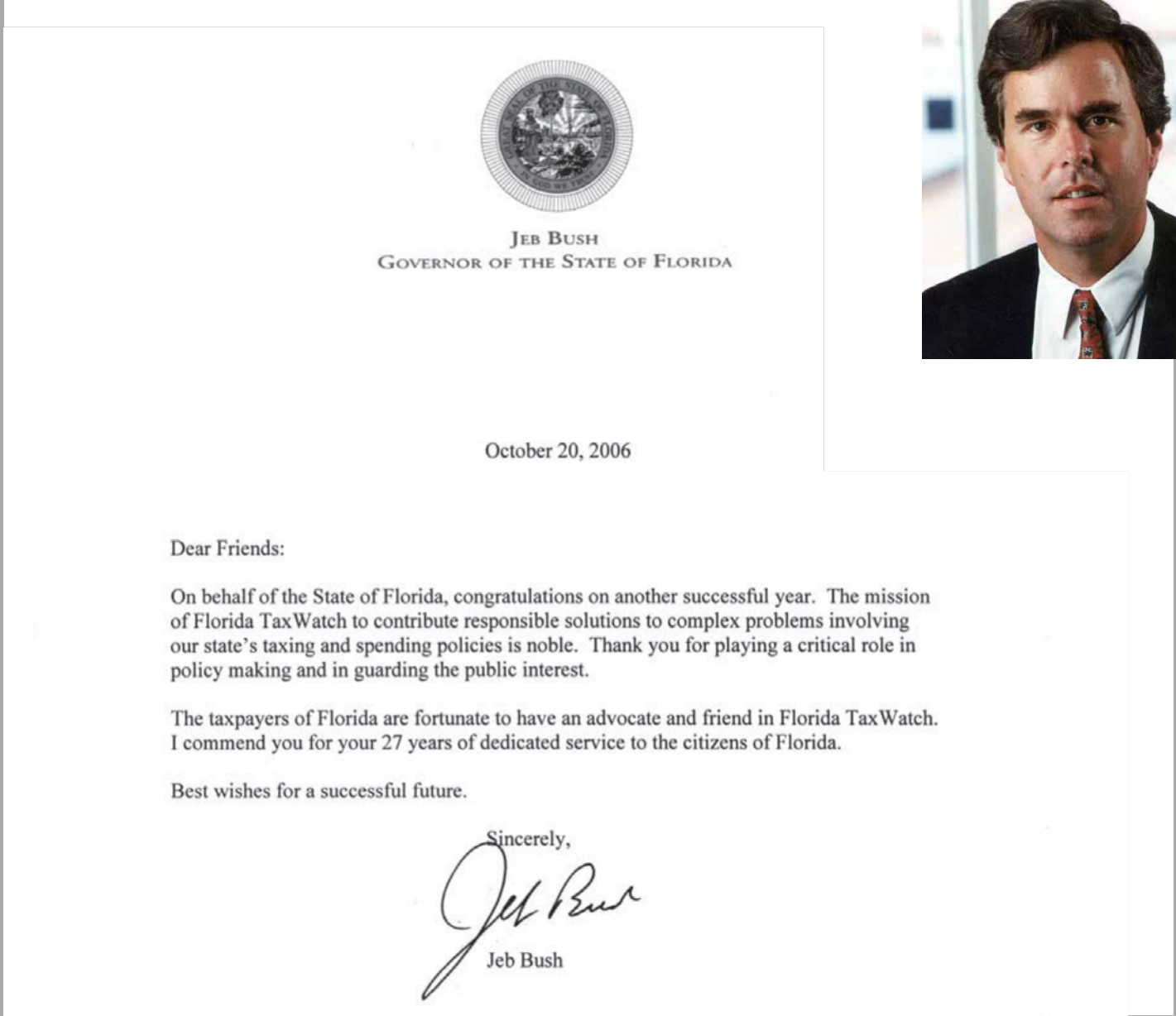
TaxWatch Board of Trustees members have the first opportunity to nominate participants for the Institute each year, and we assure you, your up-and-coming leaders will find the program highly worthwhile.

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



Tallahassee Democrat, May 31, 2005

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



Governor Jeb Bush, October 20, 2006

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Now in its seventh year, the TaxWatch Principal Leadership Awards (PLA) Program continues to be one of the highlights of each year at Florida TaxWatch.

The PLA Program annually identifies Florida’s most effective principals in high-risk K-12 public schools, recognizes and rewards their work, and promotes their transformational practices throughout the state by identifying the actions and approaches that have made the difference. The goal of the program is to improve student performance in high-risk schools, thereby closing the achievement gap.

In 2019, through a continued partnership with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, the program continued the Academic A+ Scholarship Program, awarding one two-year prepaid scholarship to a student in each of our winning principals’ schools.

The students eligible for the scholarship are nominated by the winning principals, and are required to meet several criteria designed to ensure that a two-year scholarship would be a life-changing event for them. This year, we met more students whose success to this point is nothing short of remarkable, and we are excited to see what comes next for each and every one of them.

Each of the scholarship students experiences significant obstacles to academic success. Of all of

the programs and initiatives in which Florida TaxWatch is involved, the Academic A+ Scholarship Program may be the single most rewarding and genuinely transformational.

Thanks to the work of TaxWatch and our generous members and sponsors, students desperately in need will have access to the kind of educational opportunities that so many of us are able to take for granted.

EDUCATION POLICY

In addition to recognizing the state’s best principals, TaxWatch research continues to make a difference in the educational policy space generally. This year saw TaxWatch take a deep dive into the true cost of educating a public school student, showing that when you consider the entirety of public spending per-student, the cost is close to \$11,000 per student, rather than the roughly \$7,300 per-student spending reported by the legislature.

We also examined the return on investment for taxpayers from the Florida College System, following Governor DeSantis signing an Executive Order establishing the goal to make Florida number 1 in the U.S. for workforce education by 2030 and to ensure that Florida students are ready for high-demand, high-wage jobs.

The Florida College System (FCS) is the primary access point to undergraduate education for more than 800,000 Floridians, including approximately 63



CLAYTON HOLLIS FROM FLORIDA PORTS COUNCIL AT THE SPRING MEETING



KATIE EASTBURN OF KYRA SOLUTIONS EMCEES THE REGIONAL CEREMONIES



MS. ERIKA DONALDS HEADLINES AN EXPERT PANEL ON SCHOOL CHOICE



MAURICIO GONZALEZ FROM LEAD ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS SPEAKS TO FDOT STAFF AT THE FT. LAUDERDALE TPA CEREMONY

percent of recent high school graduates and returning adult students. Nearly all (99 percent) of FCS students come from within Florida, and FCS institutions provide a wide range of classes and programs to fit the busy schedules of its students, who are often caring for dependents and working full time.

The return-on-investment for these institutions is significant, and our report shows that Florida has the 10th lowest 2-year in-state tuition cost in the nation, the 3rd lowest 4-year in-state tuition cost, and that Florida taxpayers receive a return of \$10.80-\$15.42 for each dollar invested in the FCS, as well as 10,000 new jobs as a result of the higher lifetime earnings of FCS graduates.

THE BUDGET & BUDGET TURKEYS

Grounded in nearly four decades of expertise in the state's budgeting process, TaxWatch continued the monthly series of Budget Watch publications, as well as possibly our most widely-known publication, the Budget Turkey Watch Report. The "Turkeys" were released again this year, reinforcing the role of TaxWatch as the watchdog for spending projects that did not receive the proper amount of public scrutiny.

The only organization in the nation that releases such a report, the Budget Turkey Watch report takes TaxWatch staff months to develop, has saved the taxpayers billions over nearly four decades, and has ruffled more than a few partisan feathers.



FLORIDA CFO JIMMY PATRONIS SPEAKS ABOUT HIS AWARD-WINNING TEAM AT THE TALLAHASSEE NEWS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE 2019 TPA WINNERS



KAREN LAKE (TAX ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR) ADDRESSES THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DURING THE SPRING MEETING



DAVID OSBORNE SERVED AS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN FLORIDA



AMY KISTKA OF DELOITTE AT THE 2019 STATE OF THE TAXPAYER DINNER, SOLD OUT FOUR YEARS IN A ROW



(1983) KURT WENNER AND DOMINIC CALABRO LOOK ON AS INSURANCE COMMISSIONER BILL GUNTER ADDRESSES THE MEDIA FOLLOWING A TAXWATCH REPORT CALLING FOR THE CLOSURE OF SEVERAL INSURANCE FIELD OFFICES THROUGHOUT FLORIDA, RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE LEGISLATURE ULTIMATELY PASSED

TAXWATCH
BUSINESS & TAX CLIMATE
POLICY COUNCIL

This Council focuses on programs and investments to promote economic development (capital investment and job creation) and policies that impact the business climate, and makes policy recommendations that enhance Florida's ability to ensure Florida's continued economic growth, security, and sustainability.

- CHAIRPERSON**
Ms. Belinda Keiser
KEISER UNIVERSITY
- VICE CHAIR**
Mr. Daniel Martell
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT
- VICE CHAIR**
Mr. Max Oligario
BANK OF AMERICA
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- Ms. Monesia Brown
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(ALSO CHAIRS THE TAXWATCH TAX
ADVISORY COUNCIL)
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BLUEFIELD RANCH MITIGATION BANK

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Ms. Michelle A. Robinson
VERIZON

Mr. Scott Shalley
FLORIDA RETAIL FEDERATION

Mr. James Sutton, Jr.
MOFFA SUTTON DONNINI

Mr. Justin Thames
FICPA

TAXWATCH
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT POLICY COUNCIL

This Council focuses on evaluating and improving the return on investment in Florida's (Pre-K – 16) education system, and makes recommendations to improve both the quality and cost-effectiveness of this essential government service.

- CHAIRPERSON**
Ms. Natalie King
RSA CONSULTING
- VICE CHAIR**
Mr. Charles Hokanson
HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

- Representative Ronald Brisé
GUNSTER
(ALSO SERVES AS CHAIRMAN OF
PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS
PROGRAM)

Ms. Marva Brown Johnson
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Mary Chance
CONSORTIUM OF FL EDUCATION
FOUNDATIONS

Mr. Steve Evans
IBM CORPORATION (RET.)

Mr. Robert Haag
FLORIDA CONSORTIUM OF PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS

Ms. Viann Hardy
MAXIMUS

Ms. Kim Harris
JM RUBIN FOUNDATION
- Mr. David Lawrence, Jr.
EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

Mr. Alan J. Levy
GREAT AMERICAN FARMS

Secretary Cynthia O'Connell
FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Dr. Jeffrey Skowronek
THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA FOR
PEPIN ACADEMIES

Lady Dhyana Ziegler, DCJ, Ph.D.
Z CREATORS, LLC



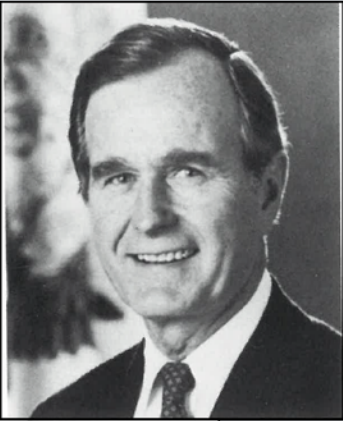
(2007, L TO R) FLORIDA TAXWATCH CHAIRMAN MIKE JENNINGS, PAST CHAIRMAN BARNEY BARNETT, FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER ALLAN BENSE, AND DOMINIC CALABRO AT THE 2007 SPRING BOARD MEETING



(1998) DOMINIC CALABRO (BIG SCISSORS) IS JOINED BY TAXWATCH CHAIRMAN T. O'NEAL DOUGLAS (MIDDLE), LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE RIBBON CUTTING OFFICIALLY OPENING THE PERMANENT HOME OF TAXWATCH

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



I am delighted to send greetings to all those gathered for the Twelfth Annual Membership Meeting of Florida TaxWatch.

As you know, responsible spending is crucial to fair and effective government at every level: local, State, and Federal. Through its constructive research and information services, your organization is helping to ensure that Florida taxpayers are well served by their elected representatives.

I commend you for your dedicated efforts to campaign against waste, and I hope that you enjoy continued success in the years to come.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable annual meeting.

President George H. W. Bush, Fall 1991

TAXWATCH
HEALTH, AGING & QUALITY
OF LIFE POLICY COUNCIL

Focuses on ensuring the criminal, civil, and juvenile justice systems, the social and family safety net systems, and the healthcare and aging systems are properly funded, operating efficiently, and achieving the best results.

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HOPE HEALTHCARE SERVICES

VICE CHAIR
Mr. Jeff Johnson
AARP

VICE CHAIR
Ms. Chelsea Murphy
RIGHT ON CRIME
- Mr. Lester Abberger
B.L. ABBERGER & COMPANY

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BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY

Mr. Thomas Crummy
WASTE MANAGEMENT

Ms. Lori Costantino-Brown
BRIDGES OF AMERICA

Sheriff Don Eslinger
SEMINOLE COUNTY

Mr. David Faulkenberry
FRINGE BENEFITS MANAGEMENT COM-PANY

Mr. Reginald Garcia
REGINALD R. GARCIA, ESQ.

Ms. Stacy Gromatski
FL NETWORK OF YOUTH & FAMILY SVCS.

Mr. John Hogan
CAPITAL HEALTH PLAN

Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp
- Mr. Dan McCarthy
1ST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL (RET.)

Ms. Phillis Oeters
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

Mr. Dale Recinella, JD/MTS
CHAPLAIN, FLORIDA'S DEATH ROW

Mr. James M. Repp
AVMED HEALTH PLANS

Mr. James D. Sewell, Ph.D.
FDLE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (RET.)

Honorable Irene Sullivan
JUDGE, 13TH CIRCUIT COURT (RET.)

Secretary Wansley Walters
BALLARD PARTNERS

Ms. Allison Wiman
BIG BEND AHEC

Senator Stephen Wise
FLORIDA STATE SENATOR

TAXWATCH
CIVICS & GOVERNANCE
POLICY COUNCIL

Focuses on maximizing civic engagement and taxpayer value by empowering citizens to participate in government and promoting a more productive, innovative, and accountable government for all Floridians.

- CHAIRPERSON**
Governor Bob Martinez
HOLLAND & KNIGHT

VICE CHAIR
Mr. John Provenzano
PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS

VICE CHAIR
Mr. William Carlson, Jr.
TUCKER/HALL
- Justice Ken Bell
GUNSTER

General Bob Butterworth
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY

Ms. Ann Duncan
SAVILLS STUDLEY, INC.

Mr. Steve Evans
IBM CORPORATION (RET.)

Speaker Tom Feeney
ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

Mr. John Hogan
CAPITAL HEALTH PLAN

Mr. Jeff Johnson
AARP

Ms. Belinda Keiser
KEISER UNIVERSITY

Senator George LeMieux
GUNSTER

Dr. Susan MacManus
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
- Chairman David Mann
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Mr. Daniel Martell
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT

Senator Pat Neal
NEAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. Piyush Patel
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Ms. Barbara Ray
NORTH HIGHLAND

Ms. Michelle A. Robinson
VERIZON

Ms. April Salter
SALTERMITCHELL PR

Mr. Patrick Slevin
SL7 CONSULTING

Dr. Carol Weissert
LEROY COLLINS INSTITUTE
AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FRANK BROGAN JOINS THE TAXWATCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPACT TAXWATCH HAS HAD ON FLORIDA'S EDUCATION POLICY

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

The Senior Research Fellows assist and advise Florida TaxWatch with its research agenda. Each Fellow is a prominent scholar or professional of national reput chosen for his or her public policy analysis and evaluation expertise in the areas of state and local government accountability, finance, and taxation.

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PROFESSOR, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

VICE CHAIRMAN
Dr. Roger Kaufman
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Dr. Lance Dehaven-Smith
PROFESSOR, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Antonio “Tony” Villamil
FOUNDER, WASHINGTON ECONOMICS GROUP

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS

The TaxWatch research team’s work is also supported by the **FLORIDA COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS AT FLORIDA TAXWATCH**, a group of nine prominent public and private economists from around the state, which is comprised of:

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BARRY UNIVERSITY

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John E. Silvia, Ph.D.
WELLS FARGO SECURITIES

Jerry D. Parrish, Ph.D.
FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION

STATE OF THE TAXPAYER DINNER

As the trusted eyes and ears of Florida taxpayers for 40 years, Florida TaxWatch embraces our responsibility to provide a forum for our state’s elected leaders to speak directly to the interests of the taxpayers.

While the annual State of the State address and opening statements of each legislative chamber cover the accomplishments and future plans of our elected leadership, none specifically highlights the issues affecting taxpayers.

Florida TaxWatch and Host Committee Chairman Governor Bob Martinez presented the inaugural State of the Taxpayer Dinner in 2016, and followed its resounding success with sold-out events every year since.

Now the premier event for Florida’s elected leaders to discuss the issues that will impact taxpayers over the next year, the dinner presents an all-star lineup of some of Florida’s top policymakers addressing a capacity crowd, ensuring that as the Legislative Session begins, the attention of Florida’s leaders is where it belongs: on the taxpayers.



ENTERPRISE FLORIDA CEO AND TAXWATCH CITIZENSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATE JAMAL SOWELL WAS A FEATURED SPEAKER IN 2019



ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHLEY MOODY BEGAN HER TERM AS THE STATE'S NEW A.G. WITH A VISIT TO THE 2019 EVENT



PRINCIPAL PAULA EVANS, DOMINIC CALABRO, AND PRINCIPAL BILL MCELROY HONOR TWO OF THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ON STAGE AT THE AWARDS DINNER



2019 TOP PRIZE WINNER—ELEMENTARY
PRINCIPAL RHONDA Y. WILLIAMS



2019 TOP PRIZE WINNER—MIDDLE
PRINCIPAL KAREN FRENCH



2019 TOP PRIZE WINNER—HIGH
PRINCIPAL VICTORIANO RODRIGUEZ

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Building on four decades of serving Florida's taxpayers by improving government efficiency and taxpayer value in all areas of public policy, the Principal Leadership Awards program identifies Florida's most effective principals in high-risk K-12 public schools, recognizes and rewards their work, and promotes their transformational practices throughout the state.

This unique initiative identifies principals around the state who have had the greatest impact on their students, in parts of the state where educational success can transform a community.

Unlike other awards programs, our annual winners are not nominated by colleagues, or school boards, or superintendents. This awards program is the only data-driven principal recognition initiative in Florida and the nation.

Additionally, through this program's *Academic A+ Student Scholarship Program* (a partnership with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation), one deserving student at each winner's school receives a two-year prepaid scholarship to attend the Florida college of their choice.

2018-19 WINNERS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Tracy Bowers
WEWAHITCHKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Kristina Alvarez
ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Rhonda Y. Williams
BARBARA HAWKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Mike Fantaski
ADDIE R. LEWIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. Karen French
FERRELL MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL

Mr. Mason Clark
GOLDEN GATE MIDDLE SCHOOL


HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Bill McElroy
PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIES MAGNET AT LOFTEN H.S.

Ms. Paula Evans
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Victoriano Rodriguez
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CHARTER SCHOOL

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



The Florida House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker

Marco Rubio
Speaker

420 Capitol Building
(850) 488-1450

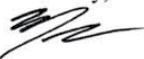
October 6, 2008

Florida TaxWatch
106 North Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Friends at TaxWatch,

Thank you for your unrelenting commitment to improving Florida government and increasing taxpayer value. It is my great honor to have implemented the TaxWatch recommendation of eliminating the Department of Revenue form DR-219 in order to save Florida taxpayers \$12 million per year. As Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, I worked hard to implement the many cost savings measures that Florida TaxWatch brought to my attention. Your organization is much appreciated and admired. Together I know we helped make Florida a better place to live and work.

Congratulations on your 29th year! Keep up the good work.

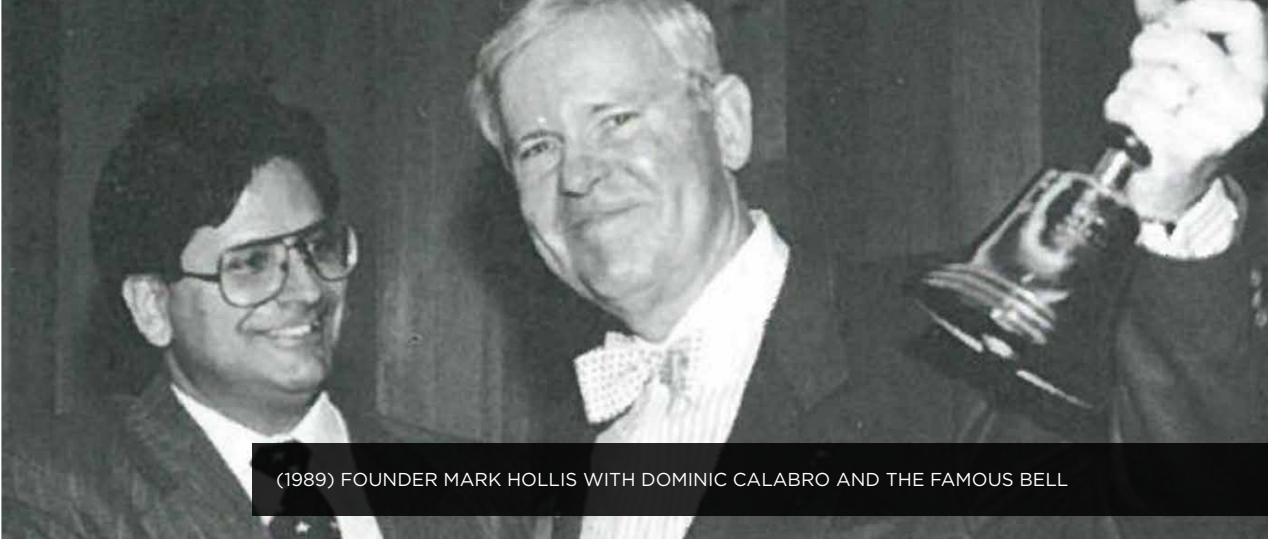
Sincerely,

Marco Rubio
Speaker
Florida House of Representatives



Speaker of the House Marco Rubio, October 6, 2008



(1989) FOUNDER PHIL LEWIS WITH DOMINIC CALABRO



(1989) FOUNDER MARK HOLLIS WITH DOMINIC CALABRO AND THE FAMOUS BELL



(2004) FOUNDERS MARK HOLLIS & PHIL LEWIS (SEATED) WITH GOVERNORS BOB MARTINEZ, JEB BUSH, WAYNE MIXSON, AND TAXWATCH FOUNDER T. WAYNE DAVIS



THE KYRA SOLUTIONS TEAM CELEBRATES THE TALLAHASSEE KICK-OFF OF THE TAXWATCH PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS



DOMINIC CALABRO EXAMINES THE CABINET RESOLUTION MAKING JULY 2019 TAXWATCH PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS MONTH

TAXWATCH PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

PRESENTED BY **KYRA SOLUTIONS, INC.**

Even though the co-founders of the program, J.E. Davis and A.D. Davis, are no longer with us, they would be proud to know that, since 1989, more than 16,000 nominations have been submitted totaling more than \$10.2 billion in cost-savings, cost-avoidances, and added

value to the lives of Florida's residents and visitors, including this year's total of more than \$500 million.

This year's winners come from nearly every state agency in Florida, and include everyone from university professors, to transportation safety workers, to environmental engineers. Thirty years of this awards program has shown that Florida truly has the nation's best public employees, and we are excited to see what groundbreaking ideas and actions are still to come.

The distinguished members of the **Panel of Judges** donate their time for a thorough review and spirited discussion of the best of this year's achievements. A special thank you to this year's judges:

Mr. Wayne Messina NORTH HIGHLAND

Mr. Max Oligario BANK OF AMERICA MERRILL LYNCH

Mr. Mark Hicks CAPITAL HEALTH PLAN

Ms. Cissy Proctor LSN PARTNERS

Ms. Deborah Curry FICPA

Mr. Brian Brown AVMED HEALTH PLANS



KYRA SOLUTIONS CEO PIYUSH PATEL WITH SECRETARY OF STATE LAUREL LEE AND DOMINIC CALABRO



(L TO R) CFC GRADUATES JAMAL SOWELL (ENTERPRISE FLORIDA), PRASHANT MEHTA (KYRA SOLUTIONS), KYLE BALTUCH (FLORIDA TAXWATCH), AND VRAJESH PATEL (KYRA SOLUTIONS) WITH FORMER GOVERNOR & INSTITUTE CHAIRMAN BOB MARTINEZ



(L TO R) LT. GOV. JEFF KOTTKAMP, DEO CFO DAMON STEFFENS, EDR CHIEF AMY BAKER, AND FORMER HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE BUDGET CHIEF ALLYCE HEFLIN DISCUSS STATE BUDGETING WITH THE PARTICIPANTS OF CLASS IV

THE FLORIDA CITIZENSHIP INSTITUTE

Being a Florida TaxWatch Citizenship Institute graduate is more than just a line on a resume for these highly distinguished participants.

Graduates learn firsthand from Florida's most influential policy leaders and business executives how state and local government policies impact their community and their business, and the most effective ways to ensure that their voices are heard and respected.

They also understand the key points, whether issues have federal, state, and/or local components, whether they are statutory or administrative regulations, and what the differences mean to their business.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY:
FLORIDATAXWATCH.ORG/CFCINSTITUTE

CLASS IV GRADUATES

Jose Acosta
CHEN MOORE & ASSOCIATES

Gianna Bonner
SALTERMITCHELL PR

Keith Frazier
MAXIMUS

Allison Harrell
THOMAS HOWELL FERGUSON, P.A.

Mandie Jones
ADVENT HEALTH

Laurie Kershaw
KYRA SOLUTIONS, INC.

Olivia Linton
KYRA SOLUTIONS, INC.

Daniel Miller
AvMED HEALTH PLANS

Rovena Pando
FLORIDAMAKES

Zoraida Velasco
FLORIDAMAKES

Ryan Weaver
FLORIDA TAXWATCH



INSTITUTE GRADUATE ALLISON HARRELL MAKES A POINT DURING A DISCUSSION AT CLASS IV'S TALLAHASSEE SESSION

TaxWatch has helped taxpayers to **BECOME BETTER INFORMED** about unnecessary government spending—and to make themselves, and government **BETTER ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**
— **PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN**

WE DID A LOT OF GOOD for the taxpayers this legislative session and **FLORIDA TAXWATCH WAS A BIG PART** of that. I appreciate all you do to ensure Floridians get the best return for their tax dollars.
— **GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT**

Government must be **HELD ACCOUNTABLE** to taxpayers, and the work of Florida **TAXWATCH HELPS ACHIEVE** this goal.
— **SENATOR BILL NELSON**

Florida TaxWatch is a testament to democracy in action...bringing a **VALUE-ADDED DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES, HEALTH, AND PROSPERITY OF ALL FLORIDIANS** because of your constructive ideas and vision. Thank you for your **UNRELENTING EFFORTS** to safeguard the long and short-term interests of the citizens of Florida.
— **GOVERNOR JEB BUSH**

The contribution of Florida TaxWatch is **UNPARALLELED IN THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA GOVERNMENT**, and deserves the thanks of all the taxpayers of Florida.
— **US SENATOR & GOVERNOR BOB GRAHAM**

HEED

TaxWatch is a **HIGHLY RESPECTED** organization.. well prepared to help our state **PROSPER** as it enters the next millennium.
— **GOVERNOR LAWTON CHILES**

Florida is in a **STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION** because of our state Constitution, statutory checks & balances, and **A GROUP CALLED FLORIDA TAXWATCH HOLDING US ACCOUNTABLE** and **OFFERING ACTIONABLE COST-SAVING PROPOSALS**
— **FLORIDA CFO JEFF ATWATER**

This is the first time in the history of the state of Florida that **ALL THREE MAJOR CREDIT RATING AGENCIES** have given us a **“AAA” BOND RATING...** it’s because of being fiscal stewards of our resources...it’s also **ATTRIBUTED TO THE GOOD FOLKS AT TAXWATCH HOLDING US ACCOUNTABLE.**
— **FLORIDA CFO JIMMY PATRONIS**

What we’ve got in Florida TaxWatch is an **OLYMPIC-SIZED EFFORT** to make sure that public policy in the state of Florida is **SECOND TO NONE.**
— **GOVERNOR BOB MARTINEZ**

You are heroes to me for what you do in this state. **WE COULD USE YOUR PENCILS, MINDS, AND COURAGE UP IN WASHINGTON.**
— **U.S. SENATOR GEORGE LEMIEUX**

TAXWATCH
— **MIAMI HERALD EDITORIAL HEADLINE**

The state is undoubtedly more healthy and prosperous because TaxWatch has been on the job. It has been **AN HONEST WATCHDOG** in warning of abuses, **A CREDIBLE GUIDE DOG** in finding thrifty solutions to problems, and **A TIRELESS BIRD DOG** in making sure taxpayers get their money’s worth.
— **TAMPA TRIBUNE**

...a **PREMIER TAX WATCHDOG** group, **RESPECTED** for its conservatism and fiscal frugality.
— **LAKELAND LEDGER**

...Fortunately for the legislators, **TAXWATCH** already has done much of **THEIR WORK FOR THEM.**
— **ORLANDO SENTINEL**

Florida TaxWatch is HELPING TO ENSURE THAT FLORIDA TAXPAYERS ARE WELL SERVED.
— **PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH**



TAXWATCH BOARD MEMBER CHARLES HOKANSON PUTS A PROPOSAL TOGETHER FOR HIS COMMITTEE



A PARTICIPANT AT THE FICPA CONFERENCE DEBATES A PROPOSAL DURING THE GAME



TAXWATCH COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRY OFFERS GUIDANCE TO A COMMITTEE

THE TAXWATCH BUDGET GAME

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

Working in concert with Leon County staff, who created the original “Let’s Balance” game to show the challenges of balancing a local government budget, Florida TaxWatch created a state version, which relies on real-world figures to show the difficulty in balancing a state budget.

After being asked to commit to campaign promises, participants are split into small groups to simulate legislative appropriations committees, armed with dozens of options for closing a budget deficit, and tasked with convincing their

fellow committee members to support their proposals, and ultimately convincing the entire group to sign off on a final budget. Were you able to keep your commitments to your voters?

Suitable for groups large and small, the TaxWatch Budget Game is designed to show participants that while cutting services, cutting taxes, or raising revenue may seem simple, there are always difficult choices to be made, and each choice that the legislature makes impacts real Floridians.



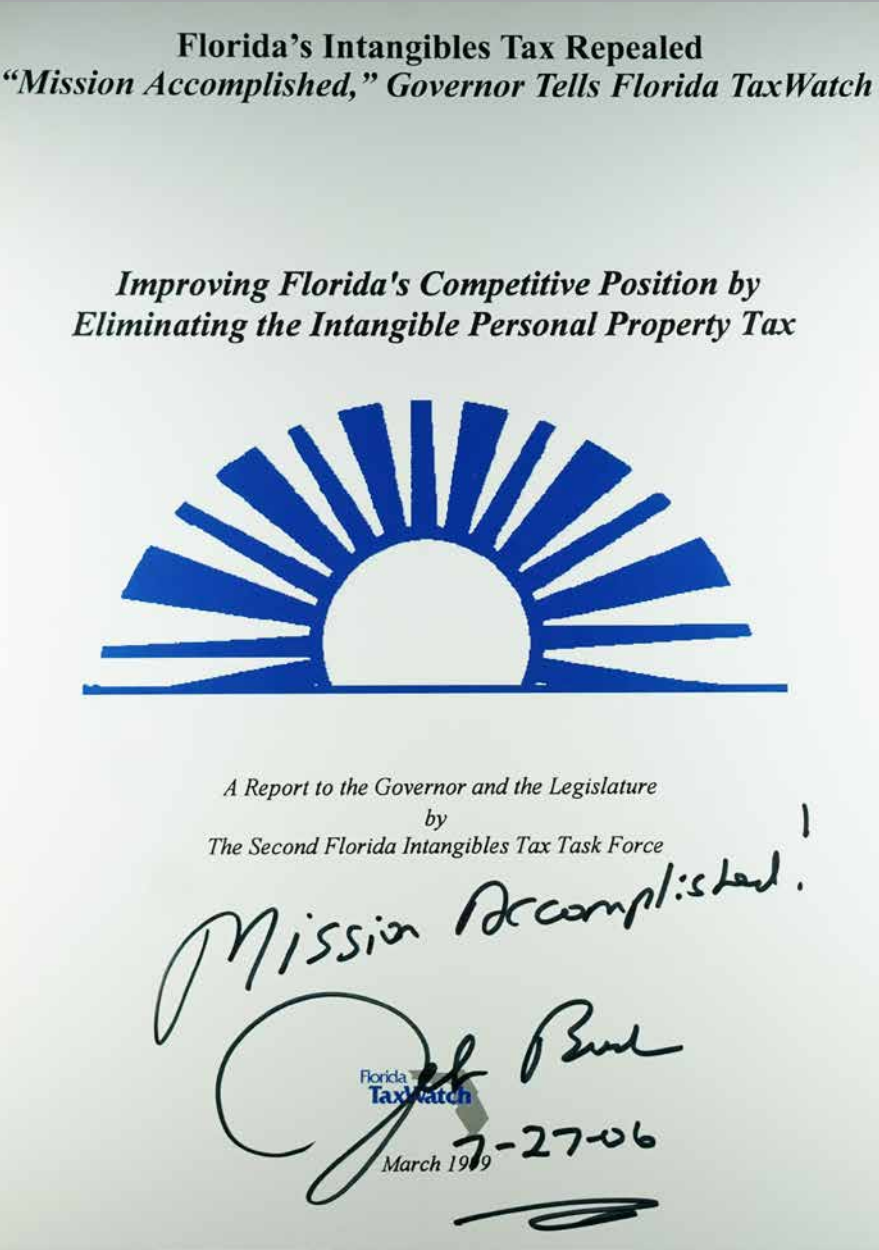
TAXWATCH CORPORATE SECRETARY & PRESIDENT OF AVMED HEALTH PLANS JAMES REPP ARGUES FOR A PROPOSAL DURING THE SPRING MEETING

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...

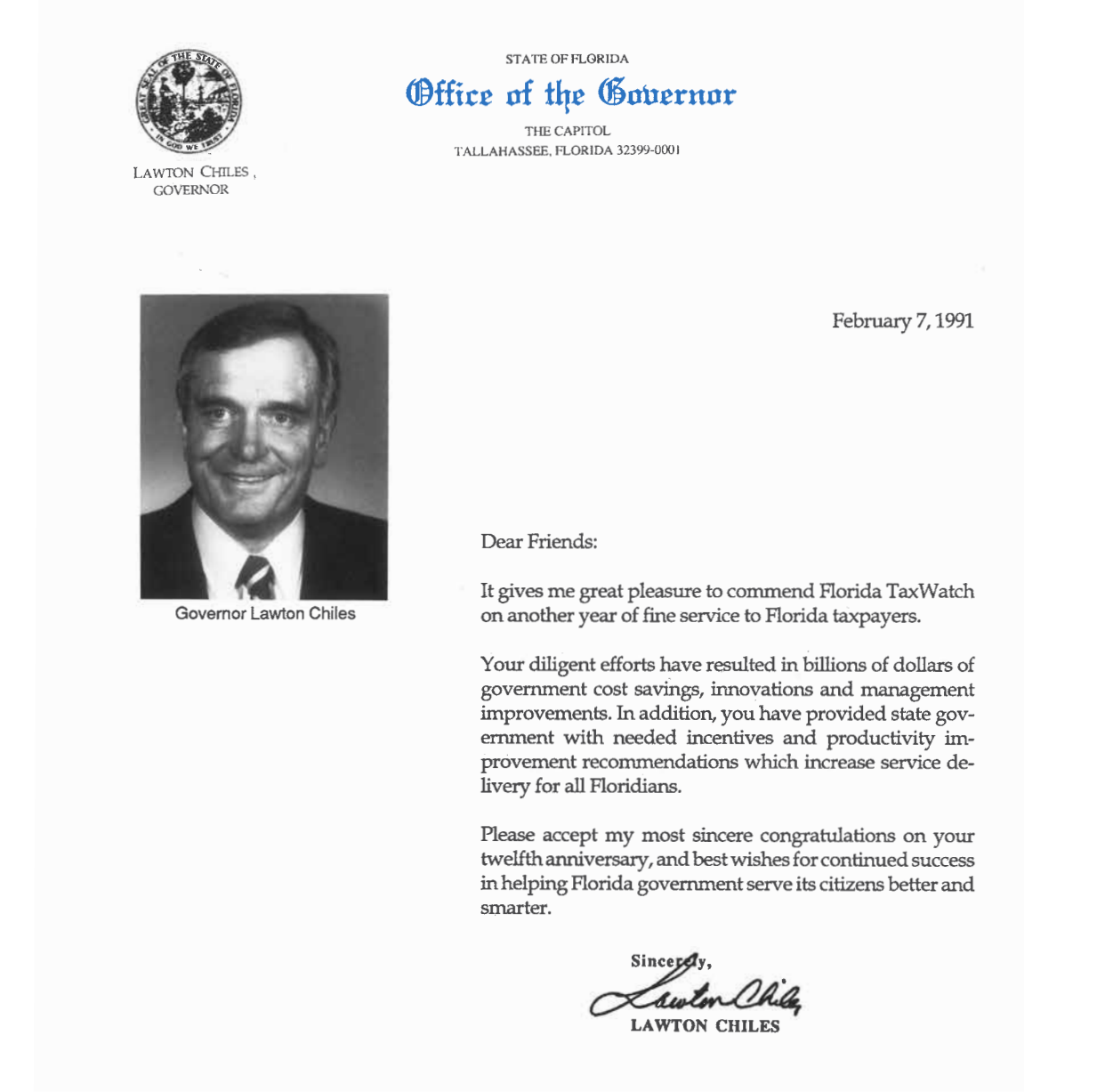


Cabinet Resolution Presentation with Governor Jeb Bush—TaxWatch 20th Anniversary

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



Governor Lawton Chiles, February 7, 1991

THE 2020 CENSUS

TAXWATCH WORKS TO #MAKEFLCOUNT

TaxWatch, along with elected leaders from the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, the City of Tampa, the City of Orlando and Orange County highlighted the need for community participation in the 2020 Census in news conferences throughout the state in 2019.

As the third largest and fourth fastest growing state in the country, the upcoming Federal Census count will be more important to the Sunshine State than nearly any other state. Federal grant programs distribute \$700 billion using census data nationwide.

If Florida is under-represented by the count, it could cost the state millions, or even billions, of dollars. Florida’s state and local officials need to immediately start ensuring the accuracy of the count by

participating in existing intergovernmental processes to verify addresses and residences.

A recent Florida TaxWatch report shows that Florida receives fewer grants per capita than every other state in the nation and concludes, “It would be hard to argue that Florida’s share is anywhere close to equitable.” If Florida received the national average in per capita federal grants, the state would get \$14.6 billion more of its tax money back.

Florida had the fourth largest undercount (200,670 persons) during the 2000 Census. At Florida’s per capita grant amount, this undercount would cost the state more than \$225 million annually, or more than \$2 billion over a decade.



TALLAHASSEE MAYOR JOHN DAILEY SPEAKS AT A TAXWATCH NEWS CONFERENCE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CENSUS



DOMINIC CALABRO IS JOINED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS IN ORLANDO FOR A NEWS CONFERENCE ON THE CENSUS

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Florida TaxWatch has been fortunate over the past 40 years to have a remarkable group of volunteer leaders guide the organization.

From former Governors, to United States Senators, to leaders of both chambers of the Florida Legislature, to the state’s most influential and well-known private sector leaders, few organizations can boast the leadership roster of TaxWatch.

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CO-FOUNDER, WINN-DIXIE STORES, INC.

Mr. T. Wayne Davis
TINE W. DAVIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

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PRESIDENT, PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC.

Mr. George Jenkins (1907-1996)
CO-FOUNDER, PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC.

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FORMER PRESIDENT, FLORIDA SENATE

Sen. Kenneth A. Plante (1939-2015)
FORMER MIN. LEADER, FLORIDA SENATE

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1994-1995

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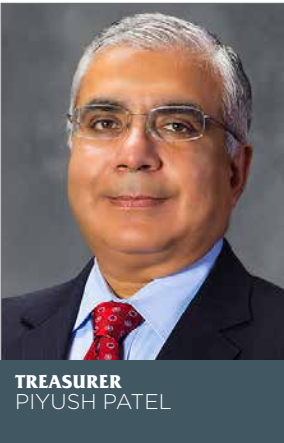
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Sen. Philip D. Lewis
1984-1986

Sen. Kenneth A. Plante
1982-1984

Mr. Mark C. Hollis
1979-1981

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2018-19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT LARGE

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Mr. Steve Evans*
IBM (RET.)

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GRAYROBINSON

Mr. Tom Hoban
KITSON & PARTNERS

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Ms. Natalie King
RSA CONSULTING

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Governor Bob Martinez
HOLLAND & KNIGHT

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*FORMER CHAIRMAN

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MEDCAN

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CHEN MOORE & ASSOCIATES

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Mr. Scott Shalley
FLORIDA RETAIL FEDERATION

Mr. Doug Smith
REDWIRE

Mr. John Smith
BIZPAC

Mr. Stanley Tate
STANLEY TATE ENTERPRISES

Mr. John Thomas
BRANDT INFORMATION SERVICES

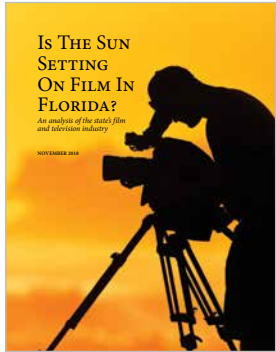
Mr. Robert Vice
AMERIS BANK

Lady Dhyana Ziegler
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY



TAXWATCH VP OF RESEARCH BOB NAVE SPEAKS ABOUT A TAXWATCH REPORT ON POINT-OF-CARE TESTING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, STANDING NEXT TO THE "FLU BUG"

SELECTED 2019 RESEARCH



IS THE SUN SETTING ON FILM IN FLORIDA?

NOVEMBER 29, 2018

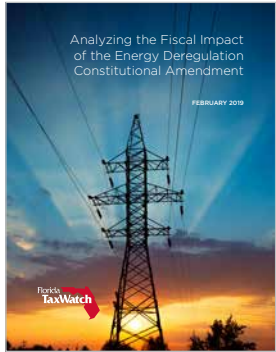
While the TaxWatch maintains that incentives should not be used as a substitute for the fundamentals of good economic growth, TaxWatch does recommend that incentives for the film and television industry not be ignored as a part of the Florida's overall economic development strategy.



KEEPING WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUMS LOW THROUGH INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW

DECEMBER 4, 2018

In this research report, TaxWatch looks at the success of the IMR program in California in an attempt to answer the question "what if IMR was in use in Florida?" TaxWatch is pleased to present policymakers and stakeholders with an independent analysis of a program we think may be helpful in keeping the costs of workers' compensation insurance down while helping to ensure that injured workers receive appropriate treatment.



ANALYZING THE FISCAL IMPACT OF THE ENERGY DEREGULATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

A proposed constitutional amendment initiative that would de-structure Florida's energy market may appear on the November 2020 general election ballot that would (if approved) radically change Florida's energy market. This independent analysis estimates the financial impacts of deregulation on tax revenues and to help Florida taxpayers better understand the effects of the proposed deregulation.

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



St. Petersburg Times, April 6, 1998

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



BOB MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor
THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001



Greetings:

I would like to commend the Board, members and professional staff of Florida TaxWatch for your special contributions in monitoring and fostering improvements in Florida's tax and spend policies and practices.

As you begin your tenth year, Florida TaxWatch has grown into a respected organization that facilitates good government, offers timely advice and presents insightful research that gets results. These contributions are vital to our state and our taxpayers.

A special thanks should go to your organization for spearheading and coordinating the innovative "Partners in Productivity" effort. This cooperative effort between the state's elected officials, administrators and the private sector will work to inject needed business acumen and efficiencies into Florida government to help ensure that public funds are spent prudently.

Your accomplishments and contributions have been invaluable to all Floridians. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Governor
BM/rdp

Governor Bob Martinez, 1989



AN ANALYSIS OF POINT-OF-CARE TESTING & TREATMENT FOR INFLUENZA, INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS, AND GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Point-of-care tests are simple medical tests that can be conducted at or near the point of care. Point-of-care tests bring the test immediately and conveniently to the patient. Legislation was proposed that would permit pharmacists to diagnose and treat influenza and strep at community pharmacies, using point-of-care tests that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. TaxWatch undertook this independent analysis of point-of-care testing and treatment of influenza and strep at the request of Representative Rene Plasencia, the sponsor of the proposed House legislation.



PALLIATIVE CARE IN FLORIDA: CHALLENGES AND OPTIONS FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE

MARCH 12, 2019

This report, part of a series of TaxWatch research reports on long-term care, focuses on the benefits of palliative care and opportunities to increase the use of these services in Florida. From our research, it is clear that community-based palliative care warrants special attention as a distinct and promising healthcare service.



TRUTH IN PROPERTY TAXATION CAN BE HARD TO COME BY

MARCH 13, 2019

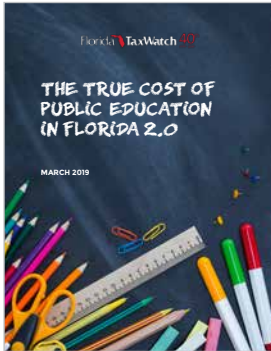
The TRIM process is a vital taxpayer protection tool and we should continually strive to make it better. Lessening the ability of taxpayers to access this information weakens the law. Taxpayers deserve to get concise, accurate and unvarnished information about how local government decisions affect the property taxes that they pay. This briefing examines policy proposals to reduce the public's access to notices about changes to property taxes at the local level.



INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM

MARCH 14, 2019

On January 30th, 2019, Governor DeSantis signed an Executive Order establishing the goal to make Florida number 1 in the U.S. for workforce education by 2030 and to ensure that Florida students are ready for high-demand, high-wage jobs. In this report, TaxWatch takes a fresh look at the return on investment of the Florida College System.



THE TRUE COST OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN FLORIDA 2.0

MARCH 20, 2019

Per-student spending is an easy-to-use measure by which taxpayers can evaluate public school spending and efficiency. Most taxpayers, however, have little or no idea how much is spent per student in public schools. The most commonly reported per-student spending figures in Florida are based solely on funding provided through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). For the 2017-18 school year, Florida public schools would have spent an average of \$7,307 “per student” in FEFP funding. TaxWatch research shows that this is not, in fact, the true cost of education in Florida.



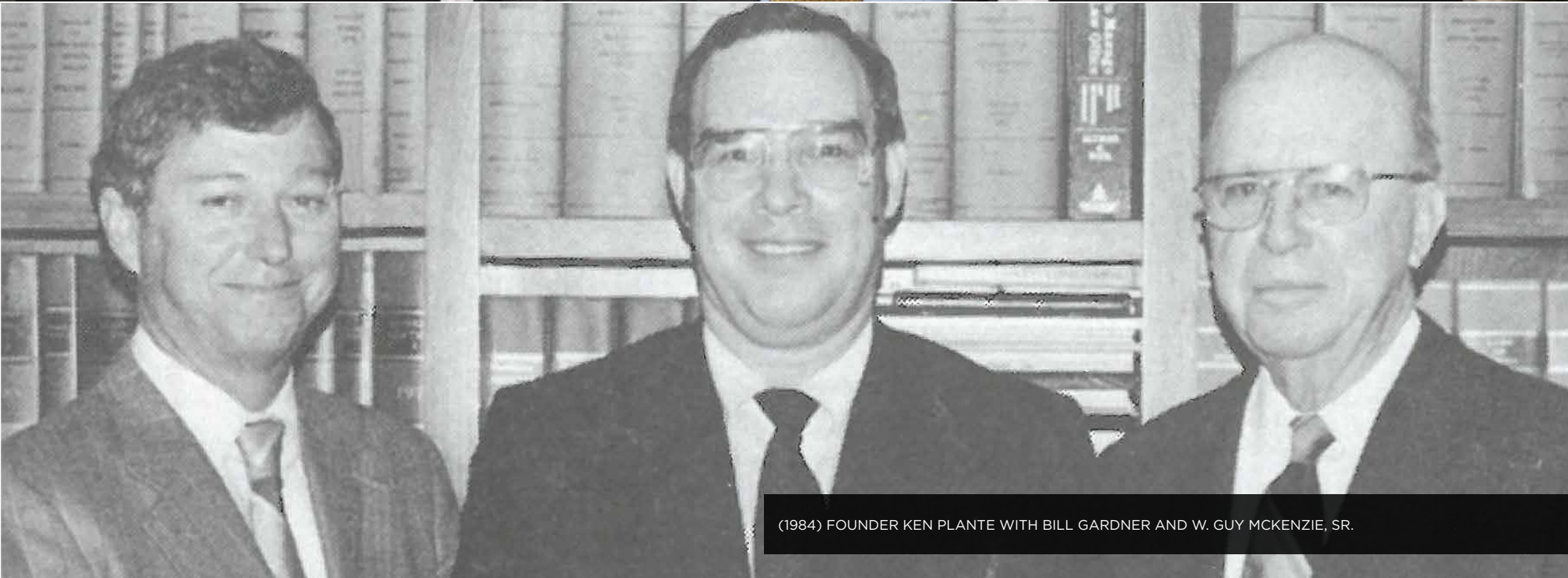
REDUCING THE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX WOULD PROVIDE RELIEF TO VIRTUALLY ALL FLORIDA FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES

MARCH 25, 2019

Since the enactment of the Communications Services Tax (CST) Simplification Act in 2001, Florida TaxWatch has released several reports recommending that the Legislature reduce this burdensome and highly regressive tax on consumers. Florida’s CST is very high, relative to both other states and the sales tax on the purchase of other goods. This high rate makes the tax punitive and distortionary, and makes the state less competitive than other states, including the potential for reducing investment in broadband network infrastructure.



(2004) DOMINIC CALABRO WITH TAXWATCH FOUNDERS PHIL LEWIS AND MARK HOLLIS

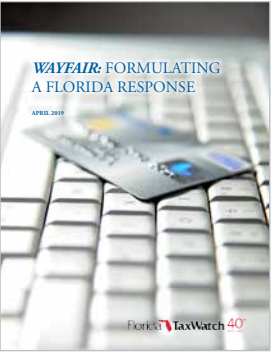


(1984) FOUNDER KEN PLANTE WITH BILL GARDNER AND W. GUY MCKENZIE, SR.

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



The Naples Daily News, July 9, 1989



WAYFAIR: FORMULATING A FLORIDA RESPONSE

APRIL 2, 2019

The non-collection of sales taxes on purchases by Florida customers by remote (out-of-state) sellers has been the most significant tax compliance and collection issue facing Florida and other states for many years. Remote vendors sell products by the internet, telephone, and mail. Historically, the courts have held that when a remote seller makes a sale to a person in a state in which the seller does not have a physical presence, that state cannot require the seller to collect the sales tax due and remit it to the state. This report, and a companion piece about E-Fairness in the legislature at the time, outline a path forward for policymakers.



THE LEGISLATURE MUST STOP DIVERTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING

APRIL 9, 2019

There is an affordable housing crisis in Florida. It is truly a nationwide problem, but it is especially acute in the Sunshine State. The availability of affordable housing for lower-income families in Florida is lower than almost all other states, and most of those at the lower end of the income scale that do have places to live are overburdened with housing costs they cannot afford. This *Briefing* makes the case that the Legislature needs to devote the appropriate resources to this issue.




2019 BUDGET TURKEY WATCH REPORT

JUNE 5, 2019


The 2019 Budget Turkey Watch Report: An Analysis of the Transparency and Accountability of the Budget Process is the result of an annual independent review of Florida's new budget by Florida TaxWatch. The report—started in 1983, and published annually since 1986—promotes additional oversight and integrity in the state's budgeting process based on the principle that: because money appropriated by the Legislature belongs to the taxpayers of Florida, the process must be transparent and accountable, and every appropriation should receive deliberation and public debate. The budget review identifies appropriations that circumvent transparency and accountability standards in public budgeting.

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor
THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE 32301-8047

BOB GRAHAM
GOVERNOR




April 16, 1986

Greetings:

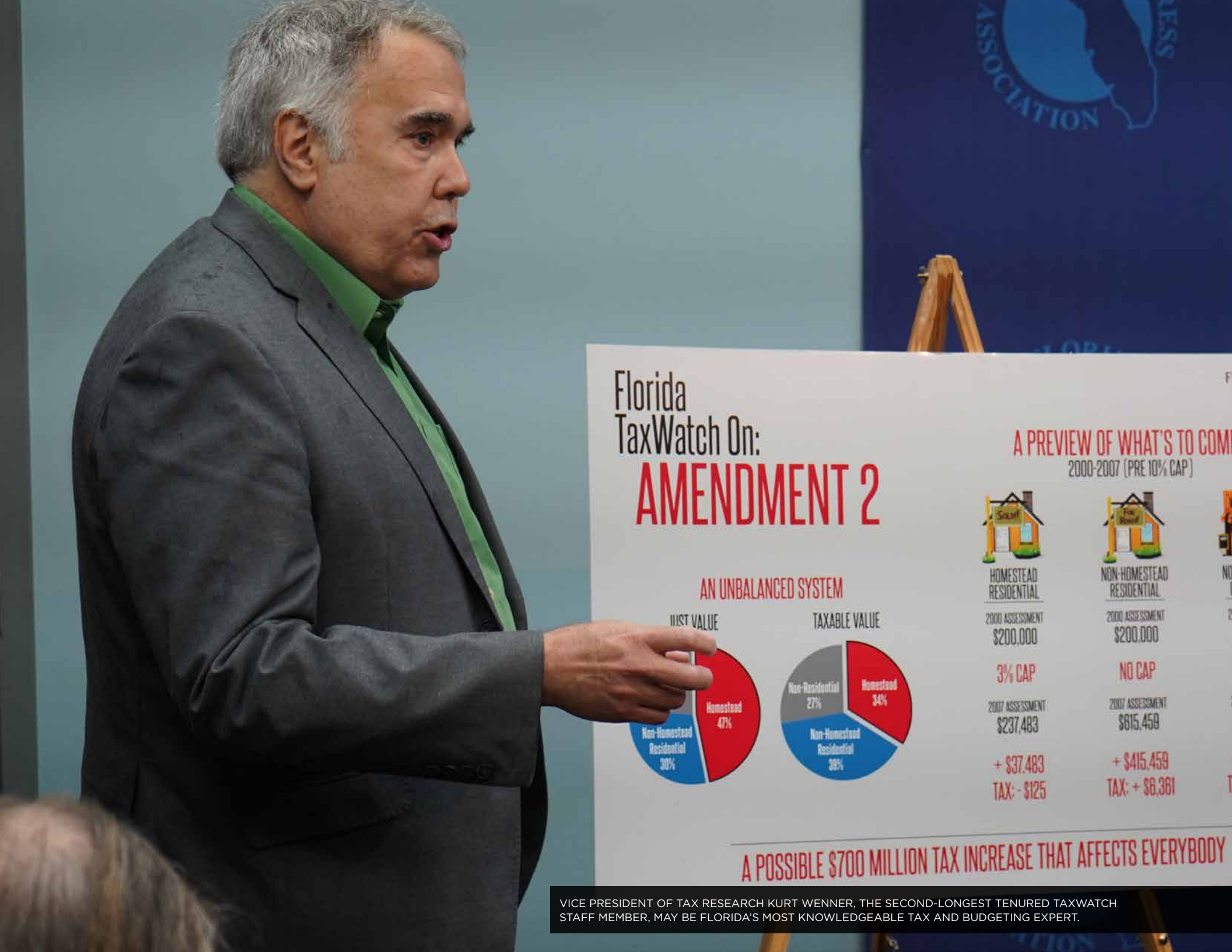
It is with growing admiration that I have seen Florida TaxWatch develop in capability and influence over the past seven years. Your thoughtful, reasoned and incisive analysis of State taxation and spending issues brings an added dimension and highly valued perspective to the making of public policy. Equally important, scores of your specific and relatively painless prescriptions for improving government operations have been implemented by my administration annually for combined savings that are highly significant.

Your contribution to public dialogue and the constructive relationship you have forged with government is very much appreciated. We gratefully acknowledge your help and trust that future administrations will find Florida TaxWatch the valuable partner in productivity that we have.

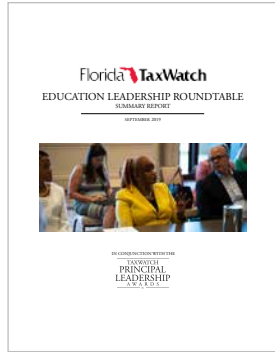
Sincerely,

Governor

BG/nkc

Governor Bob Graham, April 16, 1986



VICE PRESIDENT OF TAX RESEARCH KURT WENNER, THE SECOND-LONGEST TENURED TAXWATCH STAFF MEMBER, MAY BE FLORIDA'S MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE TAX AND BUDGETING EXPERT.



EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

In May 2019, Florida TaxWatch convened a 90-minute education roundtable in Orlando to discuss ways to improve the overall quality of pre-K-12 education by improving the leadership qualities of our public-school principals. Joining the seven current and former winners of TaxWatch’s prestigious Principal Leadership Award were three other principals, a former member of the House of Representatives, a former Deputy Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education, and a number of community and business leaders from across the state. This report is a summary of the discussions during the roundtable.



HOW FLORIDA COMPARES: TAXES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

The 2019 Edition of this annual pocket guide gives taxpayers and elected officials great insight as to how Florida’s taxes compare to other states and the national average across a wide variety of metrics.

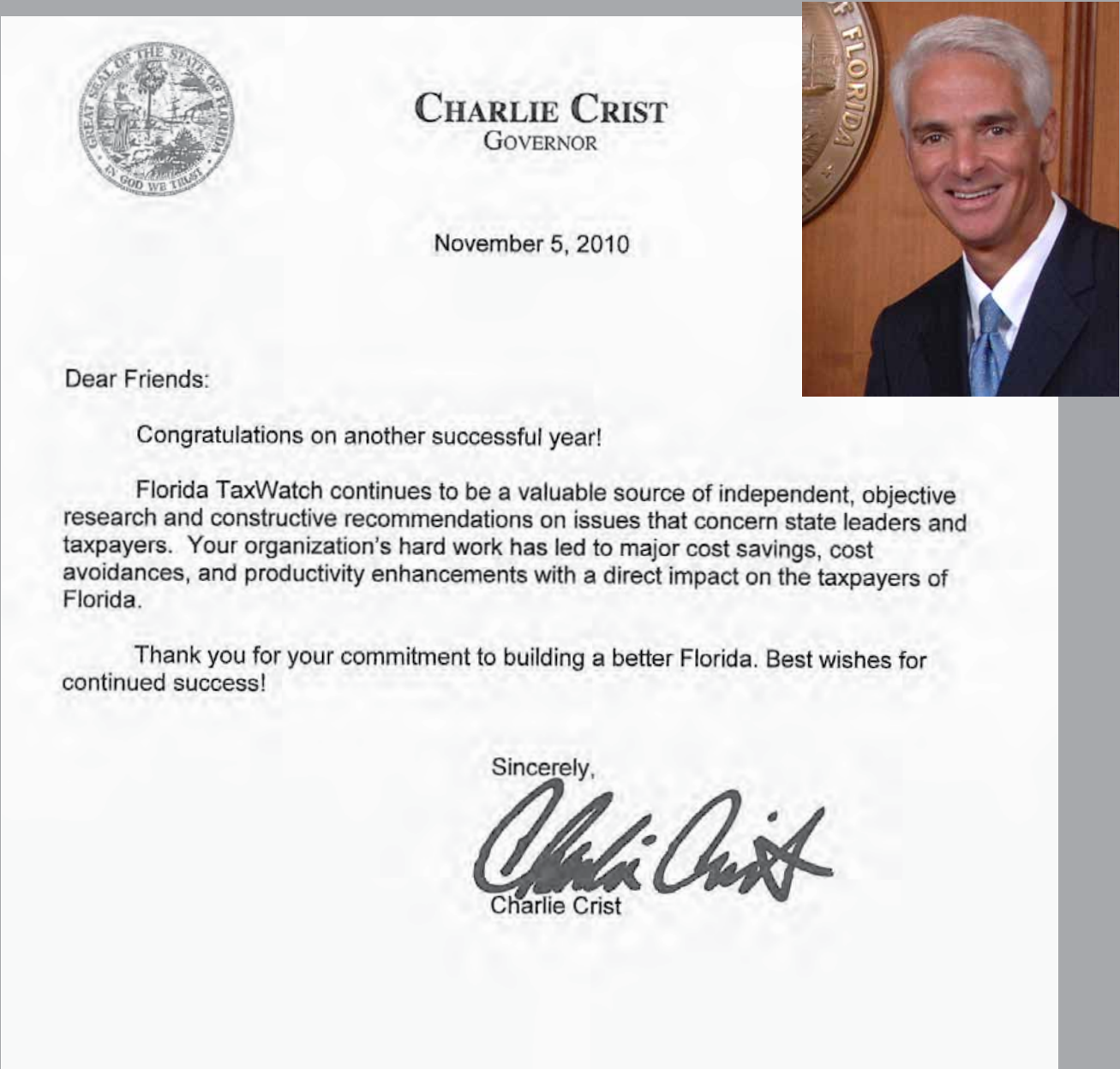


PROGRAM OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (PACE)

OCTOBER 9, 2019

As of 2010, there were 2.5 million Floridians in their 50s, 2.1 million Floridians in their 60s, 1.4 million Floridians in their 70s and almost one million Floridians in their 80s and above. There is every reason to believe these numbers will continue to rise. Recent estimates predict that Florida’s 65 and older population will represent 24.1 percent of Florida’s overall population by the year 2030. This report examines one program that may offer a solution at a lower cost while maintaining the quality care that our seniors deserve.

40 YEARS: A LOOK BACK...



Governor Charlie Crist, November 5, 2010

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Florida TaxWatch further expanded its statewide representation of taxpayer concerns in Florida during the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2019. This widening support demonstrates the recognized quality and enhanced public value of the institution's mission and research program accomplishments. During this fiscal year, Florida TaxWatch continued to adhere to the sound fiscal standards required of such a respected research institute.

According to the year-end record of expenses, all expenditures went to prepare, conduct, publish, disseminate, and properly communicate the research program's findings, conclusions, and recommendations about Florida government tax and spending policies and practices.

No funds were expended on lobbying activities, as specifically restricted by the Institute's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

The Treasurer's Report for FY2018 demonstrates the sound management practices and proper financial controls applied by the institute which ensure effective and productive operations with direct accountability.

According to the financial statement and Treasurer's Report, total expenses were slightly less than \$2,285,600 million while total revenue slightly exceeded \$2,301,300, generating a small net positive for the fiscal year.*

Respectfully,

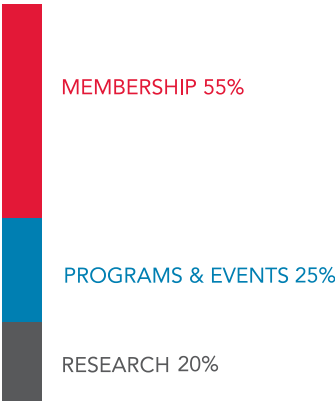


Mr. Piyush Patel

Treasurer

* Unaudited

FY2019 INCOME



FY2019 EXPENSES



(1991) TAXWATCH STAFF, INCLUDING DR. NEIL CRISPO (BOTTOM LEFT), KURT WENNER (BOTTOM MIDDLE) AND DAVE DAVIS (BOTTOM RIGHT)



(1991) TAXWATCH STAFF, INCLUDING THE FIRST EMPLOYEE EVER HIRED AT FLORIDA TAXWATCH, BABS TAFT (BACK LEFT)



(2013) JOHN R. ALEXANDER ADDRESSES THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ABOUT THE TAXWATCH CENTER FOR GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY



KEY PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS SPONSORS BRIAN BROWN (AVMED HEALTH PLANS) AND MAURICIO GONZALEZ (LEAD ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS)



REPRESENTATIVES FROM NORTH HIGHLAND, LONG-TIME PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS SPONSORS, AT THE TALLAHASSEE KICK-OFF CEREMONY

THANK YOU SPONSORS

Florida TaxWatch programs and events would not be possible without the generous contributions of our corporate sponsors. TaxWatch would like to extend a special thank you to the following companies:

Accenture	Florida Coalition for Children	LEAD Engineering Contractors
AJAX Building Corporation	Florida Council of 100	MAXIMUS
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Baptist Health South Florida	Florida Press Association	Neal Communities
Brandt Information Services	Florida Seaports Council	North Highland
BrightStar Credit Union	Florida Trend	Prudential
Capital Health Plan	Gulf Power	Publix Super Markets Charities
Charter Communications	Helios Education Foundation	Steve & Linda Evans
Dominic & Debbie Calabro	Intersect Media Solutions	SunTrust Bank
EY	JM Rubin Foundation	Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare
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		Wells Fargo

RICK SCOTT
FLORIDA

ARMED SERVICES
HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

United States Senate

December 2, 2019

Florida TaxWatch Board of Trustees &
Mr. Dominic M. Calabro
President & Chief Executive Officer


Dear Mr. Calabro and Members of the Florida TaxWatch Board of Trustees:

It is my honor to congratulate Florida TaxWatch on its 40th anniversary. Thank you for your decades of work to build Florida’s economy and support the creation of more opportunities for families across the state.

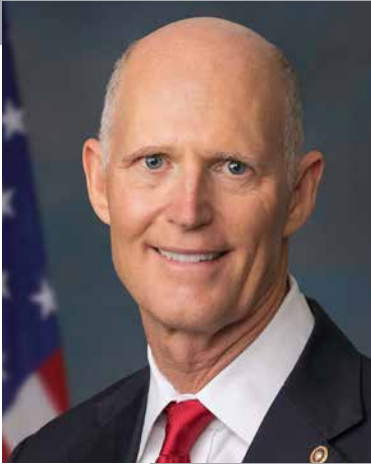
Throughout my time as Governor, we worked to cut taxes nearly 100 times and saved Florida families and businesses more than \$10 billion. At the same time, we made unprecedented investments in what matters most to Florida families – including education, infrastructure, and the environment. Thanks to our focus on cutting taxes and reducing burdensome regulations, Florida businesses created nearly 1.7 million jobs in just eight years. This incredible success would not be possible without partners like Florida TaxWatch. My goal in the United States Senate is to continue building on Florida’s tremendous success so every Florida family has the opportunity to live the American dream.

I look forward to being your partner in Washington as we continue working to cut taxes and build our economy. Congratulations again, and best of luck for many more years of success.

Sincerely,



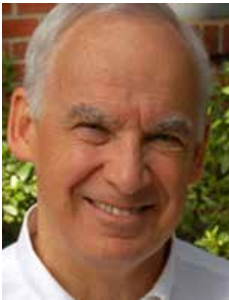
Rick Scott
United States Senator



PROFESSIONAL TEAM



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Steve Evans
SR. ADVISOR



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DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR



Terri Rea
ACCOUNTANT



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COORDINATOR



Fabiana Ferrante
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COORDINATOR



Remi Escudié
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COORDINATOR



Leah Courtney
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

Not Pictured
Julia Quiñones
DONOR RELATIONS
COORDINATOR

Gabriella Springer
INTERN

Kirby Allen
INTERN



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We Believe

You cannot bring about prosperity
by discouraging thrift

You cannot strengthen the weak
by weakening the strong

You cannot help small men
by tearing down big men

You cannot help the poor
by destroying the rich

You cannot lift the wage earner
by pulling down the wage payer

You cannot keep out of trouble
by spending more than your income

You cannot further the brotherhood of men
by inciting class hatreds

You cannot establish security
on borrowed money

You cannot establish character and courage
by taking away a man's initiative and independence

You cannot help men permanently
by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves

— *From the pen of Reverend William John Henry Boetcker
(1873-1962) & often attributed to Abraham Lincoln*