

VOTE NO ON PROPERTY TAX REVISION SJR 2-D

The League of Women Voters of Sarasota County opposes SJR 2-D, the proposed state constitutional amendment that will be on the special election ballot January 29, 2008.

The League of Women Voters of Florida has long held the position that tax sources and revenues should not be specified, limited, exempted or prohibited in the state constitution and that local governments in Florida should have available a variety of options for generating revenues to meet local needs. SJR 2-D contravenes this principle because it increases and extends present homestead-based exemptions, creates a new exemption for tangible personal property and caps assessment increases on non-homestead real property.

Also, SJR 2-D would change state property taxes while the constitutionally mandated Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission is still working on its once in twenty years study of the taxation system with the goal of suggesting improvements.

The Legislature itself predicts that the passage of SJR 2-D will result in revenue losses of \$12.4 billion in the next 5 years. Cities and counties will lose \$9.6 billion and public schools will lose \$2.8 billion in tax money. These revenue shortfalls will come at a time when tax revenue shortfalls are already causing a decline in state and local services. By worsening Florida's and Sarasota's current infrastructure deficit, SJR 2-D would result in a further decline in our level of state and local services such as

- public safety,
- roads and highways,
- education,
- libraries,
- health services,
- parks and open space and
- affordable housing.

This decline would directly affect the quality of each of our lives.

Nanci Babigian, Action Chair
League of Women Voters Sarasota County