

RESOLUTION NO. 96-195

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE POLICY STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING, COST CONTAINMENT, AND PROVIDING DIRECTION TO ASSURE THAT NEW GROWTH IN THE COUNTY PAYS FOR ITSELF, SHOWING ITS INTENTION TO ANNUALLY, DURING THE BUDGET PROCESS, ROLL BACK OR REDUCE THE MILLAGE RATE EQUAL TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S REVENUE PLUS 3% INFLATION FACTOR, OR THE ACTUAL COST TO PROVIDE THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the voters of St. Johns County overwhelmingly approved Amendment 10 to the Florida Constitution in 1994, commonly referred to as the "Save Our Homes Amendment", which limits the annual increase in assessed value homestead property to the Consumer Price Index, or 3 %, whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, rates, fees, and taxes or state and federal mandates, dictate the level of service that can be provided by county government; and

WHEREAS, the majority of ad valorem taxpayers in St. Johns County want to ensure that they will not be paying for future growth or expanded programs, and believe the cost of such services should be funded by new residents and other entities, private or commercial, receiving those benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wants to assure the citizens of St. Johns County that growth of county government will be contained by controlling both revenue and expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has established the policy, rates, and fees, including a 3% Utility Franchise Fee, to assure that new growth pays for itself, and that priority programs, essential to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, such as transportation, infrastructure, and fire services, are funded; and

WHEREAS, it is the Board of County Commissioner's desire to develop a financial policy statement that will extend the intent of Amendment 10, not just to revenue, but also to General Fund expenditures, thereby extending protection to St. Johns County residents upon over-reliance on ad valorem taxes, and exhibiting our intent to be accountable to the mandated "Save Our Homes Amendment"; and

WHEREAS, from time to time a higher level of service is required in a specific geographical region, the Board of County Commissioners shall make a determination, and with voter approval, adjust and act accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St.

Johns County, Florida, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, hereby adopts this resolution establishing its policy direction for financial planning and cost containment for its programs and the Constitutional Officers to the extent provided in the law, and will demonstrate this intention annually, during the budget process, by rolling back or reducing the millage rate by an amount that would generate an amount equal to the previous year's revenue plus a 3% inflation factor, or the actual cost to provide the same level of service as the previous year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 22 day of October, 1996.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: Donald Jordan
Chairman Donald Jordan

ATTEST: CARL "BUD" MARKEL, CLERK

By: Geneva P. Newcome
Deputy Clerk