

City of Mary Esther

RESOLUTION 2005-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION REQUIRING THE PERIODIC REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ALL SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; URGING VOTERS TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE ON THE NOVEMBER 2006 BALLOT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida's tax structure is very dependent of sales tax revenues, which amount to approximately \$18.3 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Florida now exempts more revenue than it collects, providing sales tax exemptions for over 400 products and services, amounting to an annual loss of \$22.7 billion in tax revenue, and these exemptions are poorly categorized with broad disparities; and

WHEREAS, Florida's sales tax exemptions have not been revised or reformed significantly since 1949; and

WHEREAS, Florida's municipalities rely on sales tax revenues to provide for the health, safety and welfare of it's citizens, and the proportionate share in this revenue source for each municipality is a stable and reliable resource; and

WHEREAS, the inequities in Florida's sales tax cause the state and municipalities to be more dependent on other revenue sources, such as the property tax; and

WHEREAS, a group called Floridians Against Inequities and Rates (FAIR) is pursuing three constitutional amendments to the 2006 ballot that, if approved, would sunset all current sales tax exemptions in July, 2008 unless the Legislature votes to renew the exemption; and

WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment would protect sales tax exemptions for food, prescription drugs, health services, residential rent, electricity and heating fuel for the greatest of public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1.

The City of Mary Esther supports amendments to the FAIR amendment and urges its citizens to sign petitions supporting its placement on the November ballot.

SECTION 2.

The City of Mary Esther urges voters to support this initiative on the November 2006 ballot.

SECTION 3.

This resolution becomes effective upon the approval and adoption by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Mary Esther.

ADOPTED IN SESSION THIS 2nd DAY OF May 2005.

John Thomas
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura Aldrich, CMC
City Clerk