

Phil Sutton

**Tax Reform Council Meeting
September 9, 2010
Gainesville State College**

Hall County would like for the Tax Reform Council to consider the following points:

1. **Local Government Taxing Authority:** Future legislation should preserve the taxing authority of local elected officials who provide services directly to the citizens and who are "closest to the people" and know their needs.
2. **Special exemptions** on local property tax are passed every year by the State Legislature. This reduces local revenue and local services and ultimately can shift the financial burden for funding services to other tax payers who do not receive special exemptions.
3. **Encourage the support of the federal "Main Street Fairness Act"** by enforcing the lawful payment of sales and use tax on inter-state catalog and internet merchandise sales. Merchants selling over the internet and through catalogs often avoid sales and use tax collections unfairly competing with local main street merchants.
4. **Local Government and Business Advocate:** The Department of Revenue should have a position or volunteer board which would advocate for the interests of local governments and local businesses in order to answer questions and ensure that the interest of local are taken into consideration by the Department of Revenue.

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DOR collection fees: The state sales tax and property tax fees paid by local governments should go to support the Department of Revenue's budget in order to enhance collection efforts and should not be siphoned off into the State's General Funds.

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Boat sales tax should be collected by the Department of Revenue rather than the Department of Natural Resources. Boats should be required to register similar to motor vehicles and taxes should collected and paid to the jurisdiction where the boat is registered.

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Prepaid wireless E-911 fees should be distributed back to local governments which help support E-911 services. This is another example of the State levying a tax for a special purpose and not allocating the funds back to the local government to help pay for the programs that the special fund in intended to support. This has been a long-term, ongoing concern of local governments with state tax policy.

We would like to discuss these items further at a convenient time.