Taxpayers' Bill of Rights

The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Resolution was originally adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in November 1993 and consists of ten policy points. These policies are directly related to the financial composition of the annual budget. A summary of the ten policy points are as follows:

- No increase in property tax rates without a vote of the people or legislative enactment.
- No deficit spending while preferably maintaining a 10% fund balance.
- Increases to the County's operating budget limited to the combined growth in population and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). If revenues exceed operating budget limits, the Board of County Commissioners will allocate the excess funds to fund one-time capital projects or programs and/or to fund extraordinary maintenance, repair or improvements of County facilities.

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- County shall make every practicable effort to negotiate salary/benefit increases that are comparable to the private sector and discourage the use of automatic step increases.
- A preliminary tentative budget meeting held to receive input from the Board and the public.
- A zero-based bi-annual budgeting process in non-legislative years.
- Conduct joint meetings with City counterparts through ad hoc committees to discuss items of mutual interest (e.g. potential cost-effective consolidation of services).
- Continuation of the County's Cost Containment Program.

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- Independent performance audits of each department based on a risk assessment.

- Avoidance of new building leases and endeavor to terminate existing leases when fiscally feasible.