






## Taxpayers' Bill of Rights

Memorializes commitments as follows:

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 • **Cost Control** - Control of County General Fund operating revenues and expenditures at a rate at or below the combined rate of population increase and inflation as measured by the consumer price index
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 • **Tax Rate** - Set County tax rates at their current levels or lower
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 • **Financial and Rate Stability** - Maintenance of the Budget Stabilization and Economic Uncertainty Reserve and the Contingency/Emergency/Disaster Relief Reserve in the General Fund, and financial reserves in other County funds as described in Resolution No. 2006-130, Re: *The Sarasota County Financial Reserves Policy*
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 • **Employee Costs** - Merit based personnel system and true market based salaries for County employees comparable to the private sector. Merit increases or bonuses reserved for truly meritorious service and for departments maintaining high service levels while also demonstrating cost-effectiveness. Employees per thousand population flat to decreasing unless required to address voter approved projects.
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 • **Collaborative Cost Sharing** - Pursuit of opportunities with governmental counterparts to identify potential areas for cost-effective consolidation and sharing of services
- **Facilities Management** - Consolidation of operations and optimization of facilities to reduce the cost of real estate needed by the County, manage life cycle costs by building energy efficient, green and carbon neutral facilities.