



## **Property Appraiser Hillsborough County**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER BOB HENRIQUEZ PROPOSES COVID-19 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF MEASURES AND TASK FORCE**

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**TAMPA** -- Hillsborough County Property Appraiser Bob Henriquez is proposing various property tax relief measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a task force to discuss implementation of possible relief initiatives.

“Florida property taxes are based on values as of January 1, which, of course, was prior to the COVID-19 shutdown,” Henriquez said. “Nevertheless, property owners in Hillsborough County and across the state were impacted by the event. We need to think in terms of how to provide relief to those affected. Ultimately, that relief needs to come from the state legislature.”

Henriquez, who served four terms as a State Representative before being elected Property Appraiser in 2012, proposes the development of a task force to discuss property tax relief measures and forward those suggestions to the state legislature. Henriquez’s various proposals include:

- Reducing the tax impact equivalent to the number of days the business was closed pursuant to emergency orders at the state and/or local level. This measure can be applied to both real estate and tangible personal property (business assets). Similar measures have taken place previously for areas impacted by hurricanes.
- Extending the due date for the payment of property taxes.
- Waiving penalties and interest for late-filed property tax payments.

According to Henriquez, the task force needs to be comprised of all impacted parties, including government officials and representatives of the real estate industry. Henriquez also noted other states are considering similar measures in response to COVID-19.

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