

**Dear Taxpayer:**

The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners believes that economic development will lead to a better quality of life for county residents. Local government should promote positive expansion of the economy in terms of new jobs and improvements to real and personal property and create those jobs in such a way so as not to disadvantage existing businesses while recognizing that productive competition fosters economic growth.

The current Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDATE) expires December 10, 2012, unless renewed by referendum by the voters of Escambia County on January 31, 2012. This brochure is designed to provide you with information on the most common questions regarding the EDATE program.

EDATE is designed to encourage new businesses to relocate to Escambia County. It serves as a catalyst for existing businesses to expand, creating new job opportunities within the county. The program authorizes Escambia County to grant qualifying businesses a property tax exemption up to 100 percent for up to 10 years, on both real and tangible personal property in return for generating job opportunities. This exemption does not include the underlying land value for real property taxes nor does it include taxes due to the Escambia County School District, Northwest Florida Water Management District or the City of Pensacola.

If passed by the voters, the EDATE will allow companies to have partial or complete abatement of ad valorem taxes, based on the amount of jobs or capital the company brings to Escambia County. In essence, the tax exemption program is an incentive tool to help create jobs and bring more economic activity to Escambia County.

**How does Escambia County's Program work?**

Applicants must meet the definition of a new business or expansion of an existing business and meet job creation thresholds.

The business must also be classified as a Target Industry or a High Value Business.

Exemptions are provided for County Ad Valorem taxes on the assessed value of improvements to real property and on tangible personal property attributable to the expansion.

Exemptions are based on the number and types of jobs created, average annual wages and location of the business. In Florida, property taxes and real estate taxes are also known as ad valorem taxes. Ad valorem means, "based on value":

•**Assessed Value** - Provided by the Property Appraiser

•**Exemptions** - Granted by the Property Appraiser

•**Assessment Rate** - Determined by Taxing Authorities

•**Taxes Payable** - A mathematical calculation

When considering the issue of whether or not a business or industry is an eligible business, the Board of County Commissioners considers the anticipated number of employees, average wage, type of industry or business, geographical location of the proposed new or expanding business, environmental impacts, volume of business or production prior to accepting the economic development ad valorem tax exemption application.

Any business in violation of any federal, state or local law or regulation will not be eligible.



Businesses that have benefited from the EDATE

<b>Business</b>	<b>Job Creation</b>
Navy Federal Credit Union	3,000 jobs
International Paper	496 jobs
Gelman Sciences	215 jobs
Genesis Property Holding	153 jobs
Woodlands Medical Spec.	153 jobs
Overhead Doors	146 jobs
Wayne Dalton	146 jobs
Lewis Bear Company	13 jobs
Pegasus Laboratories	13 jobs
Exxon Mobil	11 jobs

**Total Escambia County  
jobs created by companies receiving the EDATE 4,346 jobs.**

**How does this impact me?**

***Will it cost me anything?***

No, this is not a tax. It's an incentive for new and existing businesses that meet the qualifications.

***Will this bring more jobs to Escambia County?***

The program was designed with the goal of attracting new jobs.

***Is this a new program?***

No, it's been in effect since September 5, 2000.

***What are the advantages?***

Job growth, quality of life and improved economy for Escambia County are some of the benefits of this program.

**Escambia County  
Economic Development**  
Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program  
(EDATE)



**Escambia County  
Economic Development**

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On January 31, 2012, voters will be asked to decide the following question:

COUNTY REFERENDUM QUESTION  
RELATING TO RENEWAL OF AUTHORITY  
TO GRANT  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTIONS

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY  
ELECTION  
JANUARY 31, 2012

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County, Florida be authorized to grant, pursuant to s. 3, Art. VII of the State Constitution, property tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses?

Yes--For authority to grant exemptions.

No--Against authority to grant exemptions.

Three ways to vote:

- Absentee
- Early Voting
- At your polling place on Election Day

This factual, educational communication paid for by Escambia County, 221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida 32502

**What are the benefits?**

The economic development ad valorem tax exemption program can diversify the county's business base by encouraging industries that offer higher-than-average salaries to relocate to Escambia County and helping existing businesses expand. The program could also enable Escambia County to more effectively attract new businesses.

**What is the economic development ad valorem tax exemption program?**

The Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDATE) program is an economic incentive designed to encourage new businesses to relocate in Escambia County and existing businesses to expand to create new job opportunities for Escambia County residents. If approved, the program will authorize the Escambia County Commission to grant qualifying businesses a county property tax exemption up to 100 percent for up to 10 years.

**When would the incentive program take effect in Escambia County?**

If approved, the continuation of this program will take effect on December 11, 2012 and will be in place until December 2022.

**Will the program create more competition for existing businesses?**

The program was established to encourage diversification in the business community, not to create competition to existing businesses.

**Can existing businesses take advantage of this opportunity?**

Yes, the EDATE can apply to existing businesses that expand, purchase new equipment and create new jobs.

**What taxes are eligible for exemption?**

Escambia County property taxes on new improvements including qualifying buildings and equipment will be eligible. No current tax revenues are lost.

