

RESOLUTION NO. 86- 43

WHEREAS, over the last five years, the federal government has reduced domestic expenditures to state and local governments by 25% while during the same period, overall expenditures have increased by 25%; and,

WHEREAS, the budget proposal currently before Congress proposes another reduction to state/local revenues of \$14.5 billion with a proposed defense increase of \$16 plus billion; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration has called for the total elimination of the Federal Financial Assistance Act of 1972 (General Revenue Sharing), the only federal program which assures a domestic partnership with each county in the state and country; and,

WHEREAS, all past federal domestic reductions have carried the assurance that they were being accomplished for the sake of deficit reduction while, in fact, the dollars were shifted to other expenditure categories in defense and foreign aid; and,

WHEREAS, at the same time that the federal government reduced domestic spending, defense spending increased and also federal taxes were reduced, thus further increasing the deficit; and,

WHEREAS, another tax reform proposal before Congress today proposes to eliminate tax deductions for state and local taxes and eliminate the tax exempt status of public bonds. The revenue produced by this action, roughly \$50 billion, would be used to reduce taxes for other taxpayers rather than reduce the deficit; and,

WHEREAS, St. Johns County Commissioners, along with our counterparts from around the country, are seriously concerned about a maintenance of congressional commitment to the domestic partnership; and,

WHEREAS, the single best way to maintain that partnership is through the single most efficient mechanism available, that is General Revenue Sharing; and,

WHEREAS, St. Johns County Commissioners think that definite reduction is the number one target of the federal government and that reduction of spending will continue to be necessary while revenue increases may also be necessary; and,

WHEREAS, St. Johns County Commissioners are committed to continue to work with Congress to ensure that those reductions will not place undue hardship on any single sector or program and that such reductions should be felt by all categories of federal expenditures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, urges the Florida Congressional Delegation to cease attacking the federal deficit solely by reductions in domestic spending and to promptly address this national issue in a spirit of fairness by asking all portions of the federal budget across the board to share the burden of further reductions in federal spending; and,

The Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, strongly urges each member of the Florida Congressional Delegation to commit to a continued domestic partnership. In addition, they must support the continuation of the program which has proven to be one which accomplishes the domestic goals of both Congress and counties, that is General Revenue Sharing; and,

We pledge to continue to work with Congress toward a balanced federal budget. We have already significantly increased taxes and reduced spending. We are, however, opposed to accomplishing the deficit reduction goal by a technique which requires all spending reductions to come from the domestic side alone of the federal budget.

ADOPTED this 1st day of April, 1986.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Francis M. Brubaker  
Chairman

ATTEST: CARL "BUD" MARKEL, CLERK

By: Cheryl Kent  
Deputy Clerk