

## **SCHOOL FUNDING PACKAGE**

**CONTACT: DENISE LAYNE, Executive Director  
Coalition 4 Responsible Growth, Inc. (C4RG)  
(813) 246-0485 cell**

In order to be equitable in funding our schools, a variety of sources over time is much preferred to any one source, ie., sales tax increase. Although sales tax should be reviewed and be added as part of the fair-share mix, the following also need to be implemented:

1. INCREASE SCHOOL IMPACT FEES to the amount needed as shown through a study 1 year ago – \$3,000-\$4,000 per new home. The development community is willing to accept this increase as long as it is a piece of the whole puzzle. Make the increased fees effective January 1, 2006. You will then have time to study its true effect on the overall funding needs. New growth must pay its fair share.
2. SALES TAX INCREASE only after the true assessment is made on impact from increased impact fees. We will have 5 months to study this before a referendum needs to be finalized in May/June, 2006. We may find that a smaller increase would be needed than originally thought, especially in light of below.
3. RESALE HOMES add 50% of the new students into our system. We are NOT tapping into this market. Resale homes must pay its fair share of impact.

Two ways to go:

- Prepare legislation that will allow doc stamps to be assessed on all resale homes to contribute to their impact. We still have time for the 2006 session, and the Legislative Delegation meets in December & January. This was attempted last session, but the request was for \$.50/\$1,000.
  - Amend the Impact Fee Ordinance to allow a school impact fee to be assessed on resale homes.
4. REMOVE THE COUNTY'S NO-IMPACT FEE ZONES in all areas except those with a community plan, ie. University of South Florida area.
  5. SCHOOL DISTRICT MUST PAY ITS FAIR SHARE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS. This has been borne for the most part by the tax payers and the County.

All of the above must include better coordination between jurisdictions and becoming pro-active in search for schools for the future – not just to meet our short term goals.