

Dear Chamber Members and Community Leaders,

As advocates for the business community, the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce has taken an official position in support of the City of Palm Beach Garden's ballot item for the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program. City residents will see the question for renewing this program on their August 23, 2022 ballot. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some information with you about the program and tell you why the Chamber endorses it.

In November 2012, the City's existing Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program began after being approved by Gardens' voters. Since that time, Palm Beach Gardens has only used the program for one company- United Technologies Corporation (now Carrier Corporation).

The Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program is an economic development tool that helps the City to diversify its business base by encouraging qualified industries to locate or expand in Palm Beach Gardens. They aim to attract businesses that offer higher-than-average salaries and that will have a significant, long-term impact on the local economy. In the case of UTC, the City achieved this goal when the company's decision to locate their headquarters in the City resulted in a \$148 million capital investment and the creation of 541 new jobs.

Here are some quick facts you need to know about this program:

- There is no cost or financial impact to Palm Beach Gardens taxpayers.
- If voters approve the program, any tax abatement being considering would then need to be approved by City Council at a minimum of two public meetings.
- Qualified businesses are considered on a case-by-case basis as applications are submitted; there is no pre-approved list.
- Palm Beach Gardens aims to attract businesses in the aerospace, S.T.E.M. fields, and biotech industries.

The Palm Beach North Chamber sees the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program used by the City of Palm Beach Gardens as a win-win for the business community, as well as residents of the City. Economic development tools such as these, when used responsibly, allow for a more attractive business climate, helps attract high-salary jobs and allows governments to attract targeted industries that work with their roadmap for success.

The City has used the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program very judiciously during the current schedule. We'd like to ask Palm Beach Gardens residents and businesses to support this renewal by voting YES on August 23rd!

Noel Martinez

President and CEO

Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce

REFERENDUM RENEWAL

Your support is making a difference.

Registered voters in Palm Beach Gardens will be asked to vote on renewing the City's Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program on August 23, 2022. The existing program was passed by the voters of Palm Beach Gardens in November 2012 and expires in November 2022.

The Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program is an economic development tool that helps to diversify the City's business base by encouraging qualified industries, offering higher than-average salaries, to locate or expand in Palm Beach Gardens. Each qualified business seeking ad valorem tax abatement is considered on a case-by-case basis and is voted on by the City Council at a minimum of two public meetings.

The program has been used by the City Council for one company during the current 2012-2022 period. United Technologies Corporation received an ad valorem tax abatement. The ad valorem tax abatement was vital to their decision to locate their headquarters in the City, resulting in a \$148 million capital investment and the creation of 541 new jobs. The total economic impact of that project is estimated to be \$662.4 million.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

- Allows the City to attract new businesses
- Helps attract high-salary jobs
- Gives the City an additional economic development tool
- Attracts targeted industries such as aerospace, engineering & biotech

