

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING ITEMS

DEPARTMENT: County Manager's Office **DIVISION** Steve Lee **EXT.** 5741
AUTHORIZED BY: Kevin Grace **Contact:** Sally A. Sherman **EXT** 7224

Agenda Date 0727/04 **Regular** **Consent** **Work Session** **Briefing**
Public Hearing – 1:30 **Public Hearing – 7:00**

Update

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE FUNDING

On July 7, 2004, the Board approved the participation in the legal proceedings on the Department of Juvenile Justice cost shift. On July 16, 2004, the Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Supplemental Relief was filed in the Second Judicial Circuit in Leon County by special counsel Tom Wilkes, at Gray Robinson.

The Plaintiffs include:

Florida Association of Counties, Alachua, Broward, Gilchrist, Hernando, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Leon, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pinellas and Seminole Counties.

The Dept. of Juvenile Justice cost shifts to the counties provide for shared county and state responsibility in funding pre-disposition detention costs for juveniles. **The negative impact to the County is \$1.6 Million.**

DOUBLING OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

On July 15, 2004, the Supreme Court ruled that the proposed constitutional amendment to increase the homestead exemption to \$50,000 will NOT be on the ballot in November because the summary inaccurately states that the proposed amendment will provide tax relief.

The Court's conclusion was based upon two factors:

1. The amendment will increase an exemption, which may or may not decrease taxes.
2. The amendment provides an additional exemption for less than all those who now enjoy the existing exemption.