

## South Walton Fire District Ad Valorem Tax Revenues Increase 567% In Last Eight Years

The SWFD proudly states that they have not raised the ad valorem tax rates imposed on property owners in South Walton County since the District was created. The facts show that due to the explosion in property valuations and a failure to reduce the millage rate, they now have a windfall of tax revenues that far outstrip the population growth while Walton County budget growth has been less than 150 % in the same period.

This phenomenon of large tax increases is being seen throughout the State of Florida as local government benefits from the surge in real estate valuations. If not gotten under control, double digit tax increases could easily become the norm rather than the exception. Government must be held accountable and made to justify increases that go beyond inflation and population expansion.

