

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

## **Amendment 1: Relating to Property Rights/Ineligible Aliens**

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to delete provisions authorizing the Legislature to regulate or prohibit the ownership, inheritance, disposition, and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship.

**Action Taken: Withhold until after primary elections.**

## **Amendment 2: Florida Marriage Protection Amendment**

This amendment protects marriage as the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife and provides that no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.

**Action Taken: Oppose**

## **Amendment 3: Changes And Improvements Not Affecting The Assessed Value Of Residential Real Property**

Authorizes the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit consideration of changes or improvements to residential real property which increases resistance to wind damage and installation of renewable energy source devices as factors in assessing the property's value for ad valorem taxation purposes. Effective upon adoption, repeals the existing renewable energy source device exemption no longer in effect.

**Action Taken: Oppose**

## **Amendment 4: Property Tax Exemption Of Perpetually Conserved Land; Classification And Assessment Of Land Used For Conservation**

Requires Legislature to provide a property tax exemption for real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or other perpetual conservation protections, defined by general law. Requires Legislature to provide for classification and assessment of land used for conservation purposes, and not perpetually encumbered, solely on the basis of character or use. Subjects assessment benefit to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions established by general law. Applies to property taxes beginning in 2010.

**Action Taken: Oppose**

### **Amendment 5: Eliminating State Required School Property Tax And Replacing With Equivalent State Revenues To Fund Education**

Replacing state required school property taxes with state revenues generating an equivalent hold harmless amount for schools through one or more of the following options: repealing sales tax exemptions not specifically excluded; increasing sales tax rate up to one percentage point; spending reductions; other revenue options created by the legislature. Limiting subject matter of laws granting future exemptions. Limiting annual increases in assessment of non-homestead real property. Lowering property tax millage rate for schools.

**Action Taken: Oppose**

### **Amendment 6: Assessment Of Working Waterfront Property Based Upon Current Use.**

Provides for assessment based upon use of land used predominantly for commercial fishing purposes; land used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable and accessible to the public; marinas and dry stacks that are open to the public; and water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities, subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified by general law.

**Action Taken: Oppose**

### **Amendment 7: Religious Freedom**

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide that an individual or entity may not be barred from participating in any public program because of religion and to delete the prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

**Action Taken: Oppose**

### **Amendment 8: Local Option Community College Funding**

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require that the Legislature authorize counties to levy a local option sales tax to supplement community college funding; requiring voter approval to levy the tax; providing that approved taxes will sunset after 5 years and may be reauthorized by the voters.

**Action Taken: No Endorsement**

### **Amendment 9: Requiring 65 Percent Of School Funding For Classroom Instruction; State's Duty For Children's Education**

Requires at least 65 percent of school funding received by school districts be spent on classroom instruction, rather than administration; allows for differences in administrative expenditures by district. Provides the constitutional requirement for the state to provide a "uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools" is a minimum, nonexclusive duty. Reverses legal precedent prohibiting public funding of private school alternatives to public school programs without creating an entitlement.

**Action Taken: Oppose**