



Below please find information regarding the Proposed Constitutional Amendments from The Florida Chamber and Florida TaxWatch.

The *Florida Chamber of Commerce* and the *Florida Farm Bureau* have published an ***Election Guide*** for the 2010 General Elections.

Go to this link to view the Election guide:

<https://www.communicationsmgr.com/projects/1377/docs/FLChamberVotersGuide2010.pdf>

The information below is from the Election Guide:

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Introduction

In 2010, voters will see six new proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot. In August 2010, three amendments (Amendments 3, 7 and 9) were removed from the ballot by the Florida Supreme Court due to unclear ballot language.

The Florida Chamber has two requirements that must be met in order for a proposed amendment to have its support. First, the amendment must apply to the fundamental operation and process of government. If the first requirement is met, the amendment must also be in the best interest of businesses and citizens in order to gain Florida Chamber support.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirements

Official Ballot Summary: This amendment proposes the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution that requires public financing of campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

Sponsor: Florida Legislature

Our View: The Florida Chamber has **NO POSITION** on this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

Homestead Ad Valorem Tax Credit For Deployed Military Personnel

Official Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require the Legislature to provide an additional homestead property tax exemption by law for members of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard who receive a homestead exemption and were deployed in the previous year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the Legislature. The exempt amount will be based upon the number of days in the previous calendar year that the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the Legislature. The amendment is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2011.

Sponsor: Florida Legislature

Our View: The Florida Chamber has **NO POSITION** on this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

Referenda Required For Adoption and Amendment of Local Government Comprehensive Land Use Plans

Official Ballot Summary: Establishes that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, the proposed plan or amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum, following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body and notice. Provides definitions.

Sponsor: Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc.

Our View: The Florida Chamber **OPPOSES** this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

Standards for Legislature to Follow in Legislative Redistricting

Official Ballot Summary: Legislative districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

Sponsor: Fair Districts Florida.org

Our View: The Florida Chamber **OPPOSES** this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 6

Standards for Legislature to Follow in Congressional Redistricting

Official Ballot Summary: Congressional districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

Sponsor: Fair Districts Florida.org

Our View: The Florida Chamber **OPPOSES** this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 8

Revision of the Class Size Requirements for Public Schools

Official Ballot Summary: The Florida Constitution currently limits the maximum number of students assigned to each teacher in public school classrooms in the following grade groupings: for prekindergarten through grade 3, 18 students; for grades 4 through 8, 22 students; and for grades 9 through 12, 25 students. Under this amendment, the current limits on the maximum number of students assigned to each teacher in public school classrooms would become limits on the average number of students assigned per class to each teacher, by specified grade grouping, in each public school. This amendment also adopts new limits on the maximum number of students assigned to each teacher in an individual classroom as follows: for prekindergarten through grade 3, 21 students; for grades 4 through 8, 27 students; and for grades 9 through 12, 30 students. This amendment specifies that class size limits do not apply to virtual classes, requires the Legislature to provide sufficient funds to maintain the average number of students required by this amendment, and schedules these revisions to take effect upon approval by the electors of this state and to operate retroactively to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

Sponsor: Florida Legislature

Our View: The Florida Chamber **SUPPORTS** this amendment.

NOTE: Amendments 3, 7 and 9 were removed from the ballot by the Florida Supreme Court.

From Florida TaxWatch:

Florida TaxWatch Voter Guide to the Proposed Constitutional Amendments on the November 2, 2010 Ballot

On November 2, 2010, Floridians will vote on six proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution, three of which directly affect taxation and spending policies. In an effort to promote citizen understanding and help voters make a more informed decision on these important issues, Florida TaxWatch has published a new Florida TaxWatch Briefing, Voter

Guide to the Proposed Constitutional Amendments on the November 2, 2010 Ballot, explaining and analyzing three of the six amendments.

Go to this link to access Florida TaxWatch Voter Guide:

<http://www.floridataxwatch.org/resources/pdf/09212010VoterGuide.pdf>

Florida Transportation Builders' Association, Inc.

www.ftba.com

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