

SPB 7086/ HB 7089: Voting Rights Restoration

This bill endangers voting rights!

This bill places additional parameters on the November 2018 ballot initiative to restore the rights of reformed felons in the state of Florida. Amendment 4 was voted into law by the people of Florida. The amendment excluded felons convicted of murder or sexual offenses, but did not specifically define those terms. The legislature may legally define these terms, but they are not required by law to define them.

What is the purpose of SPB 7086 / HB 7089?

- ▶ This bill establishes definitions of "murder" and "felony sexual offense" as they relate to exemption from Amendment 4 and defines "completion of all terms of sentence."
- ▶ This bill also establishes the Restoration of Voting Rights Work Group within the Department of State for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of the process of verifying registered voters, applicants, or potential applicants who have been convicted of a felony but who may be eligible for restoration of voting rights.
- ▶ The bill requires the Department of Corrections to inform inmates and offenders of voting rights restoration, in addition to executive clemency and restoration civil rights.
- ▶ The bill requires the Department of Corrections and county detention facilities to notify specified persons of all outstanding terms of the sentence and to assist the inmate in determining his or her status with regard to the completion of all terms of sentence.

How would SPB 7086 / HB 7089 work?

- ▶ Felons would have to pay all restitution before their voting rights could be automatically restored.
- ▶ This bill redefines the terms "sexual offense" and "murder" to exclude potential voters.

What do people say about SPB 7086 / HB 7089?

- ▶ Social workers in Florida supported and actively advocated for the passage of Amendment 4.
- ▶ It is estimated that over 1.5 million Florida residents or 8% of Florida's voting age population is disenfranchised because of felony convictions, and this disproportionately impacts our lower-income and minority communities.
- ▶ About 23% of black persons age 18 years or older in Florida are disenfranchised because of a felony record, and that accounts for nearly one in five African American males in the state. Consequently, disadvantaged communities have less power to elect officials who will represent their social justice interests.

Vote NO on SPB 7086 / HB 7089!