



FEA Voter Guide

Your union recommends the following votes on the 2018 Florida constitutional amendments



AMENDMENT	WE RECOMMEND	DESCRIPTION
Amendment 1: Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption	✗ OPPOSE	Would increase the portion of a home's value that's exempted from non-school property taxes. The changes would apply to the value of a home between \$100,000 and \$125,000 with the maximum exemption climbing to \$75,000. Amendment 1 is a tax shift; not a tax cut. The increased exemption is regressive and will be unfair as some homeowners, plus renters and non-homestead property owners, will not benefit. Florida is already a low-tax state and the exemption will either diminish public services or shift taxes to others.
Amendment 2: Permanent Cap on Non-homestead Parcel Assessment Increases	NO POSITION	Would limit increases to assessment rates to 10-percent per year. Secures an existing cap on non-homestead property assessments.
Amendment 3: Voter Approval for Casino Gambling	NO POSITION	Would provide voters with the "exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling" and expansions in the state. Both the state legislature and the voters currently have the authority to authorize casino gambling through constitutional amendment.
Amendment 4: Restoration of Voting Rights for Individuals with Felony Convictions	✓ SUPPORT	Would restore the right to vote for people with prior felony convictions upon completion of their sentences. It would exclude those convicted of murder and felony sexual offenses.
Amendment 5: Increase to Two-Thirds Vote Majority in Legislature to Increase Taxes	✗ OPPOSE	Would increase the majority needed in the state Legislature to two-thirds to impose, approve or raise taxes. It would also mean it would take only a third of members in either the House or Senate to block tax increases or repeal exemptions. The amendment will apply regardless of economic conditions or state needs. Will hamstring future generations by making it almost impossible to raise additional state revenue. More of the burden of services will be shifted to local governments. Will allow further reductions in taxes or additional exemptions. This was on the ballot in 2012 but was not approved by the voters.
Amendment 6: Rights of Crime Victims, Increase Judge Retirement Age, and Interpreting Statutes	NO POSITION	Would add a list of rights for crime victims, known as a Marsy's Law. The other two aspects of this measure would increase the retirement age for judges to 75 and would prohibit judges from deferring to administrative agencies' interpretations of a law when ruling in cases.
Amendment 7: First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits, and Public Colleges and Universities	✗ OPPOSE	Would require employers to provide benefits to surviving spouses of first responders if they die on duty, and it would require the state to provide benefits to surviving spouses of active-duty military members who are killed. The last parts of the measure would require university trustees to agree by a third-thirds supermajority to raise college fees and establish the state college system in the state Constitution. Universities are currently in the Constitution, but state colleges (community colleges) are not. This amendment combines unrelated issues. Supermajority for university fee increases ties the hands of colleges and doesn't belong in the Constitution.
Amendment 9: Prohibition of Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Prohibition of Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces	NO POSITION	Would ban offshore drilling for oil and natural gas on all lands beneath state waters. The measure also bans the use of vapor-generating electronic devices, including electronic cigarettes, in indoor workplaces.
Amendment 10: State and Local Government Structure and Operation	NO POSITION	Would add a state Department of Veterans Affairs and create a state office of Domestic Security and Counter-terrorism. The measure would also require the Legislature session to start in January rather than March in even-numbered years. Lastly, the measure includes a proposal that would require five county-level offices to be elected statewide: sheriffs, tax collectors, property appraisers, supervisors of elections and clerks of circuit court. Many counties already elect these positions.
Amendment 11: Repeal of Prohibition of Foreign-Born Persons Owning Property, Removal of Obsolete High-Speed Rail Provision, and Revision of the Effect of a Repeal of a Criminal Statute	NO POSITION	Would do away with the prohibition against foreign-born persons from owning, inheriting, disposing or possessing property. The measure removes a provision that stated a high-speed rail system be developed in Florida and revises a provision on criminal prosecution so that it's clear that repealing a criminal statute does not retroactively affect the prosecution of a previously-committed crime.
Amendment 12: Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers	NO POSITION	Expands restrictions on lobbying for compensation by former public officers, creates restrictions on lobbying by current public officers and prohibits certain abuse of public office for personal benefit.
Amendment 13: Ban on Racing and Betting on Dog Racing	NO POSITION	The measure would prohibit the racing of and betting on greyhounds and other dogs after a specified date.