



Recently the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee came together to discuss our recommendations for the following amendments which will be on the November 2010 ballot. Below are our recommendations.

AMENDMENT #2

HOMESTEAD AD VALOREM TAX CREDIT FOR DEPLOYED MILITARY PERSONNEL

BALLOT SUMMARY: A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 3 of 2 Article VII and the creation of Section 31 of Article XII 3 of the State Constitution to provide an additional 4 homestead property tax exemption for members of the 5 military who receive a homestead exemption and were 6 deployed on active duty outside the United States during 7 the preceding year and provide an effective date.

Those in Favor

"The property tax credit proposed by SJR 1302 and HJR 833 would serve to help military families when one or more family members are deployed overseas, especially during these trying economic times," the resolution states.

Committee Recommendation: SUPPORT

AMENDMENT #4

REFERENDA REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE LANDUSE PLANS

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.

Those opposed

[Citizens for Lower Taxes and a Stronger Economy](#) is the main organization leading the effort in opposition to Amendment 4. Over 265 statewide business, labor, and environmental organizations, including the [Florida Chamber of Commerce](#) and [1,000 Friends of Florida](#), have expressed opposition to Amendment 4. These groups say that Amendment 4 will make Florida's recession permanent by increasing taxes and contributing to unemployment. Mark Wilson, President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce said, "If you like the recession, you'll love Amendment 4."

Committee Recommendation: OPPOSE

AMENDMENT #5

STANDARDS FOR LEGISLATURE TO FOLLOW IN LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

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.

Arguments against Haridopolos said passage of Amendments 5 & 6 will increase the chance of legal challenges to future redistricting plans, resulting in the courts, not the Legislature, deciding how districts are redrawn. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling may also have an impact. In 2009 the court ruled in a North Carolina case that the only election districts entitled to certain federal Civil Rights Act protections meant to preserve and ensure minority voting power are those districts in which minorities make up at least half of the voting-age population. Combined with the new restrictions under Amendments 5 & 6, the critics argue, that ruling could affect districts with less than a 50-percent minority voting block that traditionally elect minority candidates.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

AMENDMENT #6
STANDARDS FOR LEGISLATURE TO FOLLOW IN CONGRESSIONAL
REDISTRICTING

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.

Committee Recommendation: OPPOSE

TRANSPORTATION HILLSBOROUGH REFERENDUM

BALLOT SUMMARY: The Commission also finalized an Interlocal Agreement that sets out how the money will be divided among the County, the cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City, and the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority. It also finalized an Ordinance that would govern the use of the proposed Tax.

Additionally after public input at nine meetings in February and additional discussion, the County Commission finalized the list of road projects that would be funded by the 25% portion of the proposed Transportation Tax. The final public hearing was held in May 2010 when the County Commission officially approved placing the Transportation Tax Referendum on the ballot in November 2010.

Committee Recommendation: SUPPORT