



## **Voting Restoration Amendment**

### *Basic Talking Points*

- In Florida more than 1.5 million people are permanently denied the right to vote because of a past criminal conviction.
- Florida is one of only three states (Florida, Iowa, and Kentucky) with a lifetime ban on voting after a person is convicted of a felony.
- This amendment updates our criminal justice system to match the standards in other states, so that after a person convicted of a felony completes all terms of their sentence — including parole or probation — they earn their rights back.
- Americans believe in second chances and that people should be able to earn forgiveness.
- Restoring a person's right to vote gives them an opportunity for redemption and a chance to become full members of their community.
- People who commit a serious crime should be punished and have their voting rights removed. But once they've completed all terms of their sentence, restoring rights will give these citizens a chance to become responsible members of society.
- Law enforcement agrees that restoring voting rights gives people a stake in their communities and reduces the chances of reoffending.
- In fact, studies by the Florida Parole Commission show that people returning from prison who can vote are less likely to commit crimes in the future.
- By helping people become responsible citizens, we create safer communities and save taxpayers money by keeping people from returning to prison.
- This amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case-by-case basis.