



## BALLOT AMENDMENTS 2018

**A1. TAXES** – Increases the amount of a home’s value exempted from property tax.

(LP\* = **OPPOSE**: The League has a position that “NO TAX SOURCES OR REVENUE SHOULD BE SPECIFIED, LIMITED, EXEMPTED, OR PROHIBITED in the Constitution”. In the event of hardship or emergency there is no accessible revenue to draw from to assist the community.)

**A2. TAXES** – Makes the cap on non-homestead parcel assessment increases permanent

(LP\* = **OPPOSE**: (Same reason as Amendment 1)

**A3. Gambling** – Requires voter approval of casino gambling – barring the Legislature from making gambling decisions by passing laws.

(LP\* = **SUPPORT**: It restricts casino gambling and allows Florida voters to make any decisions regarding increases of casino gambling with LEAGUE position against gambling. This Amendment is also supported by NO CASINOS, INC. and Disney.)

**A4. Suffrage**: Automatically restores the right to vote for people with prior felony convictions upon completion of their sentences, except for those who committed murder or sex offenses

(LP\* = **SUPPORTS**: The LEAGUE was one of the sponsors of this initiative. Florida is one of the only four states that permanently bars felons from voting after their sentences are completed. This restriction on voting is a vestige of Florida’s post-Civil War Constitution. Everyone deserves a second chance.)

**A5. Legislature**- Requires a 2/3 vote of legislature to impose or increase tax or fee

(LP\* - **OPPOSE**: as in 2012 when a similar amendment was on the ballot, this amendment does not include a provision that would allow for tax increases in time of emergencies (hurricanes, floods, recession, etc.) and is an abrogation of the Legislature’s fiduciary responsibility to pass a reasonable budget.)

**A6. JUDICIARY** – **A)** Adds Marsy’s Law to state constitution which makes changes to the state’s law about victim rights; **B)** Increases judicial retirement age to 75; **C)** Prohibits judges from deferring to administrative agencies in interpreting law

(LP\* = **OPPOSE**: **A)** Victims’ rights are already protected in the Constitution and this amendment would eliminate an existing provision that victims’ rights DO NOT interfere with the constitutional rights of the ACCUSED. Because of this, we oppose the whole amendment. )

**A7. EDUCATION**- **A)** Requires death benefits for first responders and military; **B)** Creates a supermajority requirement for universities to impose new or increase existing student fees; **C)** Adds in the Constitution guidelines for the State College System



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(LP\* = **OPPOSE**: **A**) Family members of the military who die in the line of service are already compensated through the federal government; **B**) We oppose a supermajority vote to increase fees and taxes – Because of these two things, we oppose the **WHOLE** Amendment)

### **A8: Removed from Ballot**

**A9: ENVIRONMENT**: **A**) Bans offshore oil and gas drilling beneath all waters controlled by Florida; **B**) Prohibits vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces

(LP\* = **SUPPORT**: Our concern for the Environment overrides our concern about putting vaping in the Constitution, for this reason we support the whole Amendment.)

**A10. ADMIN. Of GOV'T**: **A**) Prohibits counties from abolishing certain local offices; **B**) Changes start dates of legislative sessions; **C**) ADDS an executive office and executive department to constitution

(LP\* = **OPPOSE**: **A**) This limits **LOCAL** governments from deciding on the elections of county officers **B**) adds an unnecessary provision as the Constitution already has the power to set dates during even number years; **C**) FDLE is already the lead agency in coordinating efforts to prevent terrorism, and the Constitution already has authorized the Legislature to create a Department of Veteran's Affairs. This amendment is clearly an effort to restrict the powers of local government.)

**A11. ADMIN. Of GOV'T**: **A**) Repeals the state's ability to prohibit non-citizens from buying, owning, and selling property; **B**) Deletes a provision that forces the state to prosecute criminal suspects under a law that has become obsolete; **C**) Deletes obsolete language regarding high speed rail in Florida

(LP\* = **NO POSITION**: )

**A12. GOV'T ACC**: Prohibits public officials from lobbying for compensation while in office and six year thereafter

(LP\* = **NO POSITION**: Although there is need for lobbying reform, we felt that six years might be onerous, and this amendment does not address the real issue regarding lobbying, which is the impact of money in political campaigns)

**A13. GAMBLING**: Bans wagering on any type of dog racing by December 31,2020

(LP\* = **SUPPORT**: This is primarily a gambling issue and the League has held a consistent position against gambling)

\* League Position

