

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE NOVEMBER 4 BALLOT

**1. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to delete provisions authorizing the Legislature to regulate or prohibit the ownership, inheritance, disposition and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship.

**2. FLORIDA MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT:** This amendment protects marriage as the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife and provides that no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.

*(Ed. Yes, it's the hot button one.)*

**3. CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS NOT AFFECTING THE ASSESSED VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY:** Authorizes the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit consideration of changes or improvements to residential real property which increase resistance to wind damage and installation of renewable energy source devices as factors in assessing the property's value for ad valorem taxation purposes. Effective upon adoption, repeals the existing renewable energy source device exemption no longer in effect.

**4. PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OF PERPETUALLY CONSERVED LAND; CLASSIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF LAND USED FOR CONSERVATION:** Requires Legislature to provide a property tax exemption for real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or other perpetual conservation protections, defined by general law. Requires Legislature to provide for classification and assessment of land used for conservation purposes, and not perpetually encumbered, solely on the basis of character or use. Subjects assessment benefit to conditions, limitation, and reasonable definitions established by general law. Applies to property taxes beginning in 2010.

*(Ed. This is the one supported by the Florida Wildlife Federation, among others, and reflects our longstanding past positions regarding the importance of conservation.)*

**6. ASSESSMENT OF WORKING WATERFRONT PROPERTY BASED UPON CURRENT USE:** Provides for assessment based upon use of land used predominately for commercial fishing purposes; land used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable and accessible to the public; marinas and drystacks that are open to the public; and water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities, subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified by general law.

*(Ed. The Broward Coalition agrees with most property appraisers that the best practice is to appraise property at its current use; that practice, which this issue requires for waterfront property, is the fairest way to treat property owners.)*

**8. LOCAL OPTION COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require that the Legislature authorize counties to level a local option sales tax to supplement community college funding; requiring voter approval to levy the tax; providing that approved taxes will sunset after 5 years and may be reauthorized by the voters.