



The Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Opposes Amendment 4

(Approved by the Board of Directors, April 2010)

Every small business, working family, teacher, health care provider, community leader, elected official, and mainstream environmentalist - every Florida voter - needs to know that our unique quality-of-life is at stake with Amendment 4. For the following reasons, the Great Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has taken a position opposing Amendment 4:

- **THE DISRUPTION** of local communities and the daily lives of Floridians will be extraordinary. Cities and counties will be required to hold elections for each proposed comprehensive plan change - not just major projects, but even minor technical details. In the last four years alone, this amendment would have required an average of over 10,599 additional local votes per year in Florida. In fact, had Amendment 4 been in place in 2006, the voters of Carrabelle - a small Franklin County town - would have seen 617 separate questions in a single ballot!
- **THE DISORDER** will further disenfranchise Florida's already-fatigued electorate. Voters will be deluged with highly technical background materials prepared by the local government planning staff. The legalese of proposed comprehensive plan changes, often puzzling for expert engineers and attorneys, will further dampen voter turnout. Lines at voting booths will grow as Floridians attempt the virtual impossibility of voting on hundreds of separate and often confusing ballot questions.
- **THE COST** will be astronomical. Every city and county in Florida will be burdened with the time and cost of holding additional elections to vote on proposed changes to comprehensive land use plans. Each of these elections will be costly. And with smarter growth stalled, Florida's robust economy will taper off to a recession while property taxes skyrocket to pay the bills.
- **THE RESULT** will be a system that is far worse, not better. That's why respected environmental leaders refuse to support the amendment. They know this amendment will not put a stop to all development, but will make well-planned, smarter growth impossible - thereby encouraging sprawl that reduces green space and makes effective growth management unachievable.

RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OPPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION THAT WOULD FORCE VOTERS TO DECIDE ALL CHANGES TO A CITY OR COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is experiencing an unprecedented recession; and

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WHEREAS, the State of Florida’s unemployment rate continues to climb and is among the highest in our nation; and

WHEREAS, attracting new jobs and new businesses to the State of Florida is essential to the future recovery and prosperity of the state and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 4 seeks to place a constitutional amendment before Florida’s voters to amend Article II, Section 7, of the Florida Constitution, (Title: REFERENDA REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANS); and

WHEREAS, Amendment 4 creates a time-consuming and costly process for businesses locating or expanding in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 4 will impede efforts to grow and diversify Florida’s economy; and

WHEREAS, a major economic study indicates that Amendment 4 is likely to lead to over 260,000 lost jobs in Florida; and

WHEREAS, this amendment will result in added costs to our local governments, weakened public services and heavier burdens on Florida taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the small Pinellas county town of St. Pete Beach adopted a local version of Amendment 4 in 2006; and

WHEREAS, this local version of Amendment 4 resulted in higher taxes, fewer jobs and endless litigation at taxpayer expense; and

WHEREAS, due to sustained job loss, stifled job creation and a loss of economic vitality, Amendment 4 will cause the standard of living of all Florida residents to decline, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GREATER HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT:

Section 1. The Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce hereby strongly opposes the proposed Constitutional Amendment 4, which poses a grave threat to Florida’s unique quality of life, the stability of its communities, and the prosperity of its economy.

Section 2. The Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce recommends defeat of Constitutional Amendment 4.

Section 3. The Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce urges citizens to vote “NO” on Amendment 4 when it appears on the ballot.



This statement was developed by the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors and represents the considered judgment of a group of Chamber members. The Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce is an organization established in 1926 to advocate and advance the local business community’s interests and views.

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