



Florida Constitutional Amendment 4 – Local Land Use

The Charlotte County League of Women Voters asked residents to take a short survey about this proposed Constitutional Amendment that will appear on the November ballot. An explanation of the Amendment along with supporters and opponents viewpoints were published in an OpEd article that appeared in the Charlotte Sun.

There were 121 individuals who responded to 5 questions using a 5-point Likert Scale where 1 is Strongly Agree; 2 is Agree; 3 is Neither Agree nor Disagree; 4 is Disagree and 5 is Strongly Disagree. Below are the results of the survey along with numerous comments. The results will be shared with the League of Women Voters of Florida to help inform their decision to oppose or support the Amendment.

Questions:

1. The League of Women Voters of Florida should support this Constitutional Amendment. Rating Score – 4.6
2. Citizens should vote on changes to master land use plans. Rating Score 4.4
3. Adopting Amendment 4 will be good for Florida. Rating Score 4.6
4. Adopting Amendment 4 will be good for Charlotte County. Rating Score 4.5
5. I need more information to make an informed decision at the polls. Rating Score 4.3

Comments

Admendment 4 must be defeated. We have representative government. If we don't like how our representatives vote then we should vote them out but let's not vote to do their work. Admendment 4 will destroy our ability to get anything done and it will be very costly.	Anonymous
This amendment will be devastating for local community budgets. You only have to look at the \$800,000 in legal fees the City of St. Pete Beach incurred during the short time they had a similar referendum pass in their town. It was repealed during the last election.	Anonymous
Vote No on Amendment 4	Anonymous
An at-large vote for these types of items adds no value to the process. The voter turnout for elected officials is already low. Adding Amendment 4 will just bog down an already slow process and leave further important decisions with the vocal minority. The US system of government is already set up so the elected officials are the designated decision makers. If the people don't like the decisions why do they keep re-electing the same officials?	Anonymous
Passage of this amendment will cripple any efforts to accomplish anything in this county! This is BAD for Charlotte County!	Anonymous
I am a City Commissioner with St Pete Beach. I would be glad to share my perspective on the impact this type of amendment has had on our city and on our residents. Regards, James Parent	Anonymous
This amendment will stifle the development of Charlotte Co., as well as Florida at large. Citizens should have a stake in their community, but misinformed citizens can make disastrous decisions that will hurt the community for many years to come. Let development decisions be left to the government and professional individuals who know whats best for the local and state economies, not disgruntled liberal citizens.	Anonymous
Citizen have always had the opportunity to be involved in their community's Future Land Use Plans and Policies.	Anonymous

Unfortunately, as long as it is not in their backyard, they do not care. Too bad. Amendment 4 is NOT the fix!

Admendment 4 is an overbearing response to public government and the legislature not taking action on important items. Citizens should demand their elected leaders be held accountable for budgets, land use changes and planning departments should be seperated from the political process. Planning professionals have the best knowledge and expertise if not influenced by outside political rheteric. Anonymous

This admendment is not the answer. govt reform and legislative action is needed to control growth.

Florida's aquifer cannot sustain the growth. We do not need another California with increased fire disasters and cost. It is plain and simple we are drying up the state. Vote yes on amendment 4 it's a no brainer. Especially since the passing of Senate bill 360. The bill was passed in anticipation of the passing of Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment 4. All comprehensive plans are long range plans. All is this amendment does is makes it neccessary for commissioners to be accountable. Anonymous

The founding fathers of this country decided on a representative democracy in which we elect citizens to represent us in government. They are tasked with making decisions that are in the best interest of the citizens. This amendmets defies the intent of the founding fathers. If one does not like the decisions of the elected officials then they should be voted out of office. Anonymous

Do we really want to put every land use discussion on the ballot to allow emotion and prejudice to prevail. It will become a dog & pony show and the side with the best marketing agency will win versus a compresentive plan directing growth and land use. This is not a good amendment for Floridians ! Anonymous

The burden that will be placed on our local government, the entity using the modification process the most, would also place a financial burden on the citizens of Charlotte County and increase costs to the consumer at the end of the day. Anonymous

It is clear to me that land use changes and amendmets to comprehensive plans are driven by a few selected land use attorneys and consultants on behalf of their paying clients....clients who benefit financially from the changes. What is good for all of the people of Charlotte County is always, always dismissed no matter how many voices are raised at Planning and Zoning Meetings or CCBOCC meetings. Also, this kind of planning is consistantly bad for protecting our natural resources and water. Anonymous

I have watched this movement grow over the past 2-3 years and am very familiar with it. Having seen many undesirable changes as a 60 year long resident of Florida I agree with this amendment. Anonymous

Developers don't care about the community, just their profit, yet they have more influence with the commissioners and other politicians who currently make all land use decisions. It is time to place the authority for land use decisions with the people who live there. Anonymous

Seems that first we spend time and money to come up with a master plan, only to have outside developers come here looking for variances so they can make a quick buck and leave us, usually in a mess. It is "our" state and county and we should be able to have a say on what goes on in it. Too often, the public cannot trust the politicians to do what is right for the general public. We all know there are "gains" to be made in variances. Anonymous

Amendment 4 would be extremely costly to tax payers and detrimental to responsible growth! Anonymous

The type of zoning most often seen is based on post WWII guidelines and promotes sprawl,housing discrimination and poor usage of green space. My experience has been that those groups involved in master planning are loaded on the side of developers and others with special interests. I think there should be mandatory percentages that result in a cross section of citizen interests. Because of my experience in GA with preservation as well as zoning I strongly suggest an overlay system be developed. Anonymous

Anonymous