



September 9, 2010

## League Victory: Florida Supreme Court Strikes Amendments 3, 7, & 9 from November Ballot

September 9th, the Florida Supreme Court decided to affirm lower courts' decisions to **strike Amendments 3, 7, and 9 from the November ballot**. The League officially opposed all three amendments, and participated in the suit against Amendment 7, so their removal is a significant victory for the League and voters throughout Florida. The Court also rejected a challenge to Amendments 5 and 6, which cements their place on the ballot.

### Amendment 3

Property tax limit for non-homestead property: additional homestead exemption for new homestead owners

The League opposed Amendment 3, and we agree with the Court's decision to remove it from the ballot.

The Court struck down Amendment 3, which would have provided additional tax breaks to first-time home buyers, because the summary did not include details about the tax break.

### Amendment 7

Standards for Legislature to follow in legislative and congressional redistricting

The League opposed Amendment 7 because it would nullify Amendments 5 and 6 and prevent Fair Districts in Florida. LWVF joined the NAACP and Democracia Ahora in a lawsuit to remove Amendment 7 from the ballot.

The Court tossed out Amendment 7 because the language failed to inform voters that the amendment, if passed, could allow lawmakers to form districts that are not contiguous.

### Amendment 9

#### Health Care Freedom

The League opposed Amendment 9 because it appeared to create a clash between federal and state law. The Florida League supports measures to implement Florida health care reform in a manner consistent with LWVUS' support of federal health care reform.

The Court removed Amendment 9, which related to federal health care reform, because the ballot summary was misleading. The Legislature then asked to have the whole amendment put on the ballot instead of the summary, which the Court ruled was unprecedented. The Court stated that it did not have the authority to substitute language that 3/5 of the members of the Legislature voted to put on the ballot.

To read the Supreme Court's full decisions, [click here](#).

The League could not be more pleased with the Court's decisions and hopes that the removal of Amendments 3, 7, and 9 will mean a more straightforward and fair General Election for Florida voters. Stay tuned for more updates during this exciting election season!

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