

Florida Family Policy Council  
**VOTER GUIDE**



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# 2012 Florida State Constitutional Amendment Educational Guide

<p><b>Amendment 1</b> Health Care Services</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 1 would prevent Florida's citizens from being forced by the federal or state government to purchase health insurance as mandated by the Affordable Care Act a/k/a Obama Care. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 1 would allow the Federal government to require citizens to purchase health insurance or be charged a fee/tax for failure to do so.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 2</b> Veterans Disabled Due to Combat Injury; Homestead Property Tax Discount</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 2 would give the existing homestead tax exemption to disabled veterans who were not Florida residents at the time of entering military service. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 2 would leave the exemption and tax discount unavailable to some veterans and available to others.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 3</b> State Government Revenue Limitation</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 3 places limits on the growth of state government revenue by tying revenue increases to the increase of the state's population while accounting for inflation. This is a form of baseline budgeting could possibly create a "more restrictive" form of taxation. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 3 would allow the state budget to grow based on revenue, not population rates and needs.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 4</b> Property Tax Limitations; Property Value Decline</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 4 would provide broad-based property tax relief for Floridians by repealing the recapture rule so that property taxes don't increase when property values fall. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 4 would leave tax structure decisions to the Legislature.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 5</b> State Courts</p>	<p>A vote <b>YES</b> on Amendment 5 would require the Florida Senate to vote to confirm or reject a gubernatorial appointment to the state Supreme Court and would allow the Legislature to repeal statewide judicial rules adopted by the Supreme Court by a simple majority vote instead of a two-thirds vote. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 5 would keep the status quo of selection of Supreme Court Justices solely in the hands of the Governor with no approval by the elected representatives in the Legislature.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 6</b> Prohibition on Public Funding of Abortions; Construction of Abortion Rights</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 6 would allow for minor children to be required to get parents' permission before obtaining an abortion; would prohibit taxpayer's dollars from going to fund abortion and would restrict Florida's constitutional right to privacy in matters related to abortion. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 6 would allow Florida's current information privacy right to be construed by courts as a right to abortion for minor children as has been done in the past</p>
<p><b>Amendment 7 has been removed from the ballot</b></p>	
<p><b>Amendment 8</b> Religious Liberty</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 8 would stop the government from discriminating against churches and religious organizations by allowing them to receive public funding to provide secular services such as medical care, foster care, feeding the poor and child care services. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 8 would continue to prohibit churches and religious groups from having the option of applying for public funding to perform secular services.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 9</b> Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Military Veteran or First Responder</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote for Amendment 9 would grant full homestead property tax relief to surviving spouses of veterans and first responders who die in the line of duty. A <b>NO</b> vote for Amendment 9: Opponents argue a yes vote contributes to the erosion of the tax revenues necessary for schools and local governments to function.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 10</b> Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote for Amendment 10 would allow cities and counties to grant additional tangible personal property tax exemptions on certain tangible personal property (furniture, fixtures, machinery, tools, shelving, signs and equipment. Would reduce local property tax revenues across the state by an estimated \$61 million combined over the first three years it is implemented. A <b>NO</b> vote for Amendment 10: Opponents argue that it will drastically reduce the tax base local governments depend on to provide basic services.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 11:</b> Additional Homestead Exemption; Low-Income Seniors Who Maintain Long-Term Residency on Property; Equal to Assessed Value</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 11 would provide assistance to elderly residents on fixed incomes by allowing local governments to grant property tax discount can help elderly residents to pay for medical bills and stay in their own homes as they age. A <b>NO</b> Vote for Amendment 11: Opponents argue the measure contributes to the erosion of the tax base necessary for schools and local governments to function.</p>
<p><b>Amendment 12</b> Appointment of Student Body President to Board of Governors of the State University System</p>	<p>A <b>YES</b> vote on Amendment 12 would replace the president of the Florida Student Association as a member of the Board of Governors of the State University System and replace them with the statewide chairman of the council of student body presidents. A <b>NO</b> vote on Amendment 12 would push this issue back to the Legislature to handle, and leave it susceptible to the will of future legislatures rather than amending our Constitution.</p>