

# OPPOSING IS THE ONLY CHOICE



**TO PROTECT YOUR VOICE!**

## 2020 Constitutional Amendment No. 4 A Brazen Attempt to Silence Florida Voters

[Number 4](#) on this year's ballot would undermine the voice and power of all Floridians, limiting our ability to participate directly in our democracy and providing more power to the legislature in Tallahassee. Number 4 would force voters to vote, not once, but TWICE, to pass a ballot initiative. Once an amendment passes by 60% voter approval in one election, it would have to appear on a second ballot and again be approved by 60% of voters.

Florida already has one of the toughest ballot initiative processes in the country. Amendment 4 would make this already difficult process even harder. There are lots of reasons to VOTE NO ON 4.

**1** Number 4 is a callous attempt to take power away from ordinary citizens and give it to Tallahassee politicians, lobbyists and big-money special interest groups. It is the latest in a succession of efforts to make it virtually impossible to pass citizen petition initiatives in Florida.

**2** Citizen groups can usually barely afford to run one campaign, much less two. The obvious intent of Number 4 is to stop citizen groups from ever trying to run an amendment campaign.

**3** Number 4 essentially gives well-funded amendment opponents an unfair "do over" every time voters approve an amendment.

**4** Florida would become the only state in America with a requirement to get 60% of the vote twice in order to pass a constitutional amendment. Our state already has the most difficult margin of passage and the most difficult ballot access for citizen measures. This would make it virtually impossible for citizens to have the final say.

**5** Number 4 is an insult to voters, as though we are not sure we got it right the first time.

**6** Number 4 will nearly double the number of proposals that will be on each ballot, adding to the length and complexity of the ballot. Since 1968, 80% of the amendments that [made it to the ballot](#) are placed there by legislators or their appointees (on [Constitution Revision Commissions](#) or [Taxation and Budget Reform Commissions](#)), so these legislative referred amendments will continue to be put forward, even if there are no citizen initiatives.

**No. 4 would force voters to vote not once, but TWICE on any constitutional amendment.**

**7** The added length and complexity of the ballot will lead to increased election costs, as determined by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference and which is mentioned in the [Financial Impact Statement](#). Longer ballots will mean more postage required for future users of mail-in ballots.

**8** The entire reason why the Florida Constitution had to be completely re-written in 1968 was because it had become virtually impossible to amend unless a handful of powerful legislators in Tallahassee agreed to place an amendment on the ballot. To avoid this type of constitutional gridlock in the future, the 1968 constitution created the citizen initiative process and the Constitution Revision Commission. Number 4 could lead to the same type of dangerous gridlock that could make it impossible for any type of meaningful reform in the future.

**9** Number 4 is proposed by a [shadowy committee](#) that has flaunted campaign finance laws by concealing every dime of the nearly \$9 million it has raised and spent. Several news stories attempt to connect the dots. Here are the links in articles appearing in the [Tampa Bay Times](#), [Politico](#) and [WUFT](#).

**Amending the constitution is difficult and costly enough already! Number 4 does nothing but add more expense and burdens to Florida voters trying to participate in our democracy.**

## IN THE NEWS

**“A group called Keep Our Constitution Clean has spent nearly \$9 million so far to push a ballot initiative that would require two voter referendums, instead of just one, in order to amend the constitution. The effort—which has taken only about six months—has been financed completely by a nonprofit that doesn’t disclose the source of its funding.”**

*-Politico, February 23, 2020*

**“The citizens initiative process was created for Floridians to fight against vested interests that may be present in the legislature, according to Mark Herron, a Tallahassee-based attorney who specializes in elections. He said Keep Our Constitution Clean aims to make this process much more difficult.”**

*-WUFT, February 21, 2020*

**No. 4 Ballot Title: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments**

**No. 4 Ballot Summary: Requires all proposed amendments or revisions to the state constitution to be approved by the voters in two elections, instead of one, in order to take effect. The proposal applies the current thresholds for passage to each of the two elections.**

Learn more about this BAD amendment at <http://www.NoNumber4.org>