

# Know the Facts About **AMENDMENT 4**

**Amendment 4** is one of many state constitutional amendments that will appear on the November 2012 General Election ballot.

## **What the Amendment Does.**

The official ballot summary is lengthy and has several significant components that:

- ✓ Reduce the current assessment limitation on commercial property, vacant property and second homes.
- ✓ Give first-time home buyers an additional homestead exemption.
- ✓ Allow the Legislature to prohibit increases in the assessed value of homestead property if the just value of the property decreases.
- ✓ Apply the assessment cap reduction and the first-time home buyer provisions **to city and county taxes**, not to school property taxes.

# **AMENDMENT 4**

## **Unfair. Unbalanced. Unworkable.**

To learn more, visit

<http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/News.aspx?CNID=9072>

Paid for by the Florida League of Cities.  
301 South Bronough Street, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301

# The Facts About **AMENDMENT 4**

**Amendment 4** takes a complicated property tax system and makes it worse! It shifts Florida's property tax burden onto new and growing businesses and Florida residents while providing special benefits to out-of-state and non-homestead property owners.

## **Hurts new jobs and growing businesses.**

**Amendment 4** puts new and growing businesses at a disadvantage by making them pay higher taxes than paid by established businesses. This measure will stymie business expansion of Florida-based businesses and discourage new businesses from locating to Florida.

## **Makes our complicated property tax system even worse.**

Florida's property tax system is already complex. Numerous changes have been made over the years, which makes it difficult to understand. **Amendment 4** just adds to the confusion.

## **Is unfair to Florida (homestead) residents.**

**Amendment 4** favors out-of-state, second home property owners and owners of large tracts of vacant land and shifts the cost of paying for public services to long-time Florida residents. This measure creates an unfair "us-versus-them" tax system that hurts those who live and work here.

## **Is unbalanced because identical properties will pay different taxes.**

**Amendment 4** takes an already unfair and unbalanced tax system and makes it even worse by providing special benefits for out-of-state and second home property owners. Amendment 4 will allow identical properties to be taxed differently. It allows this inequity to be in place until 2023.

## **It will impact cities' major revenue source.**

By providing special tax benefits to out-of-state and second property owners, local governments will see its major source of revenue negatively impacted again. Property taxes are used to fund basic services such as police protection, fire protection, parks and recreation, and other public services citizens depend on.

# **AMENDMENT 4**

## **Unfair. Unbalanced. Unworkable.**