

## 2012 Ballot Amendment Positions – Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida

Amendment	How should I vote?	What will the Amendment do?
#1 Florida "repeal" of the Affordable Health Care Act	NO	ALEC MODEL - May be moot after summer Supreme Court ruling, probably in June. Republicans are fighting the mandate.
#2 Property tax break for disabled veterans	<b>NEUTRAL (with statement)</b> Constitution is not the place to make tax policy	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) Reduces revenue for needed public services, which will possibly hurt veterans more than this tax break will help. This amendment adds veterans with disabilities who were not Florida residents at the time they joined the military.
#3 TABOR – Imposes stricter formula for determining revenue caps	NO	<p>ALEC MODEL - Would impose severe cuts to public services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TABOR has been a failed experiment in Colorado where it was passed in 1992, forcing drastic cuts in K-12 and higher education funding. This formula is insufficient to fund the ongoing cost of government. By creating a permanent revenue shortage, TABOR pits state programs and services against each other for survival each year and virtually rules out any new initiatives to address unmet or emerging needs.</li> <li>• Ties hands of legislators and makes it difficult to respond to emergency and unexpected situations, such as hurricanes, floods, recessions, etc.</li> <li>• Will devastate local governments, “strangles local government”</li> <li>• Will force lay-offs (more unemployment)</li> <li>• Remember: *Bad Wolf Colorado (BAD: makes tough times tougher; WOLF: Wolf in sheep’s clothing; COLORADO: failed experiment) *PICO</li> </ul>
#4 Property Tax Limitation	NO	<p>NO ALEC MODEL FOUND Opposed by county and municipal governments because it would reduce revenue for needed services. Being pushed by developers and builders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would change taxable rate on non-homesteaded property (commercial and 2<sup>nd</sup> homes)</li> <li>• Would prevent increases in assessments of homesteaded properties</li> <li>• Would hurt public school funding by limiting property tax revenue</li> <li>• Would transfer tax burden from commercial owners to residential owners</li> <li>• Would put limits on local government revenues into the Constitution</li> </ul> <p>DON’T FALL FOR “TAX YOUR ASSETS” CAMPAIGN</p>
#5 State Courts	NO	ALEC MODEL - This legislation serves to intimidate judges and to dangerously politicize the court system. The courts are there to protect people, and their independence must be protected. Takes away checks and balances. Would alter the balance of power by giving the legislature confirmation authority over judges. Would open confidential information on judges to legislature. Would allow legislature to repeal procedural rules of the courts with only 50%+1 instead of 2/3.

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#6 Prohibition on Public Funding of Abortions; Construction of Abortion Rights	NO	From ALEC's "sister" organization, Americans United for Life. Like ALEC, AUL is a legislative bill factory, but it is focused solely on women's issues. Should Roe v. Wade be overturned, this amendment would prevent Florida from continuing to permit abortions, based on current privacy protections. Would allow Rick Scott and Tallahassee politicians to interfere in personal healthcare decision-making between a woman and her doctor. Allows less privacy for women than men. Would take parents out of the decision-making process with their daughter's healthcare access. Unfairly targets public employees (teachers, first-responders).
#7 (Now Amendment #8)		
#8 Repeal of Public Funding for Religious Institutions	NO	ALEC MODEL – Repeals a 126-year-old separation of church and state law, which prevents taxpayer dollars from funding religious organizations in promoting their religion. This is religious funding, not religious freedom. Religious Welfare. The door only swings one way with money going to religious groups who don't pay into the system. This would repeal the provision that previously prevented school vouchers from going to religious schools. Perfect opportunity for fraud because any group could claim religious status to claim funding.
#9 Surviving Military Spouses Tax Break	NEUTRAL (with statement) Constitution is not the place to make tax policy	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) Reduces revenue for needed public services, which will harm spouses more than proposed benefits. Would put limits on local government revenues into the Constitution.
#10 Tax Exemption for Tangible Personal Property	NO	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) This is a tax break for the wealthier and large corporations, not small business owners. It further devastates budgets and decreases public services during already bad times. These budget cuts overwhelmingly harm our most vulnerable citizens (elderly, children, poor, veterans).
#11 Tax Exemption for Certain Low-Income Seniors	NEUTRAL (with statement) Constitution is not the place to make tax policy	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) An attempt to authorize cities and counties to grant full homestead property tax relief to certain low-income seniors who have lived in their home for at least 25 years. Programs benefiting seniors would be hurt by revenue cuts. For the first time, we are close to having more seniors on wait-lists than receiving services.
#12 Student Body Reps	YES	NOT RELATED TO ALEC – This bill will create a more democratic process than previous way of selecting the student representative to Board of Governors. It creates a new association of student government presidents from all public universities, which will then elect a representative to the BOG. The current association from which the student rep is chosen charges dues, therefore creating a financial barrier to membership.

<b>Retention of Judges Lewis, Pariente, Quince</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>The Republicans are leading an effort to defeat the retention of these judges as retaliation for judicial decisions against GOP leadership.</b>
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