

May Sample Letter to the Editor

This November, voters will be faced with a number of tough decisions at the ballot box. Fortunately, one of the most important decisions should also be the easiest. Amendment 4, a “Vote on Everything” proposal, would kill jobs, raise taxes, and lead to endless litigation at taxpayer expense.

Amendment 4 has been referred to as a ‘stimulus package for special interest lawyers’. And for good reason; this proposal would add costly new layers of bureaucratic red-tape to an already complicated planning process. It would be virtually impossible to condense thousands of pages of technical planning data into the 75 word ballot summaries that are required by law. Inevitably, disagreements – and lawsuits – would ensue. Amendment 4 encourages the special interests that lose at the ballot box to take their case to court, at taxpayer expense.

That is exactly what happened to the small town of St. Pete Beach, which implemented a local version of Amendment 4 in 2006. The measure has decimated their economy and created chaos at the polls. To date, the citizens of St. Pete Beach have seen nearly a dozen lawsuits that have cost local taxpayers more than three-quarters of a million dollars in legal fees.

As Florida attempts to recover from this devastating recession, the last thing we need is Amendment 4, a proposal that would raise taxes, cost jobs, and hurt Florida’s working families and small businesses. This November, VOTE NO on Amendment 4!