



Florida's Water and Land Legacy  
Water and Land Conservation Amendment  
(850) 629-4656 • [campaign@floridawaterlandlegacy.org](mailto:campaign@floridawaterlandlegacy.org)  
[www.VoteYesOn1FL.org](http://www.VoteYesOn1FL.org)

## Amendment 1: Fact Sheet

The Water and Land Conservation Amendment will protect our drinking water and preserve the water quality of our rivers, lakes, springs, and coastal waters for future generations — with no tax increase. This fact sheet is designed to help you quickly share information and respond to questions about the amendment when engaging voters to Vote Yes on 1 on Tuesday, November 4th, 2014!

### AMENDMENT 1 BASICS

- Amendment 1 dedicates funding for water and land conservation, management, and restoration by setting aside one-third (33 percent) of Florida's existing documentary stamp tax ("doc stamp") revenues collected when real estate is sold.
- These funds will be used to:
  - Restore, manage and acquire lands necessary to protect Florida's drinking water sources and protect the water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams;
  - Protect our beaches and shores;
  - Protect and restore the Everglades and other degraded natural systems and waterways;
  - Manage wildlife habitat, protect forests and wetlands, and restore conservation lands that are an important part of Florida's economy and quality of life;
  - Provide funding to manage existing state and local natural areas, parks, and trails for water supply, habitat, and recreation.

### AMENDMENT 1 HELPS PROTECT AND RESTORE FLORIDA'S WATER QUALITY

- Nothing is more important than having clean water to drink. Ninety percent of Floridians get their drinking water from groundwater sources.
- Our clean drinking water depends on healthy rivers, streams, and wetlands. Protecting lands buffering our waters from pollution and keeping wetlands undeveloped contributes to healthy natural systems that produce clean water.
- Water quality is important for people and wildlife.
  - Across Florida last summer, toxic algae and pollution caused record numbers of wildlife deaths including dolphins, manatees, birds and other wildlife.
- Restoration of the Florida Everglades is the largest ecological restoration project in history, protecting the drinking water sources for 1/3 of our state's population. Amendment 1 will provide much needed funding to support the timely restoration of the Everglades.
- Many natural springs, wetlands, and rivers are not getting sufficient freshwater to stay healthy. In southwest Florida last year, lack of freshwater during the dry season caused the loss of all of the oysters and large areas of seagrasses died off in the Caloosahatchee estuary.
- Amendment 1 will help protect our water supply, as well as waters where we swim, paddle, fish, surf and play in.

### AMENDMENT 1 IS NOT A TAX

- Amendment 1 would not increase taxes now or in the future. The Financial Impact Statement on the ballot, prepared by the State Financial Impact Estimating Conference (the state's budget writers), determined that it will have no impact on state revenues because it imposes no new taxes.
- Amendment 1 designates less than 1% of the state budget per year.
- Florida's "doc stamp" is an existing fee already being paid when real estate is sold in Florida and has been used to protect natural areas, wildlife habitat, and preserve water for more than 20 years.
- Historically with bipartisan support, the legislature has provided more than \$400 million annually for water and land conservation. Since 2009, however, legislature has cut conservation funding by almost 100%.
- The only states that have continued to adequately fund conservation programs during tough economic times are those that have constitutional mandates to do so. The passage of Amendment 1 would make Florida the 12th state to secure conservation funding constitutionally.

- Amendment 1 ensures that funds historically used for water and land conservation are not diverted to other uses by the legislature.

#### **AMENDMENT 1 CREATES A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- Our environment is fundamental to Florida’s future. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to protect Florida’s water quality, natural areas, beaches, and wildlife, so future generations can enjoy them the same way we do.
- Amendment 1 continues Florida’s legacy of environmental leadership and state-wide citizen support for conservation, protecting our quality of life now and for generations to come.

#### **AMENDMENT 1 PROVIDES FUNDING FOR MUCH NEEDED LAND CONSERVATION**

- With nearly 700 people moving to Florida every day, we must protect Florida’s lakes, rivers, streams, beaches, and wetlands before they are gone forever.
- Our natural areas and wildlife habitat are still at risk. Almost 2 million acres of environmentally sensitive lands still remain on the Florida Forever target acquisition project list.
- Amendment 1 will dedicate billions of dollars to conservation during its 20-year lifespan—providing much needed resources to permanently protect environmental lands at risk of being inappropriately developed.

#### **AMENDMENT 1 SUPPORTS FLORIDA’S ECONOMY**

- Florida’s State Parks had record-setting attendance last year and more people visit Florida’s State Parks each year than the Magic Kingdom.
- Homes located near conservation lands have higher market values. Homes near polluted waters are shown to be less valuable than those that are near clean waterbodies.
- Florida’s biggest industry is tourism; wildlife viewing alone contributes over 5 billion dollars to our economy each year, not to mention water and beach-based recreation.
- Amendment 1 protects the quality of life that draws people to buy homes or vacation in Florida, supporting a strong and sustainable economy.

#### **AMENDMENT 1 PROTECTS PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND FARMING**

- Amendment 1 helps protect Florida agriculture, the 2nd largest economic engine in Florida. Agriculture in Florida is a \$10 billion per year industry and supports 200,000 jobs statewide.
- Land purchases and easements made through the passage of Amendment 1 would be restricted to willing sellers only, with state paying a mutually agreed upon price based on the fair market value and conservation value.
- Amendment 1 specifically provides funding for landowner preservation agreements (also known as conservation easements) which are voluntary agreements that prevent natural areas, farms, and ranches from being developed without forcing anyone to sell their land, while still allowing the landowners to continue farming and ranching.
- Amendment 1 allows funding for a range of conservation activities including restoration, improvement, and management while allowing continued farming and ranching activities. It is designed to compensate willing agricultural landowners for the environmental services and benefits provided on their land to protect Florida’s wildlife and water.
- Amendment 1 prevents the premature conversion of Florida’s farmlands where owners want to stay in farming, as well as buys important natural areas from willing sellers.