



Don't be fooled, despite the wording of the following amendment, this change does not enhance or protect religious freedom. The amendment has the opposite effect, and it actually destroys some of the founding principles of religious liberty in America.

Here is how the amendment will appear. . .

Constitutional Amendment Article 1, Section 3

Religious Freedom. Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution providing that no individual or entity may be denied, on the basis of religious identity or belief, governmental benefits, funding, or other support, except as required by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and deleting the prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

Why does this amendment look like something we should vote for? The wording is meant to be deceptive in order to get you to vote in favor of an amendment you would not normally be in favor of. This was done on purpose to deceive the uninformed.

I thought this amendment was about school vouchers? The wording of this amendment makes such drastic changes to the religious liberty protection offered by the Florida State Constitution that it would allow more than private school vouchers. It would allow your tax dollars to go to support any qualifying religious organization that applied for the money. Supporters of this bill want to subsidize religion and religious activity.

What threats to religious freedom does this amendment pose? We have long maintained in America that the state would not be engaged in support or interference of religious matters. This bill would substantially remove the protections we hold dear in maintaining separation of church and state.

While the state seems to be aiding the church by allowing tax dollars to go to support religion and religious entities, there will come a time when those monies will come at a cost to church autonomy. In the religious liberty department we remind church members—***“There are no government shekels without government shackles.”***

What happens if I vote “yes”? Voting in favor of this amendment means that your tax dollars are up for grabs to any eligible religious group, even those whose views and/or doctrines you may oppose or abhor. Constitutional amendments are usually dangerous things, and should never be voted on without careful consideration to what you are doing to constitutional protections.

It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.

Thomas Jefferson (Notes on Virginia, 1782)

It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy . . . – The Great Controversy 443.4 (See Ch. 25 – God’s Law Immutable)

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