

AMENDMENT 2: The Florida Marriage Protection Amendment

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

What the Official Supporters and Opponents Say About Amendment 2:
The Florida Marriage Protection Amendment

FOR Amendment 2:

AGAINST Amendment 2:

What does the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment do?

"A yes vote on Amendment 2 does one thing and one thing only. It defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman but it does not prevent the government or private companies from extending benefits to whomever they wish."

"If passed, the amendment will ban all recognition and benefits for unmarried couples, straight and gay. It will block civil unions, domestic partnerships and repeal existing protections and family benefits relied upon by millions of Floridians."

Do we need the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment?

"Yes. We need the marriage amendment for the same reason that Massachusetts and California needed one. Florida is seeking to do what 27 other states have already done, to define marriage between one man and one woman so that activist judges cannot force a new definition of marriage upon us."

"Amendment 2 is not needed. Why? Because same-sex marriage is already illegal in Florida. Not once. Or even twice. But four times! It is already against the law four times. So you have to wonder: what is Amendment 2 really about?"

Does the Marriage Amendment change existing laws?

"No. Amendment 2 does nothing new. A yes vote on 2 takes the existing marriage law and simply places it into the state constitution so that an activist judge or a group of politicians can not redefine marriage at some time in the future like what happened in Massachusetts and recently in California."

"...even though amendment supporters insist it will only reaffirm the existing ban on same-sex marriage, the amendment is deliberately vague, leading to many interpretations and potential negative consequences."

Is Amendment 2 About Action by the Government or the People?

"The Marriage Amendment was started by Florida citizens who believe that the people and not politicians or judges should decide how marriage is defined in this state. Amendment 2 is about the people telling the government to not mess with marriage and to keep it as it has always been the union of one man and one woman."

"Amendment 2 puts the government where it doesn't belong - regulating the personal relationships of Floridians."

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Does Amendment 2 take social security benefits away from seniors?

"Absolutely Not. There is no legal connection between Federal Social Security codes in Washington, D.C. and a state constitutional amendment in Florida. This is a sad scare tactic where our opponents are preying on our most precious and vulnerable citizens--our seniors."

"Amendment 2 could force seniors to choose between important benefits like sharing health care and important government benefits."

Will unmarried persons lose "benefits" as a result of Amendment 2?

"No. Our opponents have lost the "same-sex marriage" debate in 27 states who have passed similar amendments. They know if they argue for same-sex marriage they will lose. So they have to try and scare people saying they will lose benefits. After 27 states passing marriage amendments not a single person has lost a single benefit."

"Amendment 2 could take away existing benefits from all unmarried Floridians."

Does Amendment 2 affect domestic partnerships?

"No. Domestic Partnerships are not effected by Amendment 2. Domestic partnerships Grant a very small bundle of benefits and are not treated as a marriage or the substantial equivalent of marriage. South Florida courts have already ruled on this question."

"[Amendment 2] will block civil unions, [and] domestic partnership[s]..."

Does this Amendment affect hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples?

"No. Homosexuals already have full contract rights under the law and access to estate planning tools just as any other citizen. All people need a power of attorney forms so that loved ones can care for us in medical and emergency situations."

"Every unmarried Floridian will be impacted by this amendment - especially divorced or widowed senior and public employees who, under existing programs, can share some benefits such as hospital visitation privileges..."

What is your position on same-sex marriage?

"Amendment 2 prohibits polygamy, group marriage and same sex marriage. We are not against homosexuals. We are just opposed to same-sex marriage because it is not what is best for children, families or the common good of society."

"Florida Red and Blue and myself in particular we don't have an opinion on gay marriage necessarily."