

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FULL TEXT

Ballot Title: FLORIDA TOLL ROAD EXPANSION BAN

Ballot Summary: Prohibits the construction or expansion of toll roads on conservation and rural lands because they destroy natural systems, divide wildlife corridors, and place an increased burden on working families with excessive expenses, decreasing the quality of life for all Floridians.

Article and Section Being Created or Amended: ARTICLE X, SECTION 34

Full Text of the Proposed Amendment:

(a) New fee-based managed lanes and other forms of toll roads threaten to destroy large areas of Florida's remaining conservation and rural lands, pollute waterways, increase sprawl, disrupt local economies, degrade rural quality of life and endanger wildlife, including many iconic species such as the Florida black bear, manatee and Florida panther.

(1) The construction of toll roads on conservation and rural lands is hereby prohibited..

The expansion of roadways on conservation and rural lands to create fee-based managed lanes, is hereby prohibited.

(2) The expansion of toll road construction in the state of Florida destroys natural systems. Toll roads block wildlife corridors and pose a threat to local economies and the health of wetlands. Stormwater runoff pollution from toll roads deposits heavy metals, oils, and greases from roads into wetlands that are toxic to native species.

(3) The disruption of wildlife corridors by construction of toll roads severely alters Florida's natural wildlife habitats and its ability to achieve necessary biodiversity. The regions of land where new toll roads are proposed include some of Florida's last remaining rural areas and contain public and private conservation lands that provide habitats for endangered species, including the Florida panther, as well as protect important water resources such as freshwater springs.

(4) Toll roads through conservation and rural lands pose a major threat to the quality of life of rural communities. Additional toll roads degrade our agricultural and natural lands and are ultimately detrimental to Florida's economy.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Conservation lands" means land acquired to restore, protect or enhance natural ecosystems and their inhabitants.

(2) "Fee" means a fixed charge: a sum paid or charged for a service; "lanes" mean a relatively narrow way or track.

(3) "Rural lands" means land within communities which have population densities under 500 people per square mile and places with fewer than 8,500 people.

(4) "Toll Roads" also known as "turnpikes", "tollways", or "toll plazas" means public or private roads where a fee is assessed for passage.

(c) The construction of new toll roads in the State of Florida shall be punishable as a felony of the third degree.

(d) If any portion of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this section, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void proportion and given the fullest possible force and application.

(e) This section shall be self-executing and take effect immediately upon the passage of this amendment by the voters.

Initiative Information

Date Approved 5/20/2021

Serial Number 21-05

Sponsor Name: FL5.org

Sponsor Address: 555 Winderley Place, Suite 300 Maitland, FL 32751