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## **Memo to All Westshore Alliance Members and their Employees Regarding Amendment 4.**

As a Florida citizen and taxpayer, this November you will be asked to vote on six proposed amendments to the State of Florida constitution. One of those, Amendment 4, if approved, will have drastic, negative consequences for the citizens of our state and the Tampa Bay region.

**Disruptive.** Widely known as the “Vote on Everything” amendment, it requires all changes to local comprehensive land use plans (“comp plans”), no matter how small, be submitted to a voter referendum and approved by a majority of the voters. In Florida, local comprehensive plans are the primary planning tool to guide smart growth in our communities. These plans are prepared by local government planning agencies and approved through extensive public input and involvement.

Under the proposed Amendment 4, this entire process will be circumvented and citizens will be forced to take over the job of our local planners and vote on hundreds of individual plan amendments that are often complex in technical jargon, obscuring whether the proposal is a major change or a simple administrative language change required by state law.

**Job Killer.** The sheer mechanics of the proposed process under Amendment 4 will bring any anticipated job growth in Florida to a standstill. At a time when we should be attracting new businesses to Florida for the future prosperity of our residents, Amendment 4 will do just the opposite. Jobs from all sectors of the economy, at all levels from executives to clerks, will be lost at a time we can least afford to lose them. Due to the uncertainty and cost of winning a voter referendum, many businesses will not even consider doing business in Florida, and those already here may decide it’s just too difficult to do business in our state and relocate. Ultimately, Amendment 4 will put our state in a permanent and worsening recession.

**Taxpayer Waste.** As if continued job loss and economic destruction weren’t enough, Amendment 4 requires the taxpayers to contribute to their own demise by funding each required referendum. With hundreds of proposed changes to the comp plan each year, the additional burden on the taxpayer will be crippling, particularly in a recession when tax revenues are falling and services being cut.

The Westshore Alliance Board of Directors urges you to share this information with each of your employees and join us in defeating this potentially devastating change in our constitution by voting **NO on Amendment 4.**

For a more detailed explanation of the amendment’s potential impacts on our state and its citizens, you may wish to visit [www.Florida2010.org](http://www.Florida2010.org) and [www.FIChamber.com](http://www.FIChamber.com).