



Dear Legislator,

The Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida supports the following bills and would like you to consider co-sponsoring and supporting in the 2018 Florida Legislative Session.

### **SB 122 / HB 43: Campaign Financing**

Election law in Florida allows candidates and elected officials to open and operate a “political committee”. These political committees can accept unlimited contributions and spend unlimited amounts of money. This has made the traditional candidate campaign account with limits on contributions meaningless. Political Committees transfer money to another one, setting up a shell game that makes it tough to track the original donor. Special interests can hide the millions of dollars they use to control legislation that benefits their own self-interest at our expense.

SB 122 will prohibit the transfer of money between political committees or electioneering communication organization.

SB 122 will make the election process more transparent and allow voters to make informed decisions about candidates.

### **SB 362 / HB 207: Growth Management**

This legislation will require each local government to include a property rights protection element in its local comprehensive plan.

All counties and municipalities in Florida must adopt local government comprehensive plans that guide future growth and development. Comprehensive plans contain chapters or “elements” that address topics to be coordinated. Absent from the list of mandated elements is an element protecting property rights. Without a property rights element, the rights of property owners often lack the protection to which they are lawfully entitled.

### **SB 432 / HB 17: Community Redevelopment Agencies**

This legislation will require community redevelopment agencies to be more transparent and accountable. Under Florida law, local governments can designate areas as Community Redevelopment Areas and create a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). CRA's are funded by property taxes and are billed as anti-poverty measures. But CRAs are being used to subsidize museums, concert halls, production studios and other pet projects of local political officials. CRAs are now slush funds to reward political donors who fund elected official's campaigns.

## **SJR 194: Limitation of Terms of Office for Members of a District School Board**

SJR 194 would allow voters in the next general election to place an amendment to the State Constitution to limit the terms of office for a member of a district school board.

## **HB 6005: Sports Development**

This legislation repeals s. 288.11625, F.S., the Sports Development program. In 2014, the Legislature created the Sports Development program that authorizes distributions of state sales and use tax revenue to fund professional sports franchise facilities, up to \$13 million. The state of Florida already budgets \$2 million every year to eight major sports franchises like the Miami Dolphins.

## **SB 80 / HB 37: Direct Primary Care**

This legislation will protect direct patient/doctor agreements from burdensome government regulations by establishing in law that a Direct Primary Care agreement and the act of entering into such an agreement is not insurance and not subject to regulation under the Florida Insurance Code.

Primary Care agreement gives Doctors a meaningful alternative to fee-for-service insurance billing, typically by charging patients a monthly, quarterly, or annual fee that covers all or most primary care services. Direct care benefits patients by providing substantial savings and more access to, and time with, physicians. Direct Primary Care agreements makes doctors responsive to patients, not insurance company bureaucrats or government rule-makers.

## **SB 134: Concealed Weapons & Firearms**

This legislation would allow concealed weapons permit-holders to carry guns in to courthouses and temporarily surrender and store the gun at a security checkpoint. Currently concealed weapon permit holders must leave their firearms at home or store them in cars and be unarmed for a period outside the courthouses.

## **SB 148 / HB 39: Weapons and Firearms**

This legislation would reduce penalties for the first or second violation for people who have concealed-weapons licenses and openly carry. Also, provides that person licensed to carry concealed weapon or firearm does not violate certain provisions if firearm is temporarily & openly displayed.

## **SB 526 / HB 15: Deregulation of Professions and Occupations**

This legislation deals with occupational licensing and would repeal or revise regulations and fees levied on some professional licenses, such as hair braiders, hair wrappers, body wrappers, manicurist, pedicurist and makeup artist. Occupational Licensing force aspiring workers to spend months in training, pass exams and pay fees. Occupational licensing requirements have created barriers for people to find jobs and build new businesses, especially for lower-income workers. A study from the Institute for Justice that found that Florida's occupational licensing regulations are one of the most restrictive in the nation.

## **SB 176 / HB 6001: Traffic Infraction Detectors**

This legislation will repeal provisions relating to the installation and use of traffic infraction detectors (red light cameras) and will prohibit the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, a county, or a municipality to use such detectors.

## **SJR 452: Limitations on Homestead Property Tax Assessments**

SJR 542 would allow voters in the next general election to place an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the period when the accrued benefit from specified limitations on homestead property tax assessments may be transferred from a prior homestead to a new homestead.

In Florida, the Save Our Homes Amendment to the Florida Constitution prevents the assessed value of homestead property from increasing more than 3% per year, or the percent change in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower. In 2008, Florida voters voted to amend the Florida Constitution to allow for "portability" of their accumulated homestead exemption tax savings to a new home, as long as they establish their new homestead within 2 years of abandoning their previous homestead.

The problem is that the two-year period is not two years from the date of sale or the date someone moved from their previous homestead, but is based on two assessment years. Depending on which month a person moved out of their previous home, they could technically have only a little over one year to purchase a new home and receive the portability benefit. More specifically, in order to qualify for portability in a given tax year, the homeowner must have received a homestead exemption on their previous homestead in one of the last two tax years.

SJR 452 would allow voters to amend the portability language in the Florida Constitution to allow portability if the homeowner had a homestead exemption for any one of three years before establishing a new homestead.

**The Republican Liberty Caucus is a 527 voluntary grassroots membership organization dedicated to working within the Republican Party to advance the principles of individual rights, limited government and free markets.**

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