

Temp. Reso. No. 6818
9/11/18
9/11/18

**CITY OF MIRAMAR
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF MIRAMAR, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSAGE
OF AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4, OF THE
FLORIDA CONSTITUTION - VOTING RIGHTS
RESTORATION FOR FELONS INITIATIVE; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, an estimated 1.6 million ex-felons in the state are eligible to seek the restoration of their voting rights, leading to a significant backlog in cases awaiting to have their voting rights restored; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution establishes and describes the disqualification of certain individuals from voting, where such automatic disenfranchisement from voting arises from felony conviction; and

WHEREAS, under the current vote-restoration scheme, of nearly 155,000 individuals who completed felony sentences from 2012 through October 5, 2017, only 2,807 individuals have regained their civil right to vote; and

WHEREAS, under the current vote-restoration scheme, the State of Florida strips the right to vote from every man and woman who commits a felony, and to vote again, these citizens must file a petition and appear before the Florida Clemency Board, which presently has unfettered discretion in restoring voting rights; and

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WHEREAS, Florida is one of only four states where convicted felons do not regain the right to vote until and unless a state officer or board restores an individual's voting rights; and

WHEREAS, if Amendment Four, entitled *Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative*, is approved by 60% of the electorate in the November 2018 election, approximately 1.5 million individuals would likely be eligible to have their civil right to vote restored in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, passage of Amendment Four will automatically restore the right to vote for people with prior felony convictions, except those convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense, upon completion of their sentence, including prison, parole, and probation; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission deems it to be in the best interest of the residents of the City of Miramar to support the passage of Florida Constitutional Amendment Four, called the Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative, amending Article VI, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIRAMAR, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the foregoing "**WHEREAS**" clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are made a specific part of this Resolution.

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Section 2: That the City of Miramar fully supports the passage of Florida Constitutional Amendment Four, called the Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative, amending Article VI, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution.

Section 3: That the City Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, Florida House Speaker-designate Jose Oliva, Florida Senate President-designate Bill Galvano; and the Officers of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 4: That the appropriate City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and expedient to carry out the aims of this Resolution.

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Section 5: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, _____.

Mayor, Wayne M. Messam

Vice Mayor, Yvette Colbourne

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Denise A. Gibbs

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have approved
this RESOLUTION as to form:

City Attorney
Weiss Serota Helfman
Cole & Bierman, P. L.

Requested by Administration

Commissioner Winston F. Barnes
Commissioner Maxwell B. Chambers
Vice Mayor Yvette Colbourne
Commissioner Darline B. Riggs
Mayor Wayne M. Messam

Voted

