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Florida Council of 100 Opposes Budgetary Carve-out in Constitution for Buying State Land

TAMPA, Fla. (September 26, 2014) – The Florida Council of 100 announced today its opposition to Constitutional Amendment 1, which would force the Legislature to annually spend between \$700 million and \$1.3 billion for property acquisition, improvement, and management, regardless of Floridians' needs.

“The Council of 100 recognizes that protecting our state’s natural resources is a key part of enhancing the quality of life and economic well-being of all Floridians,” said Steve Halverson, chairman of the Florida Council of 100. “However, we should only amend our constitution sparingly and thoughtfully and not use it to accomplish what can be addressed legislatively. The provisions of Amendment 1 can be dealt with legislatively.”

For 20 years, Amendment 1 would dedicate at least 33 percent of revenues from the excise tax on documents to water and land conservation efforts.

“Amendment 1 would tie the hands of our elected leaders, blocking them from optimally allocating tax dollars to citizens’ needs and preventing them from meeting those needs as the economy fluctuates,” stated Susan Pareigis, president and CEO of the Florida Council of 100. “Moreover, such appropriation by constitutional amendment would set a dangerous precedent by which other special interests would seek to further hamstring our policy makers’ ability to lead in a fiscally prudent manner.”

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Formed in 1961, the Florida Council of 100 is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of business, civic, and academic leaders, which exists to promote the economic growth of Florida and a high quality of life for its citizens. Visit www.fc100.org for more information.