



FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

Florida's Electric Cooperatives Demonstrate Energy Amendment's Direct, Dramatic Impact on Consumer- Members in Reply Brief Filed with Florida Supreme Court

Energy Amendment Misleads Voters, Proponents Fail to Refute Concerns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tallahassee, FL -- The Florida Electric Cooperatives Association (FECA) today filed a reply brief with the Florida Supreme Court reiterating serious concerns that the ballot summary misleads voters, particularly voters who rely on cooperatives for safe, affordable and reliable electricity. FECA's reply brief outlines the variety of ways in which the ballot summary misleads voters into believing cooperatives and their consumer-members will not be impacted by the proposed change to Florida's Constitution. Additionally, the omission of important information in the summary is an attempt to veil critical information that voters may need to make an informed decision.

"The proposed amendment's ballot summary falsely implies cooperatives and their consumer-members will be unaffected, and the proponents continue to ignore these serious concerns," said Amanda Bevis, spokesperson for FECA. "The ballot summary is indefensible, and it should be barred by the Florida Supreme Court."

FECA's initial brief filed in April explained that cooperatives will be unable to avoid impacts of the amendment, regardless of whether they opt into a newly formed competitive market under the initiative. In fact, the amendment would destroy wholesale power supply agreements and invalidate service area boundary agreements that enable cooperatives to meet the needs of their consumer-members and keep rates as low as possible, an argument the proponents failed to refute in their answer briefs.

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The brief filed in April also demonstrated that the far-flung initiative violates the Florida Constitution's single subject requirement because it combines separate and distinct subjects and makes multiple dramatic changes to the Constitution.

Proponents filed two answer briefs on May 23, in which they neglected FECA's concerns. The reply brief filed by FECA today exposes the concerns ignored by proponents and reaffirms that the ballot summary is misleading.

The [reply brief](#), which was filed today with the Florida Supreme Court and provided to the Attorney General, can be accessed through the Florida Supreme Court Docket. The reply brief was filed by the law firm of Holland & Knight, counsel for FECA.

Oral arguments in this case are scheduled for August 28.

Florida's electric cooperatives deliver safe, affordable and reliable electricity to their communities. Cooperatives are not-for-profit. They are owned by their consumer-members, and decisions are member-driven.

FECA represents 15 electric distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives, serving approximately 2 million Floridians. For more information about FECA, including a list of its members, visit: www.feca.com.

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