**Energy Reregulation Ballot Initiative**

**Article #4 for Newsletters to Consumer-Members**

**NOTE: Following is a template article you may use to update your consumer-members on the latest developments with the energy reregulation initiative in an email newsletter or printed magazine. The author listed should be the general manager or other high-level leader within the organization.**

**If you would like similar information in a different format to meet the needs of your specific publication, email** [**amanda@redhillsstrategies.com**](mailto:amanda@redhillsstrategies.com)**. We are happy to provide more versions of this document to meet your needs.**

**Headline**: Florida’s Electric Cooperatives Assert Proposed Ballot Amendment to Reregulate Energy Industry is False and Misleading in Oral Arguments Before the Florida Supreme Court

**Author:** [Sign article by general manager or other high-level leader within the organization]

**Word Count:** 385

On August 28, the Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments from proponents and opponents on the proposed Constitutional amendment to reregulate Florida’s energy industry. It is the Supreme Court’s responsibility to determine if the amendment meets the legal requirements to appear on the 2020 ballot for Florida voters to consider.

The Florida Electric Cooperatives Association (FECA), on behalf of [insert co-op name], 14 other electric distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives, is one of many opponents to this initiative that argued before the Supreme Court justices.

One of the most serious concerns expressed by FECA during the oral arguments before the Supreme Court was the misleading nature and false statements made in the ballot summary. In the ballot summary, or the language that would appear on the ballot for voters to consider if this amendment is approved by the Supreme Court, it states that cooperatives and their consumer-members will only be affected should they choose to “opt into competitive markets.”

“The ballot summary doesn’t just kind of inform or partially inform; it affirmatively misleads and does not tell the truth with regard to the impact on cooperatives,” said George Meros of Holland & Knight, representing FECA.

The fact is this amendment will have immediate, substantial and inescapable consequences on Florida’s cooperatives and their consumer-members.

Should the amendment appear on the ballot in November 2020 -- and if it receives more than 60% of the vote -- it will:

1. Eliminate many of the cooperatives’ power supply agreements, which can affect access to electricity at affordable and predictable prices.
2. Disrupt cooperatives’ service areas.
3. Impact cooperatives’ operations given the complexity of Florida’s electric grid.

After hearing the oral arguments from proponents and opponents on August 28, the Florida Supreme Court convenes behind closed doors to make its decision. Their opinion will be released in the weeks ahead. If approved by the Florida Supreme Court, the measure will appear on the ballot in November 2020.

We are proud of the safe, reliable and affordable service we provide to our consumer-members. At [insert co-op name], we put the interests or our consumer-members above all else. That’s why we chose to participate in this case before the Florida Supreme Court – to ensure that our consumer-members are informed of potential consequences if the amendment passes.