

The Right to Clean and Healthy Waters Constitutional Amendment

Ballot summary

This amendment creates a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters. The amendment may be used to sue State executive agencies for harm or threatened harm to Florida's waters, which include aquatic ecosystems. This amendment defines terms, identifies affected constitutional provisions in Article IV governing the executive branch, provides for civil action enforcement, provides for attorney's and expert witness fees to prevailing plaintiffs, and provides for equitable remedies including restoration of waters.

Read the entire text of the amendment at

Floridarighttocleanwater.org

WE CAN
Stop pollution at its source,
protect our families,
secure our livelihoods, and help
nature flourish.



WE CAN
Save our springs
Stop polluting Lake Okeechobee
Curtail the loss of wetlands
Reduce fecal bacteria contamination
Save our precious wildlife



**The Right to Clean and
Healthy Waters
Constitutional Amendment**

Sign the petition at
FloridaRightToCleanWater.org



Paid for by FloridaRightToCleanWater.org
13300 South Cleveland Ave, Suite 56, Fort Myers, 22907



**All Floridians
need the
fundamental right
to clean and healthy
waters.**

**Our health, our economy,
and nature depend upon
clean water.**

Right to Clean and Healthy

Waters

Constitutional Amendment

Creates a fundamental right to clean

and healthy waters for all Floridians.

- This fundamental right takes precedence over the rights of polluters and would prevail in a court of law.

- This right is indefeasible. It cannot be annulled or altered by any government branch.

- The people of Florida have the inherent political power to declare this right.

(Article 1, Section 1, Florida

Constitution.)

- This amendment enables citizens to

hold Florida state executive agencies

accountable when they fail to protect

our waters and aquatic ecosystems and

thus violate this fundamental right.

The Causes

Environmental laws are unenforced.

Special interests have undue influence over

state legislators, agencies, and environmental

policy. Often, business interests write the laws

that legislators sponsor.

The state legislature increasingly preempts

the authority of local governments to provide

citizens and waters the protection they need.

The legal playing field favors corporate

interests and government agencies, not the

rights of citizens to flourishing ecosystems.

The Solution

Amend the state constitution in 2024 to

recognize every Floridian's fundamental right

to clean and healthy waters.

Fundamental rights provide the highest

protection under law, above and beyond the

reach of special interests and political

ideologies.

Empower courts to look beyond state

agencies for sound environmental standards.



The Problem

Our state regulatory system fails to

adequately protect us and our water-

ways from pollution.

- 80 percent of Florida's 1000 springs are

polluted by excessive nitrogen.

- Fecal bacteria impairs nearly a million acres

of estuaries and 9,000 miles of streams

and rivers designated for recreation.

- Polluted water was a major factor in the

deaths of 1,101 manatees in 2021.

- The frequency and duration of red tides

have exploded: over 184 months of red

tide in the past 27 years.

- Blue-green algae blooms are becoming the

"new normal" and are being linked to

neurodegenerative diseases.

- The state has issued 23,000 National Pollu-

tant Discharge Elimination Permits, 10%

of the nation's total, allowing industry to

pollute Florida's waters.

- As of 2018, 2,440—over half—of Florida's

4,393 waterbodies assessed by the state

have been declared "impaired."