



## POSITION PAPER

Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce

October 1, 2008

AMENDMENT 6

**Official Title:** Assessment of Working Waterfront Property Based Upon Current Use

**Official Ballot Summary:** Provides for assessment based upon use of land used predominantly for commercial fishing purposes; land used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable and accessible to the public; marinas and drystacks that are open to the public; and water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities, subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified by general law.

### **Overview**

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Florida's working waterfronts are being taxed out of existence as marine-related businesses are unable to afford the higher property taxes based on the assessment of those properties at "highest and best use" instead of the properties being assessed based on their current use.

Amendment 6 will allow Florida's waterfront industry to continue providing the community with public access to the waterways and will support the economy with billions of revenue every year.

### **Potential Impact on Local Businesses**

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The marine industry contributes significant economic impact to the Jacksonville region and the State of Florida as a whole.

Working waterfronts create an \$18 billion to Florida's economy and provide 220,000 jobs. Many of those businesses have been lost in recent years or are in jeopardy of going out of business due to the increase in property taxes based on the potential use of the property and not the existing use.

### **Position of the Chamber**

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The Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce supports Amendment 6 on the general election ballot, November 2008. Northeast Florida is surrounded by rivers, tributaries and streams creating jobs and economic impact to our region. The Chamber supports those businesses that benefit from the waterways, supply jobs for the community and provide access for the public to the waterfronts.

### **Suggested Actions**

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The Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce recommends that its members vote "Yes" on Amendment 6 on November 4, 2008

### **Additional Resources**

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Vote Smart Florida, [www.votesmartflorida.org](http://www.votesmartflorida.org)

Save Our Waterfronts, [www.saveourwaterfronts.org](http://www.saveourwaterfronts.org)