

## Allow Florida's working waterfronts to survive **Vote 'Yes' on Amendment 6**

**O**n November 4, voters will have the opportunity to preserve public access to Florida's extensive waterways and revitalize the state's marine industry by voting "yes" on Amendment 6. Save Our Waterfronts (SOW) supports Amendment 6 and its commitment to protecting Florida's working waterfronts.

### The problem

Public access to Florida's waterfronts is being taxed out of existence as marine-related businesses are unable to afford higher property taxes. The current system of "highest and best use" taxation forces waterfront businesses to be appraised and taxed upon potential use of the land, such as high-end condo or waterfront resort, instead of the current use of the property.

### The solution - Amendment 6

Amendment 6 will allow Florida's marine industry to continue providing Floridians, tourists and future generations with public access to the state's waterways and will support the economy with billions of revenues every year.

### Economic impact

Florida cannot afford to lose its marine industry, which contributes significantly more economic output than both Florida's citrus and cruise ship industries combined.

Each year, Florida's marine industry contributes more than \$18 billion to Florida's economy and provides 220,000 jobs.

Unlike other businesses, the marine industry cannot relocate easily as they are dependent on direct access to the water.

Tourism is Florida's #1 industry and has a \$57 billion impact on our state each year. Working waterfronts are a critical link connecting residents and tourists with Florida's abundant fish, wildlife and other natural resources by providing public access to the state's navigable waters.

### What would Amendment 6 do?


Amendment 6 would provide a meaningful solution to this issue by providing tax incentives for landowners who wish to maintain their working waterfront properties and provide public access to Florida's waterways. The proposed amendment states the following marine venues and working waterfronts will be taxed at the property's current use:

- Marinas and docks open to the public for water access and recreational uses
- Public vessel launches into navigable inland and coastal waterways
- Commercial fishing facilities
- Water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities
- Marine vessel construction and repair facilities

For more information on Amendment 6 and Save Our Waterfronts, e-mail [info@saveourwaterfronts.org](mailto:info@saveourwaterfronts.org). Source: Save Our Waterfronts

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## Coast Guard Auxiliary Open House Sat. Nov. 8

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 93, Naples, will hold an open house on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. The public is invited, including interested boaters, to learn about your neighbors who are in your local Auxiliary.



**T**he United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the volunteer, uniformed, civilian component of the Coast Guard. It is an integral part of a team directly supporting the Coast Guard - except for military and direct law enforcement.

The Auxiliary's primary goal is to increase boating safety for the public through instruction of its boating safety program, conducting safety patrols of our area waters by providing free vessel safety examinations, and lots more!

Learn who the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is and what it does. There will be booths/tables set up so the public can interact and discuss with members the varied aspects of the Auxiliary's mission objectives.

The open house will be held at the Auxiliary Station at 1099 Ninth Ave, South, Naples, on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. It is free and members encompassing all aspects of the Auxiliary functions will be on hand to discuss their various roles within the Flotilla.

The session is packed with information about your neighbors who are Auxiliarists. If you're one of those neighbors who have said, "Wow, I've lived here all my life and never knew anything about this building!" - find out for yourself and meet some dedicated, interesting people as well.

For more information call 239-261-7375 or visit on the Web site at [www.flotilla93.info](http://www.flotilla93.info).