

From Ken Freeman and Don Casey

Summary of our recommended votes on the Nov. 6th Amendments

Amendment #1..... Vote NO

Amendment #2 Vote NO

Amendment #3.....Vote Yes

Amendment #4.....Vote Yes

Amendment #5 Vote NO

Amendment #6.....Vote Yes

Amendment #7.....Vote Yes

Amendment #8 Vote NO

Amendment #9 Vote NO

Amendment #10..... Vote NO

Amendment #11.....Vote Yes

Note: Many of these Amendments are very complicated and it is difficult to determine the true impact of their proposed changes. Many very good and knowledgeable people have studied them for weeks now and have often come to different conclusions. Indeed, we have changed our own minds on several occasions as new information has come to light. Our final choices are based on the latest available information, input from individuals directly involved in the affected area and a knowledge of the usual intentions and track record of those who have proposed a particular change. In politics, motives are important too, when determining the honesty of stated outcomes.

This is how Don and I personally intend to vote. I hope this helps,
but how you vote is up to you.

A breakdown of how we made our decisions follows below:

(Amendment #1- Forever Wild- \$300,000,000)

Amendment #1: This is the Forever Wild Amendment. It will spend up to three hundred million dollars we can't afford on environmental programs while shortcutting other much more vital people's programs. We already have over two million acres of public lands set aside for conservation and recreation which the critters can use, as well as the 227,000 acres in Forever Wild. There are over ten million acres leased to hunting clubs and many millions more open to hunting on private farms and ranches in the state. Alabama is 71% forest land, most of which is open to hunting. Two months out of the year, on some of this land, the critters have to share with the hunters. The rest of the year the hunters stay home and the critters have it all to themselves.

We do not have a shortage of either animal habitat or hunting grounds. What we do have a shortage of is money. We can not afford to spend what little we do have - recklessly.

For full in depth information, see <http://www.notforeverwild.org>

Please Vote NO on Amendment #1- \$300,000,000 we don't have

(Amendment #2- \$750,000,000 Line of Credit)

Amendment #2: This will in effect set up a \$750,000,000 "Line of Credit" for the state with no required re-payment schedule. Under this system, our citizens will not be allowed to vote (as we can now) on whether to borrow additional funds or not. This is an open ended slush fund with no citizen oversight. We need smaller more efficient government not more reckless unsupervised spending which can only be accomplished by more and more reckless borrowing.

Please Vote NO on Amendment #2- \$750,000,000 additional borrowing

Amendment #3: This will prevent the forced annexation of the Stockton Landmark District into any adjoining municipalities in Baldwin County. The amendment would require the approval of area residents before annexation could take place in the future. **Since the people of the area get to vote, we say vote yes.**

We will Vote YES on Amendment #3

Amendment# 4: This removes racial language in the education article of the Alabama Constitution concerning separation of schools by race. It will also remove references to poll taxes, which have been ruled unconstitutional by the courts.

We will Vote YES on Amendment #4

Amendment #5: This will dissolve the water works and sewer board of the city of Prichard and transfer its assets and liabilities to the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System. People from the local area have asked us to vote NO because they feel that it is unfair for them to be saddled with all the bad debt incurred by Prichard.

We will vote NO on Amendment #5

Amendment #6: This is designed to stop the imposition of Obamacare on Alabama citizens by preventing compulsory healthcare coverage, and prohibiting the levying of fines or penalties for participating in private healthcare. This amendment will (hopefully) give Alabamians the option to opt-out of "Obamacare."

We strongly recommend a YES vote on Amendment #6

Amendment # 7: Assures the right of individuals to vote by secret ballot in elections. It extends this right to elections for public office, public referendums and employee representation such as unions. It is designed to stop voter intimidation by keeping secret how one votes.

We strongly recommend a YES vote on Amendment #7

Amendment #8: This changes the way our legislators are compensated. It allows compensation to be set by an unelected board used to set compensation for other state employees. This will prevent blame from being placed on the Legislature for salary increases, even though the board can easily be pressured by those receiving the increases. It sets no limits on expenses or exactly what is a legitimate expense. It appears to us that this amendment, as written, could result in a large increase in our legislators' total compensation despite their claims to the contrary.

Note: Many of our newly elected Legislators had promised to repeal their very unpopular 62% pay raise if elected. They have not done so. We feel that this is a move to sidestep this issue and take the heat off them selves without losing compensation. We see this as a broken promise. We also feel that this measure needs much more study and a better method of determining compensation.

We recommend a NO vote on Amendment #8

Amendment # 9: Way too much stuff being moved around without fully explaining the true effects and with many Trojan horses in the changes possible. For example:

Old verbiage – Section 232 which is to be stricken: The last sentence reads as follows: “Strictly benevolent, educational, or religious corporations shall not be required to pay such a tax.”

The new verbiage which will be added to Section 229 reads as follows; “Strictly benevolent, educational, or religious corporations shall not be required to pay such a tax on their withdrawable or repurchaseable shares to the extent they have such shares.”

Clearly this is not an effort in streamling or clarification. The additional verbiage makes it clear that benevolent, educational, or religious corporations will not pay taxes on withdrawable or repurchasable shares – So will they have to pay taxes on everything else just like all other corporations? Will churches become a new source of revenue?

We strongly recommend a NO vote on Amendment #9

Amendment #10: Many good reasons to vote against Amendment #10 have already been given by other writers, however, here is one that is critical but has apparently been overlooked by others. The proposed amendment will strike Section 253. The stricken paragraph will be altered by adding the word “banking” in two places and added to Section 247 of the Constitution as paragraph (c).

Section 253 - Original verbiage – “Neither the state nor any political subdivision thereof, shall be a stockholder in any bank, nor shall the credit of the state or any political subdivision thereof be given or lent to any banking company, association, or corporation.”

Section 253 is rewritten and added to Section 247 as paragraph (c) – page 3 of HB358 – “Neither the state, nor any political subdivision thereof, shall be a stockholder in any bank, nor shall the credit of the state or any political subdivision thereof be given or lent to any banking company, banking association, or banking corporation.”

By adding the two additional words the prohibitions in this section on associations and corporations not classified as banks is removed, thus opening the door for state and local political subdivisions to invest public assets in associations and corporations, which has been up until this point, clearly un-constitutional.

Also, there is a rising debate over the merits of our national monetary policy with fears of inflation and further economic recession looming close on the horizon. Specifically, this amendment would eliminate language requiring notes issued as money to be redeemable in gold or silver along with the legislature's authority to set the maximum interest rate banks can charge for lending money. Several other states, Utah for one, have recently re-introduced language to put the gold and silver standards back into their constitutions based on these same fears of monetary system failures.

We strongly recommend a NO vote on Amendment #10

Amendment #11: This seeks to restrain outside municipalities from extending their taxing and regulation authority into adjoining counties. This amendment is designed to keep local ordinances and taxes under the control of residents of Lawrence County.

We recommend a YES vote