

# AMENDMENT 8:

- Eliminates discrimination against churches and religious institutions who provide social services
- Preserves time-honored public-private partnerships between government and social service organizations
- Ensures continued delivery of crucial social services by faith-based organizations

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Paid for by Citizens for Religious Freedom & Non-Discrimination

# Say Yes on 8 for Religious Freedom & Non-Discrimination Fact Sheet

# **Amendment 8 Protects Religious Freedom**

- **Restores Equal Protection Under Law:** Religious organizations and individuals have an equal and rightful place in the public square and should not have their freedom to participate there limited simply because they are religious. Amendment 8 ensures religious organizations and individuals the right to provide services for the common good.
- **Defends Service Providers:** Current and pending court cases seek to extend the current bias against religion in Florida's constitution against those who are organized to deliver food and financial aid, support, and training to those most in need. Amendment 8 would protect them in law.

# Amendment 8 Ends Religious Discrimination in Law

- Ensures Fairness in Law: Florida's constitution currently requires discrimination against religious providers of social services simply because they are religious. Amendment 8 corrects this inequity and allows them to work in public-private partnerships with state and local governments to meet community needs.
- Enhances Cost Efficiency in Service Delivery: Religiously motivated and private organizations can often provide equal or higher quality social services than government-run programs. They are sometimes the only willing providers of key state services. Amendment 8 would enable taxpayers to benefit from more efficient service delivery at a lower cost.

# **Amendment 8 Aids the Most Needy**

 Touches All Sectors of Society: Faith-based organizations benefit virtually every segment of society: religious hospitals and clinics that provide Medicare and Medicaid services; eldercare and indigent care; substance abuse programs; hospice care; housing assistance for the disabled or homeless; soup kitchens and food programs for the poor; prison outreach and disaster relief services; and certain college and K-12 scholarship programs. Amendment 8 ensures continued delivery of social and other services by faith-based organizations.

#### Amendment 8 will be on the November 6, 2012 ballot Amendment 8 Ballot Summary:

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution providing that no individual or entity may be denied, on the basis of religious identity or belief, governmental benefits, funding or other support, except as required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and deleting the prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.