

**For Immediate Release:**

October 01, 2020

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**Don't Vote Yourself Out of A Job, Vote No On Amendment 2**

*The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce urges voters to vote NO on Amendment 2 in the November 2020 Election*

Ballots have been mailed to voters for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 election. There are a series of constitutional amendments on the ballot. Amendment 2 would increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Everyone agrees minimum wage should be increased, however, not to \$15 an hour. The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce urges voters to vote NO on Amendment 2.

To most, increasing the minimum wage sounds good. However, the realities hurt the people it is aimed to help. Some effects of a \$15 minimum wage include employee hours being cut, moved from tipped to a flat rate, loss of benefits or even loss of jobs all together.

New York City lost 4,000 jobs when they increased their minimum wage to \$15. After Maine raised their minimum wage to \$15, the effects were so disastrous, they reversed the decision. According to the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, "A new economic impact study has revealed that Florida will lose at least 158,0000 jobs for workers across the state if this ballot initiative is passed,"

Amendment two will hurt employees as much as employers. According to Terri McCreary, Owner of RipTides on St. Pete Beach "There is absolutely no way I can afford to pay each employee an extra \$15,000 (or more) a year. It is not about what I want, but what is financially feasible. There is no doubt my business and many other businesses will be forced to close if Amendment 2 passes." RipTide Employee, Megan Johnson said "I am afraid if Amendment 2 passes, I would lose my tips and the \$15 an hour would not make up the difference. Or worse yet, I could have my hours cut or lose my job."

In addition to business owners and employees, elected officials from all levels of government are opposed to Amendment 2. Some of those elected officials include State Senator Jeff Brandes, County Commissioner Kathleen Peters and Treasure Island Mayor Larry Lunn. Join your community in opposing a \$15 minimum wage and vote NO on Amendment 2.

Be an informed voter and visit [www.tampabaybeaches.com/minimum-wage](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/minimum-wage) for more information.