**APABA’s Mission:**

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent 2.6% percent of the South Florida population, and we are proud to call South Florida our home. As attorneys, we recognize our special responsibility to help under-represented segments of the community; to improve legal access to the courts; and to serve as a legal bridge between our ethnic communities and the South Florida region.

The mission of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida (APABA) is to:

- Represent and advocate the interests of the Asian community of the South Florida region
- Encourage and promote the professional growth of the members of APABA
- Serve as a legal bridge between our many and diverse Asian and Asian American communities and the South Florida region
- Act as an information resource for all.

**How Can You Help?**

**Spread the word!** Download the toolkit at www.apabasfla.org.

**Sign up to volunteer** at www.apabasfla.org.

**Contact your elected officials:**

Florida Capitol Office
404 S. Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Florida Senate

Sen. Lauren Book, Dist. 32
202 Senate Office Bldg.
(850) 487-5032

Sen. Oscar Braynon II, Dist. 35
200 Senate Office Bldg.
(850) 487-5035

Sen. Daphne Campbell, Dist. 38
218 Senate Office Bldg.
(850) 487-5038

Sen. Gary M. Farmer, Jr., Dist. 34
216 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5034

Anitere Flores, Dist. 39
404 Senate Office Bldg.
(850) 487-5039

Reine Garcia, Dist. 36
310 Senate Office Bldg.
(850) 487-5036

Florida House of Representatives

Rep. George Moraitto, District 93
317 The Capitol
(850) 717-5093

Rep. Jared Moskowitz, District 97
212 The Capitol
850-717-5097

Rep. Richard Stark, District 104
405 House Office Building
(850) 717-5103

Rep. Carlos Trujillo, District 105
418 The Capitol
(850) 717-5105

Rep. Nicholas Duran, District 112
1102 The Capitol
(850) 717-5112

Rep. Holly Merrill Raschein, District 120
209 House Office Building
(850) 717 5120

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**THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE 1  SECTION 2**

**Basic rights.**—All natural persons, female and male alike, are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty, to pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and to acquire, possess and protect property; except that the ownership, inheritance, disposition and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship may be regulated or prohibited by law. No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, national origin, or physical disability.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 917, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 9, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Contact Florida’s State Senators and Representatives and tell them you support the repeal of the Alien Land Law and to support Proposal No. CS/P 3. Let them know that Florida needs to remove the Alien Land Law from the Florida Constitution.
Florida’s Constitution carries on its face the legacy of racial discrimination. Specifically, Article I, Section 2 contains a so-called “Alien Land Law,” which authorizes the legal prohibition against aliens owning real property: “all natural persons, female and male alike, are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and to acquire, possess and protect property; except that the ownership, inheritance, disposition and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship may be regulated or prohibited by law. No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, national origin or physical disability.”

Beginning with California in 1913, many states passed Alien Land Laws throughout the 1910s and 20s, with the specific aim to restrict Chinese and Japanese immigrants from owning land. In the 1920s, US citizenship by naturalization was restricted to free white persons and persons of African nativity or descent, and “aliens ineligible for citizenship” acted as a euphemism to target Asian immigrants.

Florida’s Alien Land Law passed in 1926, likely out of fear that Asian immigrants driven from property ownership in the western United States would migrate to Florida. In 2018, Florida remains the last state in the nation that still has an Alien Land Law, with the last remaining states’ laws repealed over ten years ago—Wyoming in 2001, Kansas in 2002, and New Mexico 2006. In 2008, Florida’s legislature passed a resolution in attempts to join the rest of the United States and eliminate this language from the Florida Constitution. A proposed amendment was included on a statewide ballot for voters; however, this attempt failed to achieve the necessary majority of 60% in the November 2008 election, likely due to voter confusion that the language relates to undocumented immigrants.

2018 Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) convenes every 20 years to examine the Florida Constitution and propose changes for voter consideration. Currently, the CRC has reconvened and is considering proposed constitutional amendments, including PROPOSAL No. CS/P 3, for the repeal of the Alien Land Law. If passed by the CRC, the proposal will be placed on the ballot at the November 6, 2018 General Election. 60% voter approval is required for adoption.

Reasons to Repeal Florida’s Alien Land Law

1. It’s embarrassing and antiquated: Florida is the last state in the nation to have this Jim Crow era law still in its constitution.

2. It’s unenforceable: Across our nation, various state supreme courts and the federal courts have ruled that “Alien Land Laws” are unconstitutional because they target a racial class and violate equal protection & due process. The Florida Legislature has never enacted legislation to carry it out.

3. It’s un-American: Floridians and all Americans have long valued a sense of fair play and equal economic opportunity if you work hard. The “Alien Land Law” runs against this tradition.

4. It has nothing to do with the “aliens” or "illegal immigration": Don’t let the name fool you - the “Alien Land Law” was passed in the early 20th Century to stop new immigrants from owning property. It has nothing to do with immigration.

5. It has no supporters or defenders! (Yes, it’s that bad.)

6. It is simply the right thing to do!