

APABA's Mission:

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.
- Combat discrimination against all minorities and to promote diversity in the legal profession.



Asian Pacific American Bar Association
of South Florida

www.APABASFLA.org



Special thanks to the Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association (GOAABA) for creating this brochure and allowing us to adapt and update.

How Can You Help?

Vote for Amendment No. 11 on November 6, 2018.

Learn about Amendment No. 11 and the Alien Land Law. Download the toolkit at www.apabasfla.org.

Help us spread the word!

Sign up to volunteer at www.apabasfla.org.

Contact your elected officials and ask them to support Amendment No. 11.

Florida Senate

Sen. Lauren Book, Dist 32 202 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5032	Sen. Bobby Powell, Dist. 30 214 Senate Office Bldg (850) 487-5030
Sen. Oscar Braynon II, Dist 35 200 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5035	Sen. Kevin Rader, Dist. 29 222 Senate Office Building (850) 487-5029
Sen. Daphne Campbell, Dist 38 218 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5038	Jose Javier Rodriguez, Dist. 37 220 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5037
Sen. Gary M. Farmer, Jr., Dist. 34 216 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5034	Sen. Annette Taddeo, Dist. 40 224 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5040
Anitere Flores, Dist. 39 404 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5039	Sen. Perry E. Thurston, Jr., Dist. 33 208 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5033
Rene Garcia, Dist. 36 310 Senate Office Bldg. (850) 487-5036	

Florida House of Representatives

Rep. George Moraitio, 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

VOTE YES ON FLORIDA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT NO. 11

DO YOU KNOW?

The Florida Constitution has **obsolete discriminatory language authorizing the prohibition of land purchase and ownership by Asian Americans. This provision is known as the Alien Land Law.**



THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I 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 IS THE ALIEN LAND LAW?

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 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."

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.

NOV. 6, 2018 BALLOT: AMENDMENT No. 11

Proposed Amendment to the Florida Constitution

Article I, Section 2

Article X, Sections 9, 19

PROPERTY RIGHTS; REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISION; CRIMINAL STATUTES.—Removes discriminatory language related to real property rights. Removes obsolete language repealed by voters. Deletes provision that amendment of a criminal statute will not affect prosecution or penalties for a crime committed before the amendment; retains current provision allowing prosecution of a crime committed before the repeal of a criminal statute.

Support the removal of obsolete discriminatory language from the Florida Constitution.



Reasons to Remove Obsolete Language from the Florida Constitution:

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!

