

OPEN PRIMARIES IN FLORIDA:
THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF AMENDMENT 3
ON THE BLACK COMMUNITY

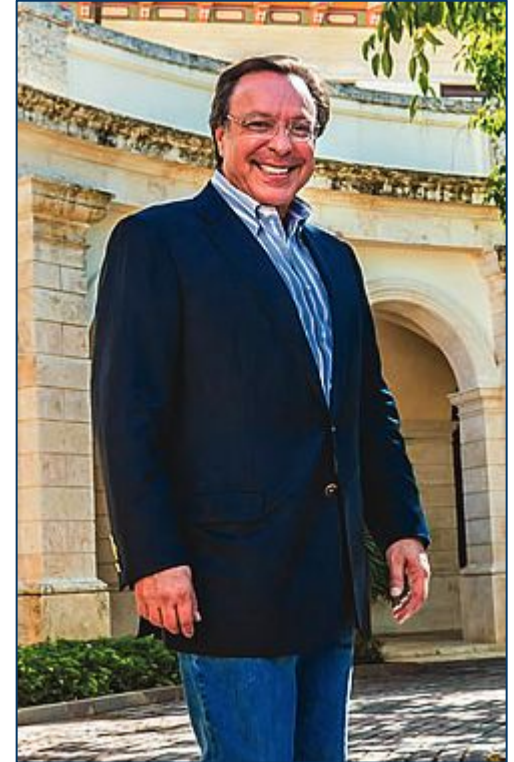
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PEOPLE OVER PROFITS
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WHAT IS AMENDMENT 3?

- “*Top Two Open Primaries for State Offices*” Initiative.
- Misleading title that claims to be impact only primary elections, when, in fact, it would mandate GE runoffs in every district with two or more candidates of any party.
- Sponsored by billionaire **Mike Fernandez**, a former Bush & Scott Finance Chair, who seeks to remake Florida’s election system.



THE REAL CONSEQUENCES OF AMENDMENT 3



- Like at-large and multi-member districts, ‘open primaries’ have a long history of being used to diminish minority representation.
- The proposal likely violates of both the **1965 Voting Rights Act** and the **2010 Fair Districts Amendment**, and will require extensive litigation in *addition* to probable redistricting suits.
- Will make campaigns & elections more expensive
- A result in a significant loss of the voting power of Florida’s Black electorate.

Note on Methodology: The data presented is based on the [Florida Voter File](#) using average turnout from 2016 and 2018 to predict future electorates.

THE DIMINISHING MATH OF OPEN PRIMARIES

- In statewide elections, *all* GOP, DEM and Independent candidates would face each other in a large primary.
- The larger electorate of an open primary is, by definition, whiter, older, and less progressive than the Democratic Primary.
- It's almost an impossibility that another Andrew Gillum could win a statewide open primary under this system.

STATEWIDE	AFAM	HISP	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
DEM PRIMARY	520,827	183,432	1,010,570	84,111	1,798,940
GOP PRIMARY	16,084	170,169	1,733,538	57,591	1,977,382
OPEN PRIMARY	571,161	425,735	3,032,781	174,928	4,204,605
GENERAL ELECTION	1,308,400	1,547,770	6,583,880	622,351	10,062,401

STATEWIDE	AFAM	HISP	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
DEM PRIMARY	29%	10%	56%	5%	100%
GOP PRIMARY	1%	9%	88%	3%	100%
OPEN PRIMARY	14%	10%	72%	4%	100%
GENERAL ELECTION	13%	15%	65%	6%	100%



THE DIMINISHING MATH OF OPEN PRIMARIES

Two Republicans in the General Election?

- Could Democrats be boxed out of statewide races?
 - 428,283 NMP voters voted in the 2018 primary.
 - In the unlikely scenario that all NMP's voted only for Putnam and Gillum, Gillum would have had to win them 58% to 42% in order to place 2nd and make the runoff.

	NAME	PARTY	VOTES
1	Ron DeSantis	Republican	916,298
2	Adam H. Putnam	Republican	592,518
3	Andrew Gillum	Democratic	522,164
4	Gwen Graham	Democratic	474,875
5	Philip Levine	Democratic	308,801
6	Jeff Greene	Democratic	152,955
7	Darcy G. Richardson	Reform	47,140
8	Chris King	Democratic	37,616
9	Bob White	Republican	32,710
10	Kyle "KC" Gibson	No Party Affiliation	24,310

**Vote totals in red were cast in the 2018 GE. Under AVV, 3rd party candidates would compete on the same ballot as the major parties.*



THE DIMINISHING MATH OF THE SENATE (1/3)

- As many as 10 Senate seats to see massive reduction of political Black voting power for non-white candidates.
- NO Florida Senate district would have majority Black electorate in either the primary or GE.
- Senate District 15 (Torres) would move from plurality Hispanic to plurality white.
- Voters in 8 districts would lose the Black voting edge, making way for moderate white Democrats.



THE DIMINISHING MATH OF THE SENATE (2/3)

- SD6 represented by Leader Audrey Gibson is prime example of the negative impact of Amendment 3.
 - As currently drawn, SD6 has a 70% Black electorate in the Democratic primary.
 - In a race with multiple Black candidates and a single white Democrat, the likeliest scenario is a white Democrat making the GE runoff against the top-placing Black Democrat.
 - In that runoff, on a Presidential or Gubernatorial election, white voters outnumber black voters by 4%.

SD6 - GIBSON	AFAM	HISP	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
DEM PRIMARY	42,648	1,159	15,411	1,974	61,192
GOP PRIMARY	1,232	695	32,887	1,459	36,273
OPEN PRIMARY	45,886	2,157	52,219	4,123	104,385
GENERAL ELECTION	95,088	9,423	104,382	13,509	222,402

SD6 - GIBSON	AFAM	HISP	WHITE	OTHER	TOTAL
DEM PRIMARY	70%	2%	25%	3%	100%
GOP PRIMARY	3%	2%	91%	4%	100%
OPEN PRIMARY	44%	2%	50%	4%	100%
GENERAL ELECTION	43%	4%	47%	6%	100%



THE DIMINISHING MATH OF THE SENATE (3/3)

- If Amendment 3 passes, NO seat in the Florida Senate would be majority Black in the GE runoff.
- These seats would still be very likely to elect Democrats, but almost certainly some number of seats currently held by Black legislators would elect white Democrats.
- In 2016, in SD11, SD19 and SD30, self-funding white Democratic candidates tried to utilize a version of this strategy, but were unsuccessful because of closed primaries.
- Notably BOTH SD3 and SD38 are represented by white legislators despite having significant numbers of Black voters.

DIS#	Senator	DEM Primary	AVV General	Decrease%
35	Oscar Braynon	74%	48%	-26%
33	Thurston, Perry E. , Jr.	62%	47%	-16%
6	Audrey Gibson	70%	43%	-27%
11	Randolph Bracy	57%	33%	-24%
19	Darryl Rouson	49%	30%	-19%
38	Jason Pizzo*	45%	30%	-15%
3	Bill Montford*	44%	28%	-16%
30	Bobby Powell	36%	18%	-17%

**Montford and Pizzo are both white, but represent seats with over 40% Black composition in the Democratic primary, and have been included because both seats have recently elected Black legislators.*



THE DIMINISHING MATH OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE

- Seats with majority Black voter turnout reduce from 17 to 9.
- 8 current Black-majority seats to see reduction in voting power.
- Proportion of Black turnout drops to less than 50%.
- At least 9 of 21 seats would risk losing current Black legislative representation.

DIS#	State Representative	DEM Primary	AVV General	DEM Primary
95	Anika Omphroy	74%	60%	-14%
14	Kimberly Daniels	82%	55%	-27%
108	Dotie Joseph	68%	55%	-13%
107	Barbara Watson	69%	54%	-16%
102	Sharon Pritchett	78%	53%	-25%
46	Bruce Antone	75%	52%	-22%
8	Ramon Alexander	68%	52%	-17%
109	James Bush III	77%	51%	-25%
88	Al Jacquet	70%	50%	-20%
94	Bobby DuBose	62%	49%	-13%
13	Tracie Davis	72%	48%	-23%
61	Dianne Hart	61%	47%	-14%
70	Wengay Newton	62%	44%	-18%
45	Kamia L. Brown	66%	41%	-25%
117	Kionne McGhee	69%	38%	-32%
101	Shevrin Jones	56%	37%	-19%
92	Patricia H. Williams	50%	35%	-15%
20	Clovis Watson	44%	27%	-17%
84	Delores Hogan Johnson	38%	18%	-20%
63	Fentrice Driskell	23%	13%	-10%
44	Geraldine Thompson	21%	8%	-13%





HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Participation in a formal campaign (through a “No on 3” PC that will be created shortly).
- Formal endorsements that can be released publicly after Labor Day as part of a “No on 3” campaign.
- Inclusion in your existing political and education programming.
 - Voting guides.
 - Sample ballots.
 - Scripts.
 - Social media feeds.
 - Newsletters.
- Need some groups willing to speak to Editorial Boards with us (or separately).
- This is primarily a grassroots effort, but we certainly welcome any financial support or grants to assist.



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