



Background Information on Amendment 4

Florida's 2018 Amendment 4 was approved by more than 64% of the Florida electorate in November 2018. The constitutional amendment granted the right to vote to former felons (known as returning citizens) in Florida (except murderers or felony sex offenders) who have completed their sentences. Related legislation, Florida Senate Bill 7066 (SB 7066), was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis in June 2019. This legislation requires returning citizens to pay all financial obligations in addition completing all incarceration and probation or parole before they can vote. The League along with a number of organizational partners took this issue to court. The League won the case at trial in federal court and lost on appeal to the 11th Cir. Therefore, SB 7066 now codified as 98.0751 is the law.

A few concessions were won though through the litigation. Now, the returning citizen will only need to pay what was specifically mentioned in the sentence and not any additional interests or service fees that accrued over the years. In addition, if the clerk took a returning citizen's money and paid down administrative costs or interest, then all of money paid by the returning citizen will be attributed to the basic sentence for voting purposes. The Division of Elections also established that returning citizens could request an Advisory Opinion from the Division of Elections to get answers on whether they can vote or not. The League believes that without the litigation, these concessions would likely not have been provided.