



### SPOTLIGHT

#### **Why I Support Amendment 3**

By Dale M. Glading

I have thought long and hard about Amendment 3, commonly referred to as “Save Our Homes From Excessive Property Taxes”. The more formal name is *Florida Amendment 3, Homestead Tax Exemptions, Property Assessments, and Spending Restrictions Amendment (2026)*.

The actual language of the amendment is being rewritten as we speak after Leon County Circuit Judge David Frank found the current ballot title - the aforementioned “Save Our Homes From Excessive Property Taxes” - and the summary to be political slogans rather than neutral descriptions. No matter how the final name and descriptive summary read, the amendment’s provisions remain unchanged.

A “yes” vote supports this constitutional amendment to:

- increase the homestead tax exemption for non-school taxes to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, with the amount indexed to inflation starting in 2029;
- provide that new residents receive a smaller exemption until they’ve lived in the state for five years;
- decrease the cap on how much the assessed value of non-homestead properties,

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#### **Demented Minds and Tortured Souls**

By Dale M. Glading

*“They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood - the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood.” Psalm 106:37-38 (BSB)*

Last week, I posted a meme on Facebook that featured the Grim Reaper holding a newspaper that read “ABORTIONS UP 20%”. The caption showed the Grim Reaper saying, “The reversal of Roe... and then this. I was worried about nothing.”

The point of the meme was that – because of widespread use of the abortion pill, which is actually two pills (mifepristone and misoprostol) – the number of abortions in America has skyrocketed since Roe v. Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022.

According to the Guttmacher Institute and the Society for Family Planning’s WeCount project, clinician-provided abortions rose from an estimated 930,000 before the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization ruling to roughly 1.13 million abortions in 2025.

Let’s pause for a moment not only of silence, but also of national mourning and repentance.

Experts attribute the dramatic increase to the aforementioned abortion pill, which is being prescribed via

telehealth providers and shipped through the mail, often to women in states with strong abortion restrictions. Women seeking abortions are also increasingly willing to travel great distances to “destination states” with fewer restrictions such as Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, and North Carolina.

Now let’s pause to pray for the tortured minds and endangered souls of these desperate - and sometimes callous - women.

We hear all the time that financial hardship is the #1 reason for women having an abortion and in fact, 40%-73% of women who have had an abortion offer that as their excuse. However, statistics show that 95% of abortions are the result of unintended pregnancies, which begs the question: Why not take the necessary precautions so you don’t get pregnant instead of murdering your precious preborn child?

The second leading “explanation” for having an abortion is that the timing isn’t right. Thirty-six percent of women who had an abortion said that their pregnancy happened at “the wrong time” in their life. So, let me get this right: It was the right time to have unprotected sex, but not the right time to get pregnant. Got it.

An additional 20%-74% (I know, these figures add up to a lot more than 100%, which means that many women gave multiple reasons for killing their own babies) said that a newborn would “interfere” with their education, career advancement, or

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## ***Demented Minds and Tortured Souls***

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personal goals. To me, this is the most reprehensible and selfish excuse of them all.

Finally, 29%-74% said that they chose to abort one child so they could focus their time and limited resources on children they already have. That sounds like a scene from *Lord of the Flies* or *The Hunger Games* to me... yuck!

The bottom line is that getting pregnant when you aren't ready is irresponsible but at least somewhat understandable, and certainly forgivable. However, disposing of your preborn child to rid yourself of the consequences of your irresponsibility is the most selfish decision a person can ever make. It not only destroys your baby, but it also deeply – and often permanently – damages your psyche and your soul.

And yet, some women actually celebrate the occasion, which is why I titled my article “Demented Minds and Tortured Souls”, because there simply is no other explanation.

When I posted the Grim Reaper meme, I also shared some statistics about the abortion pill, which is now responsible for about 62% of all abortions in America and results in serious medical complications in 11% of all cases. To my absolute horror, here are a couple of the responses I received...

“A man telling women what they can do with their bodies is like someone trying to write rules for a game they'll never have to play... Why can't men understand this assignment? Your job is to listen, NOT decide.”

In other words, men are simply sperm donors and embryos are

mere body parts. Here was my reply...

“You're missing the point entirely. A preborn baby is not a “body part” of its mother like an arm or a leg. From the moment of conception, it is a completely unique individual with its own DNA, fingerprints, and circulatory system. There is a reason why someone who murders a pregnant woman is charged with double homicide.”

Another woman offered an even more disturbing response...

“The abortion that I had was super safe and that was three decades ago.”

My reply: “The abortion you had was ‘super safe’? Not for your pre-born child.”

A third woman tried a classic liberal tactic, typing “Then YOU adopt them all!”

I replied with simple facts: “There are currently two couples waiting to adopt a newborn for every child that is aborted in America.”

None of the three ladies chose to respond when faced with the truth... or the cold, hard facts.

And yet, none of these irrational and cold-hearted women quite prepared me for the picture a pro-life friend sent me of a lady wearing a t-shirt that proudly read “I've had 21 abortions”.

No, it wasn't AI-generated; it was the real deal... and you could tell from the expression of her face that (1) she was defiantly proud of the fact that she had murdered more than five dozen babies in her own womb; and (2) she may very well have been demon-possessed. After all, there is no other explanation for someone having 21 abortions and then celebrating the fact, instead of crying out in shame, remorse, and

repentance.

Tragically, this demented woman is not alone. There is a young lady on TikTok who recorded a video in which she claimed to have had 45 abortions... and almost 17 million viewers have watched her provide the sordid details.

Then there is Jessica, a 38-year-old woman who appeared on an episode of TLC's *My Strange Addiction*, to talk about her 56 abortions. Jessica told her audience that she has no intention of stopping because she is addicted to having abortions, i.e. murdering her preborn babies.

Who on earth are the creeps who keep impregnating this lady... and who are the doctors who keep performing her abortions?

But then again, these misguided women are just following their Hollywood role models such as Christina Applegate, Britney Spears, Sally Fields, Kerry Washington, Paris Hilton, Chrissy Teigen, Ashley Judd, Stevie Nicks, Alyssa Milano, Nicki Minaj, Chelsea Handler, and Uma Thurman... all of whom have publicly boasted about having abortions. Even Ali McGraw (87) and Rita Moreno (94) have gone on record in recent years, trying to remain relevant at their advanced ages by letting everyone know that they too are baby-killers.

After all, in a world full of seared consciences, having an abortion is apparently the latest fashion accessory.

*“Now the Spirit expressly states that in later times some will abandon the faith to follow deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, influenced by the hypocrisy of liars, whose consciences are seared with a hot iron.”* 1 Timothy 4:1-2 (BSB)

## Why I Support Amendment 3

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such as rentals and commercial buildings, can increase each year from 10% to 5%, except for school district taxes;

- limit how counties and municipalities can spend property tax revenue on public safety, education, infrastructure, natural resource projects and flood control, local bonds, employee retirement benefits, and government operations; and other changes.

Amendment proponents say that homeowners desperately need property tax relief because of soaring home values that have outpaced incomes. Opponents of Amendment 3 feel that it has been rushed through without adequate thought being given to its potential ramifications, particularly how counties and municipalities will make up the shortfall resulting from the reduction in state property tax revenues.

Both sides have valid points, so why do I intend to vote "Yes" on November 3rd?

First, as the old saying goes, "perfect is the enemy of good". In other words, if we continue to wait for the Florida state legislature to come up with a perfect solution for property tax relief, we could be waiting a very, very long time. After all, our elected officials have been wrestling with this issue for decades with minimal results. I, for one, want to see property taxes reduced in my lifetime... and at age 66, I'm not interested in giving the folks in Tallahassee 10 or 20 more years to debate and discuss the issue. No more kicking the can down the road for next year's session to deal with - and then the one after that.

As my father used to say, it's time to fish or cut bait.

If Amendment 3 is adopted, the Florida legislature can always pass laws to correct any unforeseen circumstances, so let's get this ball rolling now and make adjustments - such as providing much needed relief for renters - later as needed.

Second, I am a smaller government, lower taxes, fiscal conservative just like Ronald Reagan, my political hero. In my humble opinion, the more we can shrink the size of government on the federal, state, and local levels... the better.

Adopting Amendment 3 will reduce property tax revenues and SHOULD therefore, reduce the size of government. As the "Gipper" told a Joint Session of Congress on April 28, 1981, "The answer to a government that's too big is to stop feeding its growth."

Which brings me to my third and most important (and potentially contentious) point.

The fearmongers are actively wringing their hands and warning everybody that because of the anticipated loss in revenue, local governments will have to dramatically reduce critical services. School taxes are exempt under Amendment 3, so public school systems should not be affected. However, police and fire unions are working hard to defeat Amendment 3 for fear that there will be job cuts if it passes. Meanwhile, county officials are putting voters on notice to expect local tax increases if they want to maintain the same level of services.

To me, everyone seems to be working off a false assumption. I remember all too well when, on September 25, 2013, then House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was asked by host Candy Crowley on State of the Union why President Obama and the Democ-

rats in Congress were so opposed to negotiating over the debt ceiling by exploring additional spending cuts.

Pelosi infamously and arrogantly stated that "the cupboard is bare... there's no more cuts to make." Really, Nancy? Not a single dollar could be cut from a (then) \$3.8 trillion federal budget to narrow the \$901 billion deficit?

Truth be told, Republicans are just as guilty and just as clueless. In 2005, when the federal budget was "just" \$2.5 trillion and the deficit was "only" \$318 billion, House Majority Leader Tom Delay (R-Texas) claimed that there was "no fat" left to cut in the federal budget and agreed with the assessment that the government was running at peak efficiency, bragging that the GOP majority had "pared it down pretty good."

Give me a break, Tom.

I don't know what the budget is in Florida's other 66 counties, but in Indian River County, the proposed budget for FY2026-2027 is \$614.8 million. That's a lot of money for a county with just 173,000 residents. In fact, it comes to \$3,554 per county resident, almost double the statewide average of \$1,814 and more than twice the state median of \$1,601.

So please, don't tell me there's no fat in the budget or no cuts that can be made without reducing critical services or laying off first responders.

Let me give you a personal example to prove what I have been saying...

I founded two different nonprofit organizations and led them both for a combined 39 years. They both started with a zero budget and eventually grew to \$600,000 and \$130,000 respectively. The former

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## ***Dandelions Don't Lie***

By Dale M. Glading

I spent most of my childhood living in a three-story Dutch colonial house that sat on a half-acre of land. That meant that there was a lot of grass to cut in the spring and summertime.

Since I was the youngest of my dad's three sons, my two older brothers got to push the lawnmowers while I was sentenced to pulling weeds. Eventually, I graduated to pushing a hand-powered mower with no engine (yes, I am that old).

I learned early on that pulling the tops off the weeds to finish the job quickly wasn't such a smart idea. Why is that? Because the weeds - especially those darn dandelions - would just grow back twice as fast. No, if you wanted to do the job right, you had to dig down deep and get the roots out.

Now that I am not only a man, I try to apply that gardening lesson to different aspects of my life. Covering up or whitewashing a problem won't make it go away. Neither will addressing its symptoms while ignoring its root causes.

Take for instance what is commonly referred to by liberals as the "mass incarceration" of young black men. Yes, it's true, that whereas blacks comprise 13.5% of the general population, they represent 33% of America's prison population. The easy explanation is to chalk that disparity up to racial prejudice, but that is a cop-out and intellectually lazy.

"Dig a little deeper" - just like I learned to do pulling weeds as a young boy - and you will find that black men commit 63% of all violent crimes in America. So, the real question is this: why does 7% of our population (I'm excluding black

women) commit almost 2/3 of all violent crimes?

I have been involved in prison ministry since 1987, so I am coming up on my 40th anniversary of ministering to men, women, and teens in hundreds of different correctional institutions throughout North America and Africa. If you were to ask me what the 500,000 inmates to whom I have ministered have in common, it would be this: the lack of a positive role model. Plain and simple.

And why is that? I'm glad you asked!

The out-of-wedlock birthrate in the black community has soared since President Lyndon Johnson introduced his disastrous War on Poverty and the Great Society in the mid-1960s. Black families were generally intact before LBJ and Uncle Sam started meddling in their affairs by dangling welfare benefits in their faces. Suddenly, the nuclear family (a dad, a mom, and their biological children) was being penalized while single women were being financially rewarded for giving birth to children outside of marriage. Before we knew it, the out-of-wedlock birthrate in the black community had risen from 25% in 1965 to 69% in 2025.

Because of that, young black boys were no longer benefitting from having a steady male influence in their lives. And so, they started running the streets at younger and younger ages, and many of them gravitated to gangs.

My friends, if we are serious about reducing the racial disparity in America's prison population, we must have the courage to attack its root cause... which is the fatherless epidemic in minority communities. The out-of-wedlock birth among Hispanics is not far behind (54%), which is why their rate of in-

carceration (23%) is also slightly higher than their portion of the general population (20.5%). For the record, non-Hispanic whites account for 56% of the general population and 31% of the prison population... and have a 27% out-of-wedlock birthrate.

The facts are undeniable and so is the root cause of the problem. The only question that remains is whether we have the moral courage to address it head-on.

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had 11 employees at its peak, and the latter currently has one full-time and two part-time workers. If I told you everything that God accomplished in and through these two ministries on such relatively small budgets and with such relatively small staffs, you'd be amazed. And yet, I am sure I could go back and cut a nonessential program here and eliminate an unnecessary expenditure there without compromising either ministry's mission or diminishing its overall effectiveness.

If I can do that in the nonprofit sector where pinching pennies is an art form as well as a means of survival, I am confident that our elected officials in IRC and throughout the State of Florida are competent enough to do the same.

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