

Vote NO on Ballot Amendment 6 ("Marsy's Law")

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 6! #NIX6

FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION CURRENTLY EXPLICITLY PROVIDES PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME AND THE ACCUSED.

Amendment 6, which adds the Marsy's Law statute to our constitution, deletes from our constitution existing language that ensures that the constitutional rights of the accused will not be interfered with.

Additionally, Marsy's Law constitutionalizes protections for corporations, allowing big businesses to influence the punishment of those it accuses of minor shoplifting offenses.

The ACLU of Florida absolutely supports victims of crime, but Marsy's Law is not the answer. Marsy's Law is well-intentioned, but is poorly drafted, overly broad, and misleading to voters. It has far-reaching unintended consequences that would be disastrous if implemented.

Individual victims of serious crimes need real solutions. We need preventative measures to stop violence against vulnerable individuals. We need increased resources, funding, and services for individual victims of physical and sexual violence and assault. We need education, prevention, and early intervention.

Marsy's Law does none of these. It is an unfunded mandate that abolishes current constitutional protections for the accused.

The Amendment 6 ballot summary is MISLEADING to the public and fails to inform the public that it deletes current constitutional protections for the accused and grants corporations' constitutional rights in our criminal justice system.

WHAT MARSY'S LAW DOES:

- Deletes current Constitutional protections for the accused.
- Constitutionalizes protections for corporations (e.g., it would grant constitutional rights to Walmart to have a say in a bail hearing or sentencing proceeding against someone it accuses of shoplifting).
- Constitutionalizes unrealistic timeframes for trials and appeals, with the unintended consequence of innocent individuals not having adequate time to prepare their defense, and thus taking a plea rather than risking going to trial unprepared. When innocent individuals go to jail, perpetrators remain at large.
- Upends our current criminal justice system – currently Florida's Constitution, Art. 1, §16, explicitly provides for both the rights of victims and the accused, and carefully balances those rights. Marsy's Law upends this careful balance.
- Further strains scarce criminal justice resources and provides an unfunded mandate.

WHAT MARSY'S LAW DOES NOT DO:

- Does not provide any funding for victims or victim services.
- Does not provide any support services or counseling for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, or physical abuse.
- Does not provide victim advocates or pro bono counsel to represent the victims' interests.
- Does not recognize any difference between victims of physical/sexual assault, and corporations that have experienced shoplifting. Under Marsy's Law, they are treated the same.
- Does not allow victims to seek damages for violations of any of the rights it claims to afford them.

ACLU Florida

Learn more: aclufl.org/CRCBallotAmendments