

FLORIDA AR VOTER

Become a Florida Solar Voter TODAY: How do we make solar energy a priority in the Sunshine State? It starts by [boosting voter turnout in this year's August and November elections](#) among all Floridians who want to build a clean energy, sustainable energy future. **The August primary is right around the corner and Amendment 4 presents an opportunity to advance solar in the Sunshine State.**

What is Amendment 4? Amendment 4 would amend Florida's Constitution to exempt the value of solar panels and other renewable energy equipment from both the tangible personal property tax and the real property tax. To become law, Amendment 4 must be approved by a YES vote of at least 60 percent on the Aug. 30 primary ballot.

Taxes are big reason that [Florida](#) – a state with no solar incentives – has 9 million energy customers and yet only a mere 8,500 rooftop solar systems. By comparison, [New Jersey](#) has over 40,000 rooftop systems with half the population and less sun.

[The proposed Amendment 4 would exempt solar systems from the tangible personal property tax](#) – the most burdensome of the taxes – for a period of 20 years. Amendment 4 would lower solar energy costs by lowering taxes on solar installations – because the tangible personal property tax is passed on to customers in the form of increased solar power prices of up to 5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). That can be a big deal in Florida where a couple cents can make or break the economics of going solar. Better solar economics can mean more solar development, which lays the groundwork for cleaner air and a more sustainable future for the next generation.

The title and summary of the amendment below can sound complicated, but the concept is simple one: **lower taxes = lower solar energy costs.**

Title and text of Amendment 4 as it will appear on the ballot:

SOLAR DEVICES OR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE DEVICES; EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT.

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt from ad valorem taxation the assessed value of solar or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax, and to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit consideration of such devices in assessing the value of real property for ad valorem taxation purposes. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2018, and expires on December 31, 2037.

Florida Solar Voter is a project of the [Southern Alliance for Clean Energy](#) dedicated to providing all Florida voters, including those who care about a clean energy future, an easy way to sign up to vote by mail. Contact flsolarvoter@cleanenergy.org

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What you need to know:

- “Ad valorem” means a tax rate applied to a value. For instance, for the tangible personal property tax, if a new solar system cost \$20,000 and the county’s “millage (tax) rate is 2.0 %”, then the first year tangible personal property tax on the solar system is \$400. The system is taxed annually on declining value – as it depreciates.
- The exemption from these taxes will last for 20 years – enough time to allow solar to become a meaningful resource in Florida’s energy mix.
- **Lower Taxes Can Empower Floridians To Be Energy Independent:** Floridians have shown strong support for going solar but are currently faced with barriers that can make clean solar energy seem out of reach. By lowering the taxes on solar, solar power becomes more affordable for businesses and homeowners in Florida.
- **Lower Taxes Can Pave the Way for a Sustainable Florida:** Solar is clean and safe energy, with zero emissions and zero water usage. By lowering the cost of solar, more people will have access to this clean energy source, helping ensure a bright and sunny future for Florida
- **Lower Taxes Can Reduce Monthly Power Bills:** While every solar system is different, most solar customers, both business and residential, can lock in long term savings on their monthly power bill by going solar. Once Amendment 4 passes, a residential solar lease can save a homeowner hundreds off their power bill through the life of the contract by locking in a lower rate, while utility rates continue to rise. One of the largest utilities in Florida just proposed a 24% rate increase over the next four years; affordable solar helps protect Floridians from rate hikes and provides financial stability and certainty.
- **Lower Taxes Can Create Local Jobs:** One out of every 83 new jobs created in the US last year was in the solar industry. Voting YES on Amendment 4 will allow the solar industry to grow in the Sunshine State, creating local jobs that cannot be outsourced.

Voting is easy in Florida – you have many different options to make sure you cast your vote in August:

1. [**Ditch the polls and sign up to vote by mail here!**](#) You will receive your ballot between July 26-August 2 and will have the entire month to mail it in.
2. Or, consider voting early **August 20-27**.
3. Enjoy voting on Election Day? Head to the polls **August 30!** [**Use this quick tool to mark your calendar.**](#)

[**Check your voter status and polling location here.**](#)

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