

**PROPOSED**

## RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

1  
2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
4 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE "SAY YES TO 2<sup>ND</sup>  
5 CHANCES" PROJECT AND THE PROPOSED VOTING  
6 RESTORATION AMENDMENT TO THE FLORIDA  
7 CONSTITUTION, WHICH WOULD, WITH LIMITED  
8 EXCEPTIONS, RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS OF  
9 CITIZENS CONVICTED OF A FELONY UPON  
10 COMPLETION OF SENTENCE, PAROLE, AND  
11 PROBATION; EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO ANY  
12 EFFORTS TO RESTRICT RESTORATION OF VOTING  
13 RIGHTS FOR SUCH CITIZENS; AND PROVIDING FOR  
14 SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

15 WHEREAS, voting rights is an issue of concern to every United States citizen  
16 residing in Broward County and the State of Florida; and

17 WHEREAS, currently in the State of Florida, citizens with felony convictions are  
18 unable to exercise the right to vote even after completing all terms of their sentences,  
19 including parole and probation; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan law and  
21 policy institute, the State of Florida is one of only four states whose constitution  
22 permanently disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions and grants the  
23 Governor, with the agreement of two (2) Cabinet members who are also statewide elected  
24 officials, the authority to restore voting rights; and

WHEREAS, the Sentencing Project, a research and advocacy center promoting  
reforms in sentencing policy, estimated that felony disenfranchisement in the State of  
Florida alone accounts for more than one-quarter (27%) of the disenfranchised population  
nationally; and

1           WHEREAS, according to the Sentencing Project, more than one in five  
2 African Americans in the State of Florida are barred from voting due to felony convictions;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, the Board supports any efforts to protect the voting rights of  
5 individuals in the State of Florida and the right to freely participate in elections; and

6           WHEREAS, the proposed Voting Restoration Amendment to the Florida  
7 Constitution would restore the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they  
8 complete all terms of their sentences, including parole and probation, except for those  
9 convicted of murder or sexual offenses; and

10           WHEREAS, the County opposes any efforts to curtail voting rights in general and  
11 specifically for Floridians convicted of a felony, except under the limited circumstances  
12 described above, NOW, THEREFORE,

13  
14           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
15 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

16  
17           Section 1. The Board hereby expresses its support for the "Say Yes to 2<sup>nd</sup>  
18 Chances" project and the related proposed Voting Restoration Amendment to the Florida  
19 Constitution, aimed at restoring the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions,  
20 automatically after completion of the terms of their sentences, including parole and  
21 probation, except with regard to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses.

22           Section 2. The Board opposes any efforts, legislative or otherwise, to restrict  
23 the voting rights of individuals, including individuals convicted of a felony except under  
24 those limited circumstances.

1 Section 3. SEVERABILITY.

2 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any Court to be invalid, the invalid  
3 portion shall be stricken, and such striking shall not affect the validity of the remainder of  
4 this Resolution. If any Court determines that this Resolution, or any portion hereof, cannot  
5 be legally applied to any individual(s), group(s), entity(ies), property(ies), or  
6 circumstance(s), such determination shall not affect the applicability hereof to any other  
7 individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

8 Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

9 This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

10  
11 ADOPTED this day of , 2017.

12  
13 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
14 Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

15 By /s/ Neil K. Sharma 08/15/17  
16 Neil K. Sharma (date)  
17 Assistant County Attorney  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

**PROPOSED**

23 NKS/hb  
08/15/17  
Rights Restoration Resolution.doc  
24 #17-008.00  
#17-026.08