

## One bad amendment enough: Focus on killing 'Hometown Democracy' sham

By **THE PALM BEACH POST**

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Fortunately, a sham constitutional amendment designed to undercut Florida Hometown Democracy won't be on the November ballot, so it will be easier to focus on why Hometown Democracy is such a bad idea.


Hometown Democracy would require a public referendum on even minor, technical land-use changes. Its backers argue that only the people can stop bad developers, but the amendment is overkill. It would waste the public's money, penalize developers who weren't trying to game the system and pour sand into Florida's business engine.

Still, the concept is tempting, so a business group started its own drive for an amendment to allow a referendum on development if 10 percent of registered voters went to the elections office and signed a petition. Organizers had until last Monday to obtain enough signatures. They failed, which will eliminate voter confusion over two amendments seemingly seeking the same goal. Florida Hometown Democracy is bad enough on its own to deserve voters' full attention between now and Nov. 2.

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