

**NEWS > LOCAL****Fort Meade Chamber encouraged to vote against Amendment 4**[Print Page](#)By **JESSICA THOMPSON, Staff Writer**

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Local business owners, operators, and residents gathered last month at the Fort Meade Chamber of Commerce luncheon to hear from Sam Killibrew about Amendment 4.

"Amendment 4 or Hometown Democracy is a fuzzy description of a bad program," Killibrew said.

"Some that support this movement are Joe Redder, a strip club owner in Tampa, and Leslie Blackner, a land development manager," he said.

Amendment 4, if voted on and passed in the November 2010 election, would allow any change to the comprehensive plan to be voted on by everyone in the county, he said.

If this was already in effect, Frostproof would have had 310 items on their 2005 election ballot, Killibrew claimed. Another item up for wide-spread votes would be the local landfill issues. City issues would be voted on by all city-registered voters, and county issues, such as the landfill near Fort Meade, would be voted on by the entire county.

Special elections would have to occur to vote on any changes if Amendment 4 passes or the city would have to wait until the regular election, he said.

"If you love the economy now, you will love Amendment 4," Killibrew said.

"We elect officials to make these decisions and they make their decisions based on suggestions from engineers and planners," he said.

"They are better educated to make these decisions than the voters."

"The Fort Meade planning and zoning board defer their decisions to the city commissioners which takes approximately three months," resident Cliff Maker said.

"There is no way people in Davenport are voting on a Fort Meade issue."

St. Pete Beach passed an Amendment 4 law and recently wanted to revitalize their area but had to wait until the next election. They are now fighting Amendment 4, the speaker said.

"We need to educate others about what Amendment 4 would do to Fort Meade," Killibrew said.

"Petitioners are being paid \$3 to \$5 per signature they gather to get Amendment 4 passed," he said.

"Those signing the petitions are aware of the real purpose behind it. They are asked if they want to support green efforts in their community."

A state campaign has been launched. For more information, visit www.florida2010.org.

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