

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2

WHEREAS, a proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the November 6, 2018 ballot asking, “Shall the real property tax exemption for a primary residence that is currently provided to the surviving spouses of veterans who had a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be amended to allow the surviving spouse to move to a different primary residence and still claim the exemption?”

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Democratic Committee believes that deliberating and taking a position on ballot initiatives will assist in educating its membership and the general public on important civic matters and will improve the efficiency of voting on election day.

WHEREAS, the Virginia constitution currently has a provision that requires the Virginia General Assembly to exempt from taxation the real estate owned jointly or solely by a veteran who has a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability.

WHEREAS, the exemption under existing law also applies to the surviving spouse of the veteran after his or her death, so long as the surviving spouse does not remarry and continues to occupy the property as his or her primary place of residence.

WHEREAS, in Virginia, it is estimated that over 20 percent of veterans report having some service-connected disability and that in excess of 30 percent of those disabilities have a rating of 70% or greater in terms of severity.

WHEREAS, starting in 2001, the growth rate of service-connected disability increased substantially, coinciding with entry into prolonged military conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq.

WHEREAS, unemployment, homelessness, and poor mental health are problems faced by many veterans, particularly those struggling with a disability and this can have an adverse impact on the financial well-being of the veterans and their family for the remainder of their lives.

WHEREAS, in 2010, Virginia voters supported the original tax exemption that is proposed for expansion by an 82.4 percent to 17.6%, demonstrating overwhelming support for this type of financial assistance to disabled veterans’ surviving spouses.

WHEREAS, this gives surviving spouses mobility in time of emotional and/or financial hardship.

WHEREAS, our society should provide collective assistance to those who have sustained devastating personal loss in defense of the freedom we all enjoy.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Alexandria Democratic Committee encourages its membership to vote yes on Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2 on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

Background and Related Links:

- <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/election-law/proposed-constitutional-amendment-2018/index.html>
- <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2016/demo/Holder-2016-01.pdf>
- <http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/reports/acs.cfm?statistic=10>
- <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>
- https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/19/iraq-war-mental-health_n_2908903.html
- [https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_Property_Tax_Exemption_for_Veterans,_Question_2_\(2010\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_Property_Tax_Exemption_for_Veterans,_Question_2_(2010))