

YOUR BALLOT IN PLAIN ENGLISH

A Guide to Florida's 2018 Election

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VOTING 101



When is Election Day?

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018

How do I register to vote?

In Florida, you can register in person or by mail. However, you must register at least 29 days prior to the election. (October 9 for the 2018 midterm election.) In Florida, the General Election is held 10 weeks after the Primary Election.

To register to vote, you need a current and valid Florida driver's license, state identification card, or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you don't have these items, you must write "NONE" on the voter registration form. If you are registering by mail and are a first-time voter in Florida, you need one of the three items mentioned above, but you must also provide an additional, valid ID with a photo. There are a few exceptions to these requirements.

Contact the Supervisor of Elections in your county to register or obtain more information.

Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote in Florida you must:

- √ Be a citizen of the US
- √ Be a resident of Florida
- √ Be 18 years old on or before the day of the election
- √ Not be convicted of a felony (or have had your full rights restored by the state)
- √ Not be adjudicated as mentally incapacitated

Do I need an ID to vote?

You must provide a valid ID that shows your signature and photo (or one with your signature and another with your photo). The following are examples of accepted IDs:

- √ Florida driver's license
- √ Florida identification card
- √ US passport
- √ Government employee card
- √ Military identification
- √ Student identification
- √ Veteran health identification (from the US Department of Veterans Affairs)

If you don't have a valid ID or if it is lost, you must request a "provisional ballot" and sign it. Your provisional ballot will be examined by the Supervisor of Elections for eligibility and, if deemed to be valid, will be counted as a vote.

What about early voting?

Florida allows for early voting. It depends on the county in Florida, but most counties have early voting from October 27, 2018 to November 3, 2018. Early voting periods were limited by Governor Rick Scott, but the state now mandates a minimum of 8 days for early voting and permits individual county Supervisors of Elections to offer additional "optional" days of early voting. (Contact your county Supervisor of Elections to see if your county offers optional days.) There are fewer polling places open for early voting than for voting on November 6, and the polls are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

What about vote-by-mail or "absentee" voting?

Florida allows for absentee voting or voting-by-mail. You can request (in person, in writing, by phone, or online) an absentee ballot through the Supervisor of Elections in your county and it will be mailed to you. You no longer need a reason to vote by mail, such as being out of the county on Election Day. However, you must request the absentee/vote-by-mail ballot six days prior to the election and these ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections by 7:00 PM on Election Day.

Overseas uniformed members of the armed services and American citizens living overseas have a deadline of Sept. 22, 2018, for the vote-by-mail ballot.

Where do I vote?

Your voter identification card will list the location of your precinct/polling site or you can simply contact the Supervisor of Election in your country. You must vote in your assigned polling site on Election Day and the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

What if I have questions about where to vote, how to vote, or the candidates?

The League of Women Voters has an informative, non-partisan guide that can help you with all these questions. Visit www.vote411.org

SAMPLE BALLOT



U.S. SENATOR

- Rick Scott (Republican)
Link: <https://rickscottforflorida.com/>
- Bill Nelson (Democrat)
Link: <https://www.nelsonforsenate.com/>
- Howard W. Knepper (Write-in candidate)
- Charles Frederick Tolbert (Write-in candidate)
- David Weeks (Write-in candidate)
- Lateresa A. Jones (Write-in candidate)
- Michael Levinson (Write-in candidate)

Here is a link for the US Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/>

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The specific candidates on the ballot depend on the congressional district in which you live. All 435 seats in the U.S. House are up for election every two years.

Here is a link for the US House of Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/>

FLORIDA GOVERNOR/LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

- Ron DeSantis/Jeanette Nunez (Republican)
Link: <https://rondesantis.com/>
- Andrew Gillum/Chris King (Democrat)
Link: <https://splash.andrewgillum.com/?ref=https://andrewgillum.com/>
- Darcy G. Richardson/Nancy Argenziano (Reform)
- Kyle Gibson/Ellen Wilds (No party affiliation)
- Ryan Christopher Foley/John Tutton, Jr. (No party affiliation)
- Bruce Stanley/Ryan Howard McJury (No party affiliation)
- Piotr Blass (Write-in candidate)
- Harold Frederick Johnson (Write-in candidate)

FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Ashley Moody (Republican)
Link: <https://www.electashleymoody.com/>
- Sean Shaw (Democrat)
Link: <https://seanshaw.com/how-we-win/>
- Jeffrey Marc Siskind (No party affiliation)

FLORIDA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- Jimmy Patronis (Republican)
Link: <https://joinjimmy.com/>
- Jeremy Ring (Democrat)
Link: <https://jeremyring.com/>
- Richard Paul Dembinsky (Write-in candidate)

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

- Matt Caldwell (Republican)
Link: <https://votecaldwell.org/>
- Nicole Fried (Democrat)
Link: <https://nikkifried.com/>

STATE SENATE

The specific candidates on the ballot depend on the district in which you live. State senators serve four-year terms.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The specific candidates on the ballot depend on the district in which you live. State representatives serve two-year terms.

COURTS

The specific candidates on the ballot depend on the district in which you live. Florida elects judges and incumbent judges must seek reelection. There are various types of judges, including circuit court and county court judges, who run in non-partisan elections and serve six-year terms. Some judicial elections occur in the Primary Election and others in the General Election. There are also “retention elections” in that the judges’ names appear on the ballot with the wording “Shall Judge [name] be retained in office?” Voters are given a simple “Yes” and “No” response.

LOCAL OFFICES

There may be numerous local offices such as County Commissioner, “Soil & Water Conservation,” and “Beach & Parks” on the ballot.

LOCAL ORDINANCES & INITIATIVES

There may be local ordinances on the ballot and they depend on where you live. For instance, Palm Beach County has a county district school measure. Here is the wording:

REFERENDUM TO APPROVE AD VALOREM LEVY FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, TEACHERS AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS

Shall the School Board of Palm Beach County have authority to levy 1.00 mills of ad valorem millage dedicated for operational needs of non-charter district schools to fund school safety equipment, hire additional school police and mental health professionals, fund arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers, and improve teacher pay beginning July 1, 2019 and automatically ending June 30, 2023, with oversight by the independent committee of citizens and experts?

Voters have the choice: “Yes” or “No”

BALLOT AMENDMENTS



Why are amendments on the ballot?

All state constitutions – like the U.S. Constitution – are meant to be living documents. As such, in the face of serious challenges it may be necessary to amend the constitution. The Florida Constitution provides for a process that allows individuals, the State Legislature, and a convention to propose amendments to the State Constitution. In 2006, Florida Amendment 3, which passed, raised the requirement for approving a constitutional amendment. To amend the Florida Constitution, the measure must be approved by a 60 percent majority during the election.

What is a citizen initiative?

This is the process that permits individuals or groups to get an amendment or referendum placed on the ballot by securing enough voter signatures beforehand. On the other hand, the Florida State Legislature also has the power to place a measure on the ballot, but it requires a vote by 60 percent of the Legislature to do so. Over the previous decade, the Florida State Legislature referred 38 proposed amendments to the ballot, of which 25 were approved by voters.

What is the process for placing an amendment on the ballot?

There are several steps required. The first is for the individual (or group) seeking to propose an amendment to register with the Florida Division of Elections as a political committee. The proposed amendment must then be submitted to the Division of Elections for review to determine if it is written in the proper legal format. For instance, the petition form circulated among voters for their signature must be clearly marked as a “Constitutional Amendment Petition” and state the name of the sponsoring political committee. State law requires that the title of an amendment on the ballot be no more than 15 words long and the summary

description of it not exceed 75 words. There are a few exceptions and a few other requirements as well.

How does one go about getting signatures?

Petitions must include the signee's name, legal address, date of birth, voter registration number, signature, and the date of the signature. Only one voter/signature per page is permitted. Once the petition forms are completed, they must be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections in the county where the signee resides along with a fee (approximately 10 cents per signature) to cover the cost of validating the signatures (there is a process to request a waiver of the fee). Petitions are due by February 1 of the year of the election. The petitions are also reviewed by the Division of Elections, State Attorney General, and Florida Supreme Court.

How many signatures are required?

The number of signatures required for an amendment to be placed on the ballot is at least eight percent of votes cast in the previous presidential election. Additionally, the petitions must come from at least half the state's congressional districts. (Once the petition signatures are obtained, they are good for four years from the date signed.)

2018 AMENDMENTS



Florida's ballot for the 2018 election contains 12 proposed amendments to the state's Constitution. Depending on the county in which you vote, there may be additional county-wide questions on your ballot. Typically, many more initiatives are filed than end up being on the ballot, as some are usually either withdrawn or fail to get the required number of signatures, while others are found by the courts to be unconstitutional.

When there are complicated constitutional amendments or referenda on the ballot, the time required to vote and, consequently, the lines at the polls may be a bit longer. Moreover, such amendments and referenda are often written in "lawyer-speak," which may be confusing to

many voters. This was certainly the case in 2012, when there were several complicated amendments and referenda before the voters, making Florida's ballot that year one of the longest in the United States and one of the longest in Florida's history. Moreover, some politicians word the measures in a way that a "yes" vote might mean you are opposed to the measure, while a "no" vote supports the issue. The Florida Legislature has been guilty of such approaches in previous years. As such, the following descriptions of the Amendments on the ballot are written in "plain English" to help you understand them better.

Amendment 1 Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption

Background

This amendment was put on the ballot by the Florida Legislature by a vote in 2017.

Wording on the ballot

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies. The amendment shall take effect January 1, 2019.

In plain English

It increases the amount of a home's value that is exempted from property taxes.

Why vote YES?

It could save many homeowners a few hundred dollars and potentially encourage renters to buy homes. It is a tax break. A poll commissioned by the Florida Chamber of Commerce showed that 67% of those polled supported the measure and only 22% opposed it.

Supporters of the measure

- Several conservative members of the Florida Legislature
- A key advocate throughout the process has been Florida State Senator Tom Lee

Why vote NO?

Local governments, which rely on property taxes to generate revenues to fund public services would lose needed funds. An estimate by staff aides to the Florida Legislature estimated Florida's cities would lose over \$600 million alone in the first year. Many civic reformers believe such tax measures should be resolved by the governor and legislature; they don't belong in a state constitution.

Opponents of the measure

- The Florida League of Cities
- Florida Association of Counties
- The Florida City and County Management Association
- Florida Policy Institute
- Florida Education Association
- Florida League of Women Voters
- A few state newspapers, including the *Sun Sentinel* and *Tampa Bay Times*

Amendment 2

Limitations on Property Tax Assessments

Background

This amendment was also placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature. It was originally on the ballot in 2008 and voters approved the 10% annual cap.

Wording on the ballot

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to permanently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified non-homestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect January 1, 2019.

In plain English

There is an existing cap on non-homestead property assessments. This would make it permanent.

Why vote YES?

It will make permanent limits on property assessments and taxes, and therefore reduce tax bills.

Supporters of the measure

- Several conservative members of the Florida State Legislature
- Florida Association of Realtors
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Florida TaxWatch

Why vote NO?

Local governments in Florida are often under-funded and rely on these types of assessments and taxes to provide public services. Making such limits on property assessments permanent

would limit funds for local governments. Many civic reformers believe such tax measures should be resolved by the governor and legislature; they don't belong in a state constitution.

Opponents of the measure

- Many cities in Florida
- Citizens for Equitable Tax Policy
- Florida League of Women Voters

Amendment 3 Voter Control of Gambling in Florida

Background

Unlike the previous two amendments, this one was brought by a citizen's group.

Wording on the ballot

This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts.

The amendment's impact on state and local government revenues and costs, if any, cannot be determined at this time because of its unknown effect on gambling operations that have not been approved by voters through a constitutional amendment proposed by a citizens' initiative petition process.

In plain English

Citizens would get the right – through a vote – to decide whether to authorize casino gambling operations in the state. The Florida Legislature would not be able to make such decisions.

Why vote YES?

Casino games and slots are restricted to tribal facilities in most of the state (with some exceptions in Miami and Broward County). The Florida Legislature has tried often to pass gambling bills but has been unable to do so. This measure would allow citizens to vote on it and individuals opposed to gambling could vote their position.

Supporters of the measure

- Voters in Charge
- Seminole Tribe of Florida

- Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Disney World
- Florida League of Women Voters

Why vote NO?

Perhaps the authority to pass such measures should remain with the Florida Legislature, rather than through the citizenry.

Opponents of the measure

- Vote No on 3
- American Legion of Florida
- Hialeah Park

Amendment 4 **Voting Restoration Amendment**

Background

This amendment was placed on the ballot by a citizen's group. Florida is one of only a handful of states that ban felons from voting after they completed their sentences. Such restrictions have typically been found in the South and date to the post-Civil War era. Additional efforts by these states were instituted against the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The issue has been a hot potato in Florida – in 1968, there were efforts to re-enact such voting prohibitions. A decade ago, former governor Charlie Crist began the process to restore the right to vote, but Governor Rick Scott enacted new laws to further limit restoration of voting rights. The fight continues on both sides...

Wording on the ballot

The amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently banned from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case-by-case basis.

The precise effect of this amendment on state and local government costs cannot be determined, but the operation of current voter registration laws, combined with an increased number of felons registering to vote, will produce higher overall costs relative to the processes in place today.

In plain English

Restores the right to vote for most people with prior felony convictions once they finish their sentences.

Why vote YES?

A number of organizations – Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, etc. – have been active in trying to expand voting rights and point out that Florida remains one of the few states that devotes considerable effort to limiting voting rather than promoting an expansion of voting.

Supporters of the measure

- Floridians for a Fair Democracy
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Florida Education Association
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- Florida Policy Institute
- Florida League of Women Voters

Why vote NO?

Some individuals feel that former felons have forfeited their right to vote, while others believe the governor and Cabinet should determine who can have their right to vote restored.

Opponents of the measure

- Floridians for a Sensible Voting Rights Policy

Amendment 5

Supermajority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees

Background

This amendment was also placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature.

Wording on the ballot

Prohibits the legislature from imposing, authorizing, or raising a state tax or fee except through legislation approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature in a bill containing no other subject. This proposal does not authorize a state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the Constitution and does not apply to fees or taxes imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

In plain English

It requires a two-thirds vote of the Florida Legislature in order to increase taxes. Currently, most tax measures need only a simple majority vote to pass.

Why vote YES?

This measure would make it nearly impossible to raise taxes, revenues, or fees, thus making Florida a low tax state.

Supporters of the measure

- Gov. Rick Scott
- House Speaker Richard Corcoran (Republican – Dist. 37) and several Republican lawmakers
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Florida TaxWatch

Why vote NO?

This measure would impact a wide array of taxes and fees, including gasoline, sales taxes, fishing licenses, driver licenses, and more, and seriously limit the state’s ability to raise revenues for basic government services or to meet crises such as hurricanes, recessions, and so on. Additionally, many civic reformers believe such tax measures should be resolved by the governor and legislature; they don’t belong in a state constitution.

Opponents of the measure

- Gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum
- Attorney General candidate Sean Shaw and several Democratic lawmakers
- Florida Policy Institute
- Progress Florida
- Florida Education Association
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- Florida League of Women Voters

Amendment 6
Rights of Crime Victims;
Judges

Background

The Florida Legislature authorized a “Constitution Revision Commission” which referred this measure as a possible constitutional amendment.

Wording on the ballot

Creates constitutional rights for victims of crime; requires courts to facilitate victims’ rights; authorizes victims to enforce their rights throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes. Requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than

deferring to government agency's interpretation. Raises mandatory retirement age of state justices and judges from 70 to 75 years; deletes authorization to complete judicial term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.

In plain English

Places into the Florida Constitution victims' rights. It also increased the age for judges to retire to 75 and disallows judges from deferring to government agencies to interpret the law.

Why vote YES?

The measure increases the rights of victims. It expands on "Marsy's Law," which voters have approved in a few states around the country. The law was named for a California college student named Marsy Nicholas who was murdered in 1983. Victims do already have rights in the Florida Constitution and in state statutes, but this measure expands a victim's access to notification of criminal proceedings, investigations, reports, and so on.

Supporters of the measure

- Marsy's Law for Florida
- Florida Smart Justice
- Several sheriffs in the state

Why vote NO?

Some critics are concerned that the Constitutional Revision Commission lumped three different issues into one amendment. The measure also raises the mandatory age of retirement for state judges from 70 to 75 and disallows courts from deferring to government agencies – typically the individuals with expertise on the issue and charged with implementing the policy – when interpreting certain laws. They point out that a victim's rights are already protected by law and the constitution. Civic reformers note that judges and courts should be free to defer to public agencies.

Opponents of the measure

- Florida Public Defender Association
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- American Civil Liberties Union of Florida
- Florida League of Women Voters
- Save My Constitution

Amendment 7 First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities

Background

The Florida Legislature authorized a “Constitution Revision Commission” which referred this measure as a possible constitutional amendment.

Wording on the ballot

Grants mandatory payment of death benefits and waiver of certain educational expenses to qualifying survivors of certain first responders and military members who die performing official duties. Requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose all legislatively authorized fees if law requires approval by those bodies. Establishes existing state college system as constitutional entity; provides governance structure.

In plain English

Requires the state to pay death benefits to families of first responders and military personnel. It also requires a supermajority vote to increase fees at public universities.

Why vote YES?

It requires the boards for universities to obtain a supermajority of their members in order raise student fees. The definition of first responders is expanded to include EMT and paramedics, and supporters feel such death benefits should be a part of the Florida Constitution.

Supporters of the measure

- Association of Florida Colleges

Why vote NO?

Family members of individuals in the armed services to die in the line of duty are already compensated by the federal government. Critics also point out that the Constitutional Revision Commission has again bundled a few different issues into one amendment. Additionally, many civic reformers believe such measures should be resolved by the governor and legislature; they don't belong in a state constitution.

Opponents of the measure

- Florida Education Association
- Florida League of Women Voters
- Save My Constitution

Amendment 8

* Did not qualify for ballot – the Supreme Court removed the measure, maintaining that the amendment, which was proposed by the Constitutional Revision Commission, misled voters and did not state its real intent. It also contained different issues in one “bundled” amendment.

Amendment 9

Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces

Background

The Florida Legislature authorized a “Constitution Revision Commission” which referred this measure as a possible constitutional amendment.

Wording on the ballot

Prohibits drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all state-owned waters between the mean high water line and the state’s outermost territorial boundaries. Adds use of vapor generating electronic devices to current prohibition of tobacco smoking in enclosed indoor workplaces with exceptions; permits more restrictive local vapor ordinances.

In plain English

Bans offshore drilling for oil and gas. It also limits the use of vaping in indoor workplaces.

Why vote YES?

A number of environmental, tourism, and citizen groups have been concerned about the devastating impact to the state if there were additional oil spills. This measure would strengthen limits on drilling off Florida’s coasts and bring, what they believe, are much-needed limits on vaping, including in indoor workplaces.

Supporters of the measure

- Vote Yes on 9
- American Cancer Society
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Gulf Restoration Network
- Florida Wildlife Federation
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Sierra Club of Florida
- 350 Pensacola

- Center for Biological Diversity
- Sea Turtle Conservancy
- Florida League of Women Voters

Why vote NO?

Critics also point out that the Constitutional Revision Commission has again bundled a few different issues into one amendment. Additionally, many civic reformers believe such measures should be resolved by the governor and legislature; they don't belong in a state constitution.

Opponents of the measure

- Florida Petroleum Council
- Associated Industries of Florida
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Save My Constitution

Amendment 10

State and Local Government Structure and Operation

Background

The Florida Legislature authorized a "Constitution Revision Commission" which referred this measure as a possible constitutional amendment.

Wording on the ballot

Requires legislature to retain department of veterans' affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters' ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even-numbered years from March to January; removes legislature's authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.

In plain English

It prohibits counties from abolishing certain local offices, requires that the existence of a Department of Veteran's Affairs be constitutionally mandated, and changes the starting date for the legislative session (second Tuesday in January).

Why vote YES?

While the Department of Veteran's Affairs already exists, it is not a constitutional requirement. This measure would force it to be a requirement. It would also force all of the

state's counties to hold elections for the five county-wide offices mentioned in the Florida Constitution.

Supporters of the measure

- Most of Florida's Clerks of Court, Tax Collectors, and Property Appraisers
- Most of Florida's sheriffs

Why vote NO?

Most of the measures are redundant in that they already exist. It would appear then that the measure is designed to weaken localities by state interests. For instance, voters in local communities would be limited in their ability to vote for or against county officers. Critics also point out that the Constitutional Revision Commission has again bundled a few different issues into one amendment. Additionally, many civic reformers believe such measures should be resolved by the governor and legislature; they don't belong in a state constitution.

Opponents of the measure

- Florida League of Women Voters
- Save My Constitution

Amendment 11
Property Rights;
Removal of Obsolete Provision;
Criminal Statutes

Background

The Florida Legislature authorized a "Constitution Revision Commission" which referred this measure as a possible constitutional amendment.

Wording on the ballot

Removes discriminatory language related to real property rights. Removes obsolete language repealed by voters. Deletes provision that amendment of a criminal statute will not affect prosecution or penalties for a crime committed before the amendment; retains current provision allowing prosecution of a crime committed before the repeal of a criminal statute.

In plain English

This amendment repeals bans on aliens owning property in the state, the requirement for high-speed rail systems from the Florida Constitution, and other items.

Why vote YES?

It removes the requirement that suspects in crimes be prosecuted under the provisions of the law, even if those laws have been changed.

Supporters of the measure

- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- American Civil Liberties Union of Florida
- Florida Policy Institute
- Southern Poverty Law Center

Why vote NO?

Critics also point out that the Constitutional Revision Commission has again bundled a few different issues into one amendment. Additionally, many civic reformers believe such measures should be resolved by the governor and legislature; they don't belong in a state constitution.

Opponents of the measure

- Save My Constitution

Amendment 12 Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers

Background

The Florida Legislature authorized a "Constitution Revision Commission" which referred this measure as a possible constitutional amendment.

Wording on the ballot

Expands current restrictions on lobbying for compensation by former public officers; creates restrictions on lobbying for compensation by serving public officers and former justices and judges; provides exceptions; prohibits abuse of a public position by public officers and employees to obtain a personal benefit.

In plain English

Bans public officials from lobbying for money while they are in office and for a period of six years after leaving office.

Why vote YES?

There is the need to restrict the lobbying efforts of state employees, public officials, judges, former elected officials, and others.

Supporters of the measure

- Common Cause
- Florida Policy Institute
- Integrity Florida

Why vote NO?

Government officials and most especially former officials should be able to function as lobbyists under existing laws and restrictions.

Opponents of the measure

- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Save My Constitution

Amendment 13 Ends Dog Racing

Background

The Florida Legislature authorized a “Constitution Revision Commission” which referred this measure as a possible constitutional amendment. Dog racing is one of several “pari-mutuel” wagering or gaming sports in Florida.

Wording on the ballot

Phasing out commercial dog racing in connection with wagering by 2020. Other gaming activities are not affected.

In plain English

Bans dog racing and gambling on dog racing (greyhounds and other breeds).

Why vote YES?

There are only a few dog-racing tracks in the United States, and nearly all of them are in Florida. The practice is seen as cruel to the dogs. Banning dog racing would not impact slot machines and other forms of gaming.

Supporters of the measure

- Grey2K USA
- Protect Dogs – Yes on 13
- The Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Numerous animal rights groups
- Florida League of Women Voters

Why vote NO?

People should be able to bet on dog racing and the Chamber of Commerce maintains it brings money into Florida. Prohibiting dog racing will result in a loss of roughly \$1 million in state revenues.

Opponents of the measure

- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Florida Greyhound Association
- Gaming and betting interests

Here is the official and complete listing of the Constitutional Amendments for the 2018 election from the State of Florida’s Division of Election:

Link: <https://dos.myflorida.com/media/699824/constitutional-amendments-2018-general-election-english.pdf>

HELPFUL SOURCES ON CANDIDATES & ISSUES



Vote411 from the League of Women Voters

This site offers customized information on your ballot, your local races, and an online voter guide. It is hosted by the League of Women Voters. Simply enter your address on the prompt and you can learn about your ballot and candidates.

Link: <https://www.vote411.org/>

PolitiFact

PolitiFact, a division of the *Tampa Bay Times* newspaper, is an independent fact-checking website aimed at reporting the truth in politics. They were awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2009. The website checks statements from elected officials for accuracy using the site’s Truth-O-Meter.

Link: <https://www.politifact.com/>

Open Secrets from the Center for Responsive Politics

The Center for Responsive Politics is a nonpartisan, independent, and nonprofit research group tracking money in U.S. politics. The Center’s mission is to inform citizens about the impact of money in politics, empower voters by providing unbiased information, and advocate for a transparent and responsive government.

Link: <https://www.opensecrets.org/>

Project Vote Smart

Project Vote Smart is dedicated to strengthening what they believe to be the most essential component of democracy – access to information. They take no money from special interest groups, PACs, and corporations and report information on candidates for public office.

Link: <https://votesmart.org/>

Fact Checker from the *Washington Post*

The truth behind the political rhetoric and claims, fact-checked by journalists known as the “truth squad.”

Link: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/?utm_term=.c23eba2876fc

Fact Check

Fact Check is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocate for voters with a goal of reducing deception and confusion in politics and campaigns by monitoring the factual accuracy of statements by politicians and newsmakers. It is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Link: <https://www.factcheck.org/>

Ballotpedia

A helpful service that allows voters to see sample ballots, find out which candidates and measures are on the ballot, and other information on campaigns and elections.

Link: https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page

Judgepedia

Judgepedia provides information on judges, courts, and elections for judicial positions. It provides an interactive almanac on judges across the country and is hosted by the Lucy Burns Institute.

Link: http://judgepedia.org/Main_Page

League of Women Voters

The League is dedicated to ensuring that all eligible voters have the opportunity and the information to exercise their right to vote. The League provides information and assistance to register and educate voters and also promotes both voting rights and reforming the nation’s campaign finance system. The League operates chapters in counties throughout Florida.

Link: <https://www.lwv.org/>

10 COMMON VOTING MYTHS



Myth 1: *If your name doesn't appear on the voter roll at the polling site you can't vote.*

No, you can vote but you will need to do so with a provisional ballot.

Myth 2: *If you recently moved and forgot to inform the election office you can't vote.*

No, you can still vote as long as you live in the state and are a registered voter, but you will need to vote with a provisional ballot.

Myth 3: *Absentee ballots really don't count unless there is a tied election.*

No, absentee ballots count like regular ballots in every state.

Myth 4: *If you were convicted of a felony you can't vote.*

Well, this one is complicated. Each state has its own laws about whether former felons can vote. In Florida, felons lose their right to vote but can petition to regain their right through the Executive Clemency Board.

Myth 5: *If you wear a political shirt or candidate's button, you'll be turned away at the polls.*

No, if you are a registered voter you can't be turned away, unless you are disruptive or breaking a law. However, active campaigning is prohibited in the voting area.

Myth 6: *If you have an unpaid parking ticket you can't vote.*

No, you can vote even if you have unpaid parking tickets, owe child support, and so on. Polling sites do not have information about such matters.

Myth 7: *If you were registered to vote by ACORN your registration is invalid.*

No, as long as the individual(s) registering you (from any organization) filed accurate information with the elections office you are registered.

Myth 8: *If your address on your driver's license doesn't match the address on your voter card, you can't vote.*

No, it does not need to match, although you may be asked to complete a provisional ballot.

Myth 9: *If you receive food stamps or welfare you can't vote.*

No, you can still vote... whether or not you receive these supports, or student loans, federal grants, Medicaid, and so on.

Myth 10: *I can't register to vote using my school address because I will be dropped from my parents' health insurance coverage.*

No, you will not be dropped.