

**There are 12 proposed Constitutional Amendments on the ballot
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018. All require 60% to pass.**

As of Sept. 7, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that Amendment 8 is off the ballot. Amendments 7, 9 and 11 have been ordered by a circuit court judge to be removed. The state has appealed to the Supreme Court.

Amendment 1: Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption. Would increase homestead exemption by \$25,000 for homes valued at more than \$100,000 (proposed by the State Legislature)

A vote yes would amount to a loss of tax revenue.

A vote no would retain the current exemption.

Supporting Organizations: None at this time.

Opposing Organizations: League of Women Voters of Florida; Florida Policy Institute; Florida League of Cities; Progress Florida; Florida Education Association

Amendment 2: Would make permanent a 10% cap on non-homestead assessments (including second homes and rental apartments) that was set to expire on Jan. 2019 (State Legislature)

A vote yes would keep the 10% cap and disallow tax revenue for rising property values.

A vote no would end tax limits on non-homestead property and possibly increase taxes for schools.

Supporting Organizations: Florida Association of Realtors

Opposing Organizations; League of Women Voters of Florida; Florida Education Association

Amendment 3: Would require a constitutional amendment to approve any new casino gambling (Citizen Initiative)

A vote yes would require the voters to approve a citizen initiative to authorize any casino gambling in Florida.

A vote no would continue to allow casino gambling to be approved by the legislature.

Supporting Organizations: Voters In Charge; Disney Worldwide Services; Seminole Tribe of Florida; No Casinos, Inc.; League of Women Voters of Florida.

Opposing Organizations: Florida Education Association

Amendment 4: Would restore the voting rights of former felons (except those convicted of murder or felony sex offenses) after completing their sentences (Citizen Initiative)

A vote yes would grant former felons the right to vote.

A vote no would continue making former felons wait a minimum of 5 years before applying to the Governor and Cabinet.

Supporting Organizations: Florida Rights Restoration Coalition; Floridians for a Fair Democracy; ACLU of Florida; League of Women Voters of Florida; Progress Florida; Florida Policy Institute; Florida National Organization of Women

Opposing Organizations: Floridians for a Sensible Voting Rights Policy

Amendment 5: Supermajority vote required to impose, authorize or raise taxes or fees (State Legislature)

A vote yes would require a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and House.

A vote no allows the Legislature to continue to approve increases in taxes and fees with a simple majority, and to bundle tax bills with other measures

Supporting Organizations: Florida Tax Watch

Opposing Organizations: League of Women Voters of Florida; Florida Policy Institute; Progress Florida; Florida Education Association

Amendments 6-11 contain multiple parts bundled into single “yes/no” proposals, by the Constitutional Revision Commission. We will concentrate on the most important elements of these amendments.

Amendment 6: Expands victims’ rights, many of which are in state law, while limiting time for accused to file appeals. Eliminates an existing constitutional provision that victims’ rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused. Raises the retirement age of judges from 70 to 75. Prohibits courts and judges from deferring to state agencies interpretation.

A vote yes would enshrine more victim’s rights in the constitution while eliminating an existing provision for the rights of the accused, raise mandatory retirement age for a judge, and force judges to decide if the state agency correctly interpreted the law.

A vote no would retain existing victim’s rights in the constitution, and not set a deadline for appeals, keep judges’ retirement age at 70, and continue to allow state agencies’ interpretation of state laws.

Supporting Organization: 24 Florida Sheriffs; Florida Smart Justice

Opposing Organizations: ACLU of Florida; League of Women Voters of Florida; Florida Education Association

Amendment 7: First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits, Public Colleges and Universities Creates a supermajority requirement for universities to impose new or increase student fees. Enshrine guidelines for state colleges in Constitution. Mandates a death benefit for first responders and military killed in the line of duty.

A vote yes would force a supermajority vote for university fee increases, add framework of state colleges in the Constitution, and would require the State to pay death benefits to U.S. Military residents or those stationed in Florida.

A vote no would continue allowing majority vote for fee increases; exclude a framework for state colleges in the constitution; continue providing death benefits for first responders through state law.

Supporting Organizations: Association of Florida Colleges

Opposing Organizations: League of Women Voters Florida; Florida Education Association

OFF THE BALLOT: Amendment 8: Public Schools. Allow the state Legislature to set up a state-run system for establishing and operating public schools. Creates term limits for all school boards. Creates a constitutional requirement for civics education in public schools, something already required by state law.

A vote yes would establish term limits for school board members; permit Legislature to establish state-run public schools; put in the Constitution mandatory civics classes.

A vote no would reject term limits; keep local school boards the sole authority for approving and supervising public schools; reject a constitutional mandate for something that is required by state law.

Supporting Organizations: U.S. Term Limits

Opposing Organizations: Florida School Boards Association; League of Women Voters Florida; Florida Policy Institute; Florida Education Association; Florida National Organization of Women

Amendment 9: Prohibits offshore drilling beneath waters controlled by Florida. Prohibits use of e-cigarettes (vaping).

A vote yes would enshrine in Constitution a ban on offshore oil and gas drilling; signal Florida’s opposition to offshore drilling; add vaping restrictions to Constitution.

A vote no would keep a drilling ban out of the Constitution; signal to federal government that Florida doesn’t care about off shore drilling; keep vaping out of the Constitution.

Supporting Organizations: Florida Wildlife Federation; Gulf Restoration Network; American Cancer Association; Cancer Action Network; League of Women Voters Florida; Florida Policy Institute; Progress Florida

Opposing Organizations: Florida Petroleum Council; Associated Industries of Florida; Florida Chamber of Commerce; Consumers for Smoke-Free Alternatives

Amendment 10: State and Local Government Structure and Operation. Requires Legislature in even years (election years) to start sessions in January. Creates Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism. Mandates existence of state Department of Veteran Affairs. Forces all counties to elect and never abolish offices of: Sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, and Clerk of Circuit Court.

A vote yes would fix the date of legislative sessions in even years; create office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism; force the legislature to always have a Department of Veteran Affairs; force all Florida counties to elect Constitutional Officers.

A vote no would continue to allow Legislature to set date for session in even numbered years; reject mandated Office of Security and Counterterrorism; reject mandated Department of Veteran Affairs; allow Florida's charter counties to continue determining how the duties of the five county offices will be arranged.

Supporting Organizations: None at this time

Opposing Organizations: Florida League of Women Voters; Florida Education Association

Amendment 11: Repeals the state's ability to prohibit non-citizens from buying, owning, and selling property. Deletes a provision that forces the state to prosecute criminal suspects under a law they were charged under, even if the law is repealed. Deletes obsolete high-speed rail language from the Constitution.

A vote yes would repeal Legislature's right to restrict property rights of non-citizens; delete requirement to prosecute criminal suspects for laws that have been changed since crime was committed; delete language about high speed rail.

A vote no would continue to have laws that restricts property rights of non-citizens; continue to allow criminal suspects to be prosecuted under repealed laws; retain high speed rail in Constitution.

Supporting Organizations: None at this time

Opposing Organizations: Florida Education Association

Amendment 12: Expands restrictions on paid lobbying by former public officers. Creates restrictions on paid lobbying by currently serving public officers. Prohibits certain abuses of public office (CRC).

A vote yes would extend ban on state lobbying by legislators and statewide elected officials to 6 years after leaving office; prohibit legislators and statewide elected officials from lobbying federal and local government agencies while in office; prohibit local elected officials from paid lobbying of anyone while in office and their own governing body for 6 years.

A vote no would keep in place the current 2-year ban.

Supporting Organizations: Integrity Florida; Common Cause; Florida Policy Institute

Opposing Organizations: Florida Education Association

Amendment 13: Bans all wagering on any type of dog racing, although not stopping racing (CRC).

A vote yes would ban all wagering on dog racing by Dec. 31, 2020; result in a loss of \$1 million in taxes.

A vote no would continue to allow wagering on dog races.

Supporting Organizations: Gray2K USA; League of Women Voters Florida

Opposing Organizations: Florida Greyhound Assoc.