

Legislative Session Information

The Primary elections are August 28th and General elections are November 6th. We have a lot of amendments on the ballot this year. Some of the amendments being placed on the ballot are from the legislation, citizen initiated, and from the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC). Here the amendments you can expect to see (the language will obviously be different).

Amendment 1 - Amendment placed on the ballot by legislation to increase the amount of a home's value exempted from property tax.

Amendment 2 - Amendment placed on the ballot by legislation that makes the cap on non-homestead parcel assessment increases permanent.

Amendment 3 - Amendment placed on the ballot via citizen initiative that requires approval of any new casino gambling through a citizen initiative constitutional amendment, effectively barring the Legislature from making gambling decisions by passing laws.

Amendment 4 - Amendment placed on the ballot via citizen initiative that automatically restores the voting rights of felons after they've completed their sentences, except for those convicted of murder or sex offenses.

Amendment 5 - Amendment placed on the ballot by legislation that requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to approve any new or increased taxes or fees.

Amendments 6 - 13 are from the CRC – learn more about these at <https://www.flcrc.gov/PublishedContent/AdministrativePublications/ballotguide.pdf>

Amendment 6 - Adds Marsy's Law to the state Constitution, increases judicial retirement age, prohibits judges from deferring to administrative agencies in interpreting law.

Amendment 7 - Creates a supermajority requirement for universities to impose new or increase existing student fees, enshrines in the Constitution guidelines for the State College System, mandates that the state pay a death benefit to first responders or members of the military killed in the line of duty.

Amendment 8 - Mandates term limits for all school boards, allows the state to create "public schools" that would not be answerable to local school boards, and requires schools to teach civic literacy.

Amendment 9 - Prohibits oil and gas drilling beneath all waters controlled by Florida and prohibits vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces.

Amendment 10 - Requires the Legislature to hold a session in early January on even numbered years, creates an Office of Domestic Security and Counter-terrorism, mandates the existence of a state Department of Veteran Affairs, and forces all counties (both charter and non-charter) to elect rather than appoint all constitutional officers.

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 that has become obsolete; deletes obsolete language regarding high speed rail in Florida.

Amendment 12 - Expands ethics rules for elected officials and government employees by expanding from 2 to 6 years the time that they would have to wait before being able to lobby state government.

Amendment 13 - Bans wagering on any type of dog racing by Dec. 31, 2020.

To learn more about who will be on the ballot in your area, visit your county supervisor of election link below:

<http://www.bayvotes.org/>
<http://www.votecalhoun.com/>
<http://www.escambiovotes.com/>
<http://www.vote franklin.com/>
<http://www.govote-okaloosa.com/>
<http://www.votesantarosa.com/>
<http://www.votewalton.com/>

Constitutional Amendments

Earth Action supports the following amendments.

Amendment 9 - Prohibits oil and gas drilling beneath all waters controlled by Florida and prohibits vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces.

Ballot Summary: 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.

Read the full text of the amendment on the Florida Division of Elections website:

<http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/initdetail.asp?account=11&segnum=23> or

The full language is at:

<http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-23.pdf>

Don't let the vaping language confuse you. This is being placed on the ballot by the Constitution Revision Commission that meets every 20 years, holds public meetings allowing the residents of Florida to have say what changes we would like to see to our constitution. Some of the amendments were "bundled" since there are currently 13 on the ballot including whatever local ones there might be.

Amendment 13 - Bans wagering on any type of dog racing by Dec. 31, 2020.

Ballot Summary - A proposed revision relating to ending dog racing; creating new sections in Article X and Article XII of the State Constitution to prohibit the racing of, and wagering on, greyhounds and other dogs after a specified date.

Read the full text of the amendment on the Florida Division of Elections website:

<http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/> or

The full language at:

<http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-27.pdf>

More Legislative Session Information

The 2019 60-day Legislative Session will begin on March 5, 2019 and is expected to end on May 3, 2019.

Committee weeks will be held leading up to the start of the regular session.

For some great information on the 2019 legislative session, visit the site below:

<https://familycafe.net/the-family-cafe-advocacy-toolkit/the-2019-legislative-session>