

LET'S TALK NATION



2018 FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS – GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT



Source: Orange County Supervisor of Elections Website:
<https://www.ocfelections.com/petitions2018.aspx>

1. Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption

- Reference: Article VII, Section 6; Article XII, Section 37
- Summary: 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.
- Sponsor: Florida House Joint Resolution (HJR 7105): Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption
-Ways & Means Committee and La Rosa and Jacquet (CO-SPONSORS) Avila; Cortes, B.; Diaz, J.; Fitzenhagen; Metz; Nuñez; Plakon; Roth
-Additional Info for Bill:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=59620&SessionId=83>

2. Limitations on Property Tax Assessments

- Reference: Article XII, Section 27
- Summary: 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.
- Sponsor: HJR 21
-Ways & Means Committee and Burton (CO-SPONSORS) Abruzzo; Cortes, B.; Eagle; Jones; La Rosa; Metz; Plakon; Stevenson
-Additional Info for Bill:
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=57030&SessionId=83>

3. Voter Control of Gambling in Florida 15-22

- Reference: Add New Section 29 to Article X
 - Summary: 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.
 - **Sponsor:** Voters in Charge
-John Sowinski, Chairperson
 - **Financial Impact:** 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.
 - **Financial Information:** <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/constitutional-amendments/2018Ballot/VCGamblingFinancialInformationStatement.cfm>
 - **Additional Information:** <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/constitutional-amendments/2018Ballot/VCGamblingAdditionalInformation.cfm>
 - **Signatures:**
 - Statewide total needed for judicial and financial impact review: 76,632
 - Statewide total needed to make ballot position: 766,200
 - Signatures expired prior to ballot position (Signatures expire after two years, but will not expire once ballot position is made): 12,260
 - Statewide total currently valid: 843,312*
- *Statewide and congressional district totals for ballot position are NOT OFFICIAL until an initiative petition is certified to have made ballot. Once an initiative petition is certified for ballot position, total currently valid may exceed the official totals at time of certification.
- History:
 - Approval Date: 10/26/2015
 - Made Review: 04/05/2016

- Attorney General: 04/05/2016
- Sent to Supreme Court: 05/06/2016
- Supreme Court Ruling: Constitutional
- Supreme Court Ruling Date: 04/20/2017
- Financial Impact Statement Date: 05/19/2016
- Supreme Court Approval of Financial Impact Statement: 04/20/2017
- Made Ballot: 01/17/2018
- Ballot Number: 3

4. Voting Restoration Amendment 14-01

- Reference: Article VI, Section 4
- Summary: This 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 barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.
- **Sponsor:** Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Inc.
-Desmond Meade, Chairperson
- **Financial Impact:** 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. The impact, if any, on state and local government revenues cannot be determined. The fiscal impact of any future legislation that implements a different process cannot be reasonably determined.
- **Financial Information:** <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/constitutional-amendments/2018Ballot/VRAFinancialInformationStatement.cfm>
- **Additional Information:** <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/constitutional-amendments/2018Ballot/VRAAdditionalInformation.cfm>
- **Signatures:**

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| Statewide total needed for judicial and financial impact review: | 76,632 |
| Statewide total needed to make ballot position: | 766,200 |
| Signatures expired prior to ballot position (Signatures expire after two years, but will not expire once ballot position is made): | 47,327 |
| Statewide total currently valid: | 842,796* |

*Statewide and congressional district totals for ballot position are NOT OFFICAL until an initiative petition is certified to have made ballot. Once an initiative petition is certified for ballot position, total currently valid may exceed the official totals at time of certification.

- History:

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| Approval Date: | 10/31/2014 |
| Undue Burden: | 07/02/2015 |
| Made Review: | 09/14/2016 |
| Attorney General: | 09/15/2016 |
| Sent to Supreme Court: | 10/04/2016 |
| Supreme Court Ruling: | Constitutional |
| SC Ruling Date: | 04/20/2017 |
| Financial Impact Statement Date: | 10/28/2016 |
| SC Approval of Financial Impact Statement: | 04/20/2017 |
| Made Ballot: | 01/23/2018 |
| Ballot Number: | 4 |

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

- Reference: Article VII, Section 19
- Summary: 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.

- Sponsor: HJR 7001

-Ways & Means Committee and Leek (CO-SPONSORS) Avila; Eagle; Fischer; Ingoglia; Metz

-Additional Info for Bill:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=60576&SessionId=8>

6. Rights of Crime Victims; Judges (CRC)

- Reference: Article I, Section 16; Article V, Sections 8 and 21; Article XII, New Section
- Summary: 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 seventy to seventy-five years; deletes authorization to complete judicial term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.
- Sponsor: Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)
 - Full Text: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-20.pdf>
 - See also: Attached CRC ballot guide
 - CRC website: <http://flcrc.gov/>

7. First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities (CRC)

- Reference: Article IX, Sections 7 and 8; Article X, New Section
- Summary: 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.
- Sponsor: Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)
 - Full Text: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-21.pdf>
 - See also: Attached CRC ballot guide
 - CRC website: <http://flcrc.gov/>

9. Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces (CRC)

- Reference: Article II, Section 7; Article X, Section 20
- 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.
- Sponsor: Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)
 - Full Text: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-23.pdf>
 - See also: Attached CRC ballot guide
 - CRC website: <http://flcrc.gov/>

10. State and Local Government Structure and Operation (CRC)

- Reference: Article III, Section 3; Article IV, Sections 4 and 11; Article VIII, Sections 1 and 6
- Summary: 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.
- Sponsor: Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)
 - Full Text: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-24.pdf>
 - See also: Attached CRC ballot guide
 - CRC website: <http://flcrc.gov/>

11. Property Rights; Removal of Obsolete Provision; Criminal Statutes (CRC)

- Reference: Article I, Section 2; Article X, Sections 9 and 19
- Summary: 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.
- Sponsor: Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)
 - Full Text: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-25.pdf>
 - See also: Attached CRC ballot guide
 - CRC website: <http://flcrc.gov/>

12. Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers (CRC)

- Reference: Article II, Section 8; Article V, Section 13; Article XII, New Section
- Summary: 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.
- Sponsor: Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)
 - Full Text: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-26.pdf>
 - See also: Attached CRC ballot guide
 - CRC website: <http://flcrc.gov/>

13. Ends Dog Racing

- Reference: Article X, New Section; Article XII, New Section
- Summary: Phases out commercial dog racing in connection with wagering by 2020. Other gaming activities are not affected.
- Sponsor: Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)
 - Full Text: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/fulltext/pdf/11-27.pdf>
 - See also: Attached CRC ballot guide
 - CRC website: <http://flcrc.gov/>

Link to Initiatives/Amendments/Revisions Database:

<https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/>

What's Happening

The success of *"Let's Talk Nation"* is largely determined by the response received from our listeners, but more importantly, is the show being effective in getting **RESULTS**. So, it will be critically important that the listening audience is empowered and takes personal responsibility to make a difference in their community at the local and state level.



The interest of communities is paramount to the success of this show; thus, it is vital that the issues that are of concern to every individual are made known in a respectful manner and that there is a consensus that we can agree to disagree respectfully.

Audience members are encouraged to provide vital information about their community. The good, the bad, and any ugly as a means to address the issues collectively.

"Let's Talk Nation" is interested in promoting the efforts of individuals, groups or businesses that are making a substantive positive difference with fact based evidence to back up assertions of positively impacting the lives of people.

"Let's Talk Nation" promises to offer a variety of content reaching the core needs of the communities is the goal. The show would serve as a platform for both social and economic development of communities, and therefore requires the participation of elected officials and community and faith leaders as well as anyone interested in the progress and development of communities across the board.