

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

November 2010

Amendment 1: **Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement**

This amendment would repeal of the provision in the State Constitution that requires public financing of campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits. This would apply to campaign financing for the office of Governor, Attorney General, Chief Finance Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Amendment 2: **Homestead Ad Valorem Tax Credit for Deployed Military Personnel**

This amendment would require the Legislature to provide an additional homestead property tax exemption by law for members of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard who receive a homestead exemption and were deployed in the previous year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the Legislature. The exempt amount will be based upon the number of days in the previous calendar year that the person was deployed on active duty. The amendment is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2011.

Amendment 3: **Property Tax Limit for Nonhomestead Property; Additional Homestead Exemption for New Homestead Owners**

This amendment would reduce the maximum annual increase in the assessed values of nonhomestead properties from 10 percent to 5 percent annually. This amendment would also require the Legislature to provide an additional homestead exemption for persons who have not owned a principal residence during the preceding 8 years. Under the exemption, 25 percent of the just value of a first-time homestead, up to \$100,000, will be exempt from property taxes. The amount of the additional exemption will decrease in each succeeding year for 5 years by the greater of 20 percent of the initial additional exemption or the difference between the just value and the assessed value of the property. The additional exemption will not be available in the 6th and subsequent years.

Amendment 4: **Referenda Required for Adoption and Amendment of Local Government Comprehensive Land Use Plans**

This amendment would require that, before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan or amend a comprehensive land use plan, such proposed plan or plan amendment must be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum. The amendment would become effective immediately upon approval by the electors of Florida.

Amendment 5: **Standards for the Legislature to Follow in Legislative Redistricting**

This amendment would provide that legislative districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts must not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and, where feasible, must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

Amendment 6: **Standards for the Legislature to Follow in Congressional Redistricting**

This amendment would provide that congressional districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts must not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND BALLOT QUESTIONS ENACTED IN THE 2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The following proposed constitutional amendments and ballot questions will appear on the 2010 November Ballot but have not yet been numbered by the Department of State.

SJR 2 CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This amendment would provide flexibility for schools to meet class size requirements for public schools due to unexpected student growth after the October student membership survey, and would take effect upon approval by the electors and would operate retroactively to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

HJR 37 HEALTH CARE SERVICES

This amendment would prohibit laws or rules from compelling any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in any health care system, permit person or employer to purchase lawful health care services directly from health care provider, permit health care provider to accept direct payment from person or employer for lawful health care services, exempt persons, employers, and health care providers from penalties and fines for paying or accepting direct payment for lawful health care services, and permit purchase or sale of health insurance in private health care systems; specifies what amendment does not affect or prohibit.

SB 2742 BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET

This nonbinding referendum asks electors to vote "Yes" or "No" in response to this question: In order to stop the uncontrolled growth of our national debt and prevent excessive borrowing by the Federal Government, which threatens our economy and national security, should the United States Constitution be amended to require a balanced federal budget without raising taxes?

HJR 7231 LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

This amendment would provide that, in establishing congressional and legislative district boundaries or plans, the state must apply federal requirements and balance and implement the standards in the State Constitution. The state must take into consideration the ability of racial and language minorities to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice, and communities of common interest other than political parties may be respected and promoted, both without subordination to any other provision of Article III of the State Constitution. Districts and plans are valid if the balancing and implementation of standards is rationally related to the standards contained in the State Constitution and is consistent with federal law.