

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - NOVEMBER, 2018 BALLOT**

#	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	VOTE
1	<b>Homestead Exemption</b>	Increases the amount of a home's value exempted from property tax from \$100,000 to \$125,000 (other than school district levies). If approved, it would take effect January 1, 2019. <b>Rationale:</b> this would restrict local governments' potential tax revenue if needed; hurts renters (approx. 25% of Lake County)	NO
2	<b>Limitations on Property Tax Assessment</b>	Permanent continuation of the current 10% annual cap on non-homestead parcel assessment increases (other than school district levies). If approved, it would take effect January 1, 2019. <b>Rationale:</b> this would restrict local governments' potential tax revenue if needed	NO
3	<b>Voter Approval of Casino Gambling Initiative ( aka "The Disney Amendment"</b>	Requires voter approval of future casino gambling, bypassing Legislative and Cabinet oversight. <b>Rationale:</b> the Party does not support "gambling" in any form. It believes that "casinos" are often used to supplement State budgets where tax increases should be supporting the budget.	NO
4	<b>Restoration of Voter Rights</b>	Restores the right to vote for most people with prior non-violent felony convictions upon completion of their sentences (including prison, parole, and probation). <b>Rationale:</b> promotes responsible citizenship (FL is only 1 of 3 states in USA that do not do this already).	YES
5	<b>2/3 Vote of Legislature to Increase Taxes or Fees</b>	Requires a two-thirds (super majority) vote of each chamber of the State Legislature to enact new taxes or fees or increase existing ones (similar to Oklahoma). <b>Rationale:</b> too much constraint on local governments and FL Legislature to address future needs.	NO
6	<b>Marsy's Law, Judicial Retirement Age, and Judicial Interpretation</b>	Creates constitutional rights for victims of crimes, including the right to be notified of developments in criminal cases against suspects and the right to be heard in legal proceedings.; <b>AND</b> <u>requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than deferring to interpretations by government agencies;</u> <b>AND</b> increases the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges from 70 to 75. <b>Rationale:</b> support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder	NO
7	<b>Survivor Benefits, Votes for College Fees, and College System Amendment</b>	Requires payment of death benefits and/or waiver of certain educational expenses to qualifying survivors of certain officers, first responders and military members who are killed while performing official duties; <b>AND</b> <u>requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose authorized fees;</u> <b>AND</b> establishes the existing state college system as a constitutional entity. <b>Rationale:</b> support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder	NO
8	<b>School Board Term Limits, Allow State to Operate Non-Board Established Schools, and Civic Literacy</b>	<u>Creates a term limit of eight consecutive years for school board members;</u> <b>AND</b> <u>permits the state to operate, control and supervise public schools not established by the school board;</u> <b>AND</b> requires the legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public schools. <b>Rationale:</b> infringement by the State on local rule cannot be tolerated any more than States tolerate infringement by federal directives	NO
9	<b>Ban Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces</b>	Prohibits drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all state waters and the state's outermost territorial lines; <b>AND</b> bans vapor-generating electronic devices to a current prohibition on tobacco smoking in certain enclosed, indoor workspaces. <b>Rationale:</b> protects natural environment and one's health	YES

10	<b>State and Local Government Structure</b>	Requires all charter-county governments to have elected constitutional officers; <b>AND</b> moves the annual commencement date for the legislative session from March to January in even-numbered years; <b>AND</b> creates an Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism within the state's Department of Law Enforcement. <b>Rationale:</b> support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder	NO
11	<b>Repeal Prohibition on Aliens' Property Ownership, Provision on High-Speed Rail, and Criminal Statutes' Effect</b>	Repeals language prohibiting "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning property; <b>AND</b> removes obsolete language authorizing a high-speed rail system; <b>AND</b> repeals a provision saying that changes to a criminal statute are not retroactive. <b>Rationale:</b> support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder	NO
12	<b>Lobbying Restrictions</b>	Imposes a six-year ban on lobbying by former state and local elected officials and state agency heads; <b>AND</b> creates a new ethics standard prohibiting public officials from obtaining a "disproportionate benefit" from their actions while in office. <b>Rationale:</b> Ideally, prevents current officials of being influenced "today" for a monetary benefit "tomorrow".	<b>YES</b>
13	<b>Ban on Wagering on Dog Races</b>	Bans commercial greyhound racing at Florida tracks after Dec. 31, 2020. Other gaming activities would not be affected. <b>Rationale:</b> dog racing has a horrible and historic reputation of animal abuse.	<b>YES</b>
	<b>Lake County 0.75 Millage Increase on Ad Valorem Property Tax to Support School Safety</b>	This additional tax will generate approx. \$16M to be used for additional mental health counselors/nurses/social workers (\$6.5M); School Resource Officers, i.e. armed police(\$2M); alternative programs to support students (\$5M; and, possible physical "hardening" of schools. This will appear on the Primary Ballot.	<b>YES</b>
	<b>Lake County 5¢ Gas Tax</b> <u>County Commissioners voted to remove this from Ballot</u>	<del>A 5¢ per-gallon increase would cost Lake drivers an estimated \$50 in extra gas taxes per year and generate roughly \$6 million annually to go toward resurfacing existing roads. If residents approve it, Lake would also join Polk and Volusia counties in having all available local-option gas taxes for local transportation needs. The higher gas tax in Lake tax would take effect in 2020 if approved. <b>Rationale:</b> this will help address the myriad of existing roadways that need to be resurfaced. This should only be approved IF the County provides a list of roadways to be resurfaced over the next 10 years.</del>	<del><b>YES</b></del>

Underlined portions indicate areas where we disagree