

## Lake County Democratic Party Recommendations for the Constitutional Amendments on Florida's November 2018 Ballot

	Summary	Description	Vote
1	<b>Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Would restrict local governments' potential tax revenue if needed; hurts renters (approximately 25% of Lake County.)</p>	NO
2	<b>Limitations on Property Tax Assessments</b>	<p>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</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Would restrict local governments' potential tax revenue if needed.</p>	NO
3	<b>Voter Control of Casino Gambling</b>	<p>Requires voter approval of future casino gambling, bypassing Legislative and Cabinet oversight.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Would remove authority to expand gambling from the Florida Legislature (a simple majority vote) and returns that authority to the voters (requiring a 60% vote.)</p>	YES
4	<b>Restoration of Voter Rights</b>	<p>Restores the right to vote for most people with prior non-violent felony convictions upon completion of their sentences (including prison, parole, and probation.)</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Promotes responsible citizenship (FL is only 1 of 3 states in USA that do not do this already.)</p>	YES
5	<b>2/3 Vote of Legislature to Increase Taxes or Fees</b>	<p>Requires a two-thirds (supermajority) vote of each chamber of the Florida Legislature to enact new taxes or fees or increase existing ones (similar to Oklahoma.)</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Too much constraint on local governments and Florida Legislature to address future needs, especially emergency needs.</p>	NO
6	<b>Rights of Crime Victims, Judicial Retirement Age, and Judicial Interpretation</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder of the amendment.</p>	NO

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<b>7</b>	<b>First Responder and Military Survivor Benefits, Votes for College Fees, and College System Amendment</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder of the amendment.</p>	<b>NO</b>
<b>8</b>	<del><b>School Board Term Limits, Allows State to Operate Non-Board Established Schools, and Civic Literacy</b></del>	<p><del>Creates a term limit of eight consecutive years for school board members; AND permits the state to operate, control and supervise public schools not established by the school board; AND requires the Florida Legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public schools.</del></p> <p><del><b>Rationale:</b> Infringement by the State on local rule cannot be tolerated any more than States tolerate infringement by federal directives.</del></p>	<del><b>NO</b></del>
<b>9</b>	<b>Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Protects natural environment and Florida residents' health.</p>	<b>YES</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>State and Local Government Structure and Operation</b>	<p><u>Requires all charter-county governments to have elected constitutional officers;</u> <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 Florida's Department of Law Enforcement.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder of the amendment.</p>	<b>NO</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Repeals Prohibition on Aliens' Property Ownership, Provision on High-Speed Rail, and Criminal Statutes' Effect</b>	<p>Repeals language prohibiting "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning property; <b>AND</b> removes obsolete language <u>authorizing a high-speed rail system;</u> <b>AND</b> <u>repeals a provision saying that changes to a criminal statute are not retroactive.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Support of one of these issues is not a good reason to pass the remainder of the amendment.</p>	<b>NO</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Restricts Lobbying and Abuse of Office</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Ideally, prevents current officials of being influenced "today" for a monetary benefit "tomorrow."</p>	<b>YES</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Bans Dog Racing</b>	<p>Bans commercial greyhound racing at Florida tracks after Dec. 31, 2020. Other gaming activities would not be affected.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Dog racing has a historic reputation of horrific animal abuse.</p>	<b>YES</b>

Underlined areas indicate the provisions of the amendment with which we disagree.