

League of Women Voters' View Florida Constitutional Amendments



A look at where the League of Women Voters of Florida stands on the 13 Constitutional Amendments on the ballot in November. Thumbs down means LWV opposes; thumbs up is in favor; and dash is no position.

Amendment 1: Increases the homestead exemption by \$25,000 for homes valued above \$100,000. Likely to result in millage increases and higher taxes for the majority of Floridians as cities and counties scramble to make up the shortfall.



Amendment 2: Makes permanent what currently is a temporary cap of 10 percent on annual property value increases for vacation homes, apartments and commercial property, effectively limiting increases on tax bills. Local governments lose out on tax revenue they would otherwise collect from rising property values.



Amendment 3: Requires approval of any new casino gambling through a citizen-initiative constitutional amendment, effectively barring the Legislature from making those gambling decisions by passing laws.



Amendment 4: Grants people convicted of felonies – excluding those convicted of murder or felony sex crimes – eligibility to vote after completing all the terms of their sentence.



Amendment 5: Requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to approve any new or increased taxes or fees, rather than a simple majority. Any attempt to close the special tax breaks for corporations and special interests could be blocked by just a handful of lawmakers.



Amendment 6: Vastly expands the scope of victims' rights under the state Constitution; increases the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 to 75; forces courts and judges to interpret laws and rules for themselves rather than rely on interpretations by government agencies.



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 employers or the state pay a death benefit to first responders and members of the military killed in the line of duty.



Amendment 8: Removed from ballot for misleading language.

Amendment 9: Prohibits oil drilling beneath waters controlled by Florida; prohibits the use of e-cigarettes, also known as vaping, at indoor workplaces.



Amendment 10: Requires the Legislature to hold its session in early January on even-numbered years; creates an Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; mandates the existence of a state Department of Veterans' Affairs; eliminates the rights of charter counties to determine the duties of five county offices identified in the state Constitution, and whether those officers should be elected or appointed.



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 the law they were originally charged under, even if the Legislature changes that law; deletes obsolete language having to do with high-speed rail in Florida.



Amendment 12: Expands ethics rules for elected officials and government employees, notably by expanding from two to six years the time that many officials would have to wait before they could lobby state government.



Amendment 13: Bans wagering on any type of dog racing, notably greyhounds, as of Dec. 31, 2020, while continuing to allow dog tracks to continue offering other types of gambling, including poker rooms.

