

2020 BALLOT AMENDMENT GUIDE





CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR FLORIDA ELECTIONS

CAIR-FLORIDA'S POSITION: NO

In order to vote in the Florida elections, an individual must be at least 18 years old, must be registered to vote, and must be a citizen. This amendment would change the words “**every** citizen of the United States” to “**only** a citizen of the United States.”

While the difference seems insignificant, the committee funding this constitutional amendment promotes fear of undocumented immigrants. The constitution should not be amended for trivial changes.



RAISING FLORIDA'S MINIMUM WAGE

CAIR-FLORIDA'S POSITION: YES

Currently, Florida's minimum wage is \$8.46 per hour. That means that a full-time worker paid minimum wage will make only \$17,800 a year.

Amendment 2 raises the minimum wage to \$10/hour effective September 30, 2021, and continues to increase it by \$1 per hour, per year, until minimum wage reaches \$15/hour in 2026.



ALL VOTERS VOTE IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS FOR STATE LEGISLATURE, GOVERNOR, AND CABINET

For this amendment, below is an excerpt from a recommended reading published in the Sun-Sentinel on September 18, 2020. We encourage voters to study the pros and cons and cast an educated vote:

Proposed by: Petition drive carried out by All Voters Vote, which is substantially funded by South Florida health care businessman Mike Fernandez

What it would do: Right now, Florida has a closed-primary system, meaning voters must declare a party affiliation and can vote only in their party's primary election for state Legislature, governor and Cabinet-level positions, such as attorney general and agriculture commissioner. This amendment would change that system. All voters could participate in primary elections and all candidates for office would appear on the same primary ballot. The two highest vote-getters would advance to the general election. This change could mean two Republicans or two Democrats facing each other in the general election.

Pros: Voters with no party affiliation are locked out of partisan primary elections. This would open up elections so they could participate. Supporters argue that candidates will need to answer to a broader group of people instead of tailoring their message to partisan voters.

Cons: Florida's Republican and Democratic parties are united against this. They argue the amendment is misleading because it doesn't open primaries but effectively abolishes them by pitting candidates from opposing parties against one another. Opponents also say it will suppress Black representation in the Legislature by opening up primaries in Black-majority districts to independent and Republican voters. Third-party candidates would have a tougher time making it on the general election ballot.

Swisher, Skyler. "Your guide to Florida's six constitutional amendments on the 2020 ballot." Sun-Sentinel, September 18, 2020.



VOTER APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

CAIR-FLORIDA'S POSITION: NO

Currently, a citizen's initiative process is the only way citizens can propose constitutional amendments. It is a financially exhaustive process, and it takes great time and effort. Furthermore, it requires a 60% majority to pass.

This amendment would make it much more difficult for citizens to make changes to the constitution. It would require approval in two elections instead of just one.





LIMITATION ON HOMESTEAD ASSESSMENTS

For this amendment, below is an excerpt from a recommended reading published in the Sun-Sentinel on September 18, 2020. We encourage voters to study the pros and cons and cast an educated vote:

Proposed by: The Florida Legislature

What it would do: This would increase the time you have to transfer your “Save Our Homes” benefit from two to three years when moving to a new house.

Pros: Taxable value increases are capped at 3% on homesteaded properties under the Save Our Homes benefit. This would give homeowners more time to transfer that tax break to a new property. It passed the Florida Legislature unanimously.

Cons: Local governments would lose some money. The amendment would reduce local property taxes by \$1.8 million, beginning in fiscal year 2021-2022, eventually growing to an annual reduction of \$10.2 million, according to a fiscal analysis.

Swisher, Skyler. “Your guide to Florida’s six constitutional amendments on the 2020 ballot.” Sun-Suntinel, September 18, 2020.



AD VALOREM TAX DISCOUNT FOR SPOUSES OF CERTAIN DECEASED VETERANS WHO HAD PERMANENT, COMBAT-RELATED DISABILITIES

For this amendment, below is an excerpt from a recommended reading published in the Sun-Sentinel on September 18, 2020. We encourage voters to study the pros and cons and cast an educated vote:

What it would do: Homestead property tax discounts for deceased veterans with combat-related disabilities would carry over to a veteran's surviving spouse until he or she remarries or sells the property. If the spouse sells the property and does not remarry, the spouse's new primary residence may receive the homestead tax discount.

Pros: This would provide additional assistance to Florida veterans. It passed the Florida Legislature unanimously.

Cons: It would mean slightly less revenue for schools and local government. School tax revenues for districts across the state would initially fall by \$400,000 with a recurring loss of \$1.6 million, according to a fiscal analysis. Statewide non-school property tax revenues would fall initially by \$600,000 with a recurring loss of \$2.4 million.

Swisher, Skyler. "Your guide to Florida's six constitutional amendments on the 2020 ballot." Sun-Suntinel, September 18, 2020.

For more details on these amendments, see the 2020 Constitutional Amendments Guide issued by the League of Women Voters of Florida at:
www.lwvfl.org/amendments-2020-2