

2022 BALLOT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS: EXPLAINED

PALM BEACH COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WHAT AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ON THE NOVEMBER 8 BALLOT?

- Three Statewide Proposed Constitutional Amendments
- County Question #1 – Housing Bonds
- County Question #2 – School District Ad Valorem Levy

HOW DO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS MAKE THE STATEWIDE BALLOT?

- Legislative Joint Resolution
- Citizen Initiative
- Constitutional Convention
- Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
- Constitutional Revision Commission

- Must get 60% of the statewide vote

AMENDMENT 1 – LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2023, to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of any change or improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property's resistance to flood damage in determining the assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.

AMENDMENT 1 – LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

WHO'S AFFECTED?

- If you make improvements to real property used for residential purposes to improve resistance against flood damage, the value of those improvements cannot be used in determining the property's assessed value for local tax purposes.
- Local governments would not receive expected increases in ad valorem revenue from improvements made.

AMENDMENT 2 – ABOLISHING THE CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals and is scheduled to next convene in 2037, as a method of submitting proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to electors of the state for approval. This amendment does not affect the ability to revise or amend the State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

- Currently, the State Constitution requires that a Constitution Revision Commission be convened once every 20 years to examine the State Constitution and propose any amendments that it deems appropriate.
- The most recent commission convened in 2017-2018, and proposed seven amendments to the State Constitution which appeared on the 2018 General Election ballot.
- CRC Members appointed by Governor (15), Speaker of the House (9), President of the Senate (9), and the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court (3).

AMENDMENT 2 –
ABOLISHING THE CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

WHO'S AFFECTED?

- ~~Constitutional Revision Commission~~
- Legislative Joint Resolution
- Citizen Initiative
- Constitutional Convention
- Taxation and Budget Reform Commission

AMENDMENT 3 – ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SPECIFIED CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES WORKFORCE

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption for nonschool levies of up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2023.

AMENDMENT 3 –
ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR
SPECIFIED CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES WORKFORCE

CURRENT STATUS:

- Homesteaded property owners currently receive a \$25,000 exemption from all taxing authorities, and a second \$25,000 exemption from all taxing authorities, except school boards.
- The blind, quadriplegics, widows/widowers, seniors, permanently disabled veterans and first responders also currently qualify for exemptions, from \$500 to complete exemption from all ad valorem taxes.

AMENDMENT 3 – ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SPECIFIED CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES WORKFORCE

WHO'S AFFECTED?

- Homesteaded property owners who are classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members would get additional \$50,000 valuation exemption, on top of the current \$50,000.
- Renters would not be affected.
- Local Governments may see reduced revenue due to reduced assessed valuations.

COUNTY QUESTION 1: INCREASE WORKFORCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS TO ADDRESS RISING HOUSING COSTS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

To increase workforce and affordable housing through the acquiring, constructing, equipping of residential units, shall County issue not exceeding \$200,000,000 of bonds, frequently combined with other funding, to create rental and homeownership opportunities for households earning up to 140% area median income, bearing interest rate(s) not exceeding legal maximum, maturing within twenty years from issuance, in one or more series, payable from County's full faith, credit and ad valorem taxing power per County Resolution R-2022-0626?

COUNTY QUESTION # 1 – HOUSING BONDS DETAILS

Purpose: To increase the inventory of workforce and affordable housing units.

Affordable: Household income does not exceed 80% of the Area Mean Income.

Workforce: Household income is between 60% and 140% of Area Mean Income.

FY 2022 AMI Household Income = \$90,300.

COUNTY QUESTION # 1 – HOUSING BONDS DETAILS

- Bond proceeds will fund loans for permanent financing for multi-family rental units and loans for construction financing for homeownership/for-sale units.
- Loans will be considered and ranked through a competitive RFP process.
- All loan awards must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Bond-financed homes will be deed restricted.

COUNTY QUESTION # 1 – HOUSING BONDS DETAILS

WHO'S AFFECTED?

- With a \$200 million bond, the yearly impact to county homeowners will be \$4.36 for \$100,000 of taxable value.

For a median priced home valued at \$550,000 without homestead exemption,
the cost to the taxpayer would be \$24.00/year.

- Municipalities retain control over project design and approval.

COUNTY QUESTION #2: REFERENDUM TO CONTINUE AD VALOREM LEVY FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, TEACHERS AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS

Shall the Palm Beach County School Board have continued authority to levy 1.00 mills of ad valorem millage for operational needs of public schools dedicated to funding school safety; school police; mental health services; arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers; and improved teacher pay beginning July 1, 2023 and automatically ending June 30, 2027, with oversight of all funds by an independent committee of citizens and experts?

SCHOOL BOARD QUESTION #2 - HISTORY

- In 2018, voters approved a tax increase that provided the school district of Palm Beach County with additional funding that's due to expire in 2023.
- If approved by voters the tax rate would stay the same – one mill, or \$1 for every \$1000 of a home's assessed value.
- An Independent Oversight Referendum Committee comprised of independent citizens reviews expenditures as specified in the ballot question.

SCHOOL BOARD QUESTION #2

WHO'S AFFECTED?

- If approved, the tax would raise approximately \$240 million for district schools and charter schools and would sunset in 2027.
- The district is asking to continue that tax to fund school safety, school police, mental health services, arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers, and improved teacher pay.
- If not passed, the School Board may have to make “cuts to its operating budget, including significant reductions to arts, music, physical education, career and academic programs.” (Cite: School Board Resolution calling for 2022 referendum.)

The background features a dark blue gradient with a starry space pattern. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams, including circular gauges with numerical scales (e.g., 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) and various circular arrows, some solid and some dashed, indicating motion or processes.

THANK YOU.

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