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Nov 5.... Florida voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution.....

Amendment 1 - SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS *Legislative Amendment*.... proposes that the **state bring back partisan school board elections on or after November 2026**. Fla school board races have been non-partisan since voters passed a 1998 constitutional amendment requiring candidates to run without party labels. Last session, the legislature added this amendment that would identify school board candidates by their party affiliation.

School boards serve four-year terms.... control school property, establish/operate the district's schools, maintaining the school year schedule, and other duties...basically they set policy that is carried out by the Superintendent.

As of 2024, Fla was one of 41 states that have nonpartisan school board elections.

Four states—Alabama, Connecticut, Louisiana, Pennsylvania—have state laws providing for partisan school board elections. Five states—Rhode Island, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia—allow the district to decide.

Opponents fear that party labels on local school board elections will politicize education. **Supporters** say party labels will create more philosophical transparency for voters.

Amendment 2 - HUNTING AND FISHING *Legislative Amendment*... would **establish hunting/ fishing as a state constitutional right. It aims to “preserve forever fishing and hunting, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife.”**

While it would not infringe on Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's authority, **opponents** worry it'll hurt the state's wildlife and encourage people to trespass on private property while they're hunting. AND it might be used to override protections for fish stocks and invalidate the prohibition on Gill Nets in Fla offshore waters.

Current state law already says that Floridians have “the right to hunt, fish and take game,” but **supporters** say it'll further protect residents' ability to fish and hunt from groups seeking to restrict those activities. Last year, bans brought forth by extremists were considered in about a dozen states that would criminalize hunting, fishing.

Currently, 23 states had constitutional provisions protecting the right to hunt and fish...starting with Vermont in 1777 and 22 other states 1996 If approved, it'd would take effect in January.

Amendment 3 - RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA *Petition Amendment* by Smart & Safe Florida.... **allows adults 21 and older to purchase/ consume cannabis products without a doctor's recommendation.** It'd remove criminal/civil penalties for adults 21 and older who possess and use up to 3 ounces for personal use and allow marijuana dispensaries/state licensed entities to manufacture, sell, and distribute cannabis products and accessories. Voters approved medical marijuana in 2016. This amendment would open up the market to everyone 21 and up.

Supporters say federal and state tax revenue cannabis are projected to reach \$4.06 billion in 2025. There's no evidence in 37 states that legalized marijuana for medical/recreational use has not boosted underage consumption. while black market marijuana is out there, Fla users will have assurance that legal cannabis products are not laced with harmful chemicals.

DeSantis and state officials worry that the language it'd make it difficult for the state to regulate the cannabis industry, which remains illegal under federal law.

November 2023, 24 states legalized recreational marijuana.

Fla is 1 of 10 states with an initiative process and that have not yet legalized marijuana. In the last 2 years, 4 other states rejected voter referendums to legalize marijuana.

If approved, it will go into effect six months after the election.

Amendment 4 ABORTION *Petition Amendment* would protect abortion access in the state to allow abortions without condition until viability, which is estimated to be at about 24 weeks of pregnancy.

It also allows abortions when a healthcare provider deems it necessary to protect a patient's health, without any limit on when that determination could occur. If approved, it'd overturn Fla's six-week abortion ban that Legislature passed last year and it'd take effect in May.

Amendment 5 PROPERTY TAXES *Legislative Amendment*...could give homeowners more savings on their property taxes by adjusting one of the state's homestead exemptions for inflation.

In Fla, properties are taxed via "millage rates" assessed by cities/counties and school boards on a homes' value. There are two \$25,000 homestead exemptions available to most homeowners to clip \$50,000 off the taxable value of their homes.

Amendment 5 would create an inflation adjustment for that second \$25,000 homestead exemptions. As the cost-of-living increases, so would the value of the exemption. NOTE would NOT apply to taxes levied by school boards.

Opponents worry about the money that local governments could lose... more than \$111 million annually by 2029. Fla League of Cities concerned about the potential compounding effect saying that the savings enjoyed by homeowners could become an added tax burden for non-homestead commercial property owners, who'd pass that burden on to tenants.

If approved, it'd take effect in 2025.

Amendment 6 CAMPAIGN MONEY *Legislative Amendment*...would repeal public campaign financing. In 1998, voters passed an amendment to allow candidates running for governor and other state cabinet positions to subsidize their campaigns with public money in exchange for agreeing to cap the amount of money spent by their campaign. In 2022, more than \$12 million went to candidates running for Governor.

Opponents of state public campaign money is needed to give more Floridians access to run for office, and to level the playing field among candidates.... they can afford to run against well-financed candidates.

Supporters say repealing the measure will save taxpayers money that could be spent for education, healthcare, water projects, beach restoration, etc. In 2010, a similar constitutional proposal to repeal public campaign financing did not receive the needed 60% approval from voters.

A 60% supermajority vote is required for the approval for ANY of these amendments.