

Partnership for Revising  
Florida's Constitution

EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER



Florida  
Constitution  
Revision  
Commission



2017-2018

A Citizens' Guide

# What is Florida's Constitution Revision Commission?

The Constitution Revision Commission is a group of 37 people who will review and recommend changes to Florida's Constitution, which provides for the commission in Article XI, Section 2.

## Who serves on the CRC?

15

Appointed by the Governor



9

Appointed by the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives



9

Appointed by the President of the Florida Senate



3

Appointed by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court



1

The Attorney General of Florida



## Why is constitutional revision important?

Changing a constitution has a much more lasting impact than changing state laws.

Florida's Constitution Revision Commission is historic in that it occurs only once every 20 years. Those 37 commissioners will ultimately decide on proposed changes to the Florida Constitution that will make it to the ballot for a voter decision in 2018.

# Amending Constitutions

**Article XI of the Florida Constitution provides for 5 ways to amend the Constitution:**

**1**

The Florida Legislature can propose changes through a Joint Resolution.

**2**

The Constitution Revision Commission can recommend changes.

**3**

The people have the power to amend the Florida Constitution through the initiative process.

**4**

Constitutional conventions are another means of recommending changes.

**5**

The Taxation and Budget Commission can recommend taxation and budgetary process changes.

**Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution provides for 2 ways to amend the U.S. Constitution:**

**1**

Proposal by Congress with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House and Senate.

**2**

Constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of the state legislatures (never been used).



**Did You Know?**

*Florida has more ways to amend its Constitution than any other state.*

## What does the Constitution Revision Commission do?

**Every 20 years the Commission is appointed to:**



Examine the Florida Constitution

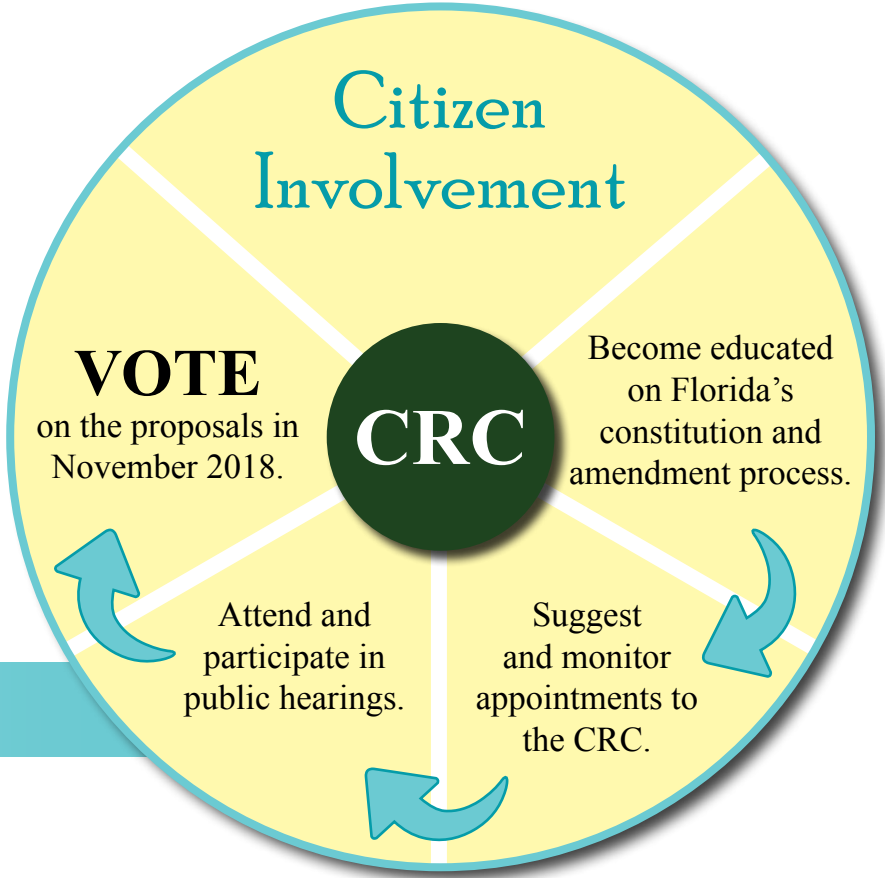


Hold public hearings throughout the state



Recommend changes to the Florida Constitution for voter consideration

# The Role of Citizens



## Characteristics to Consider

The people of Florida should play a critical role in the appointment of commissioners to the CRC by suggesting appointees and monitoring the process. What characteristics are most important to you in selecting commissioners?

**Forward thinking**

**Reflective of Florida's diverse culture**

**Knowledgeable about government**

**From all walks of life**

**Civic-minded**

What would you add?

# Keeping in Contact

Appointees to the Constitution Revision Commission will be responsible for reviewing and proposing changes to Florida's Constitution. Individuals can have a voice in the appointment process by contacting the officials below.

15 Appointees  
**Office of the Governor of the State of Florida**  
 The Capitol  
 400 S. Monroe St.  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
[flgov.com](http://flgov.com)

9 Appointees  
**Office of the Florida Senate President**  
 404 S. Monroe St.  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
[flsenate.gov](http://flsenate.gov)

3 Appointees  
**Office of the Chief Justice**  
 Florida Supreme Court  
 500 S. Duval St.  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1925  
[floridasupremecourt.org](http://floridasupremecourt.org)

9 Appointees  
**Office of the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives**  
 402 S. Monroe St.  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300  
[myfloridahouse.gov](http://myfloridahouse.gov)

## Florida's Issues: Then & Now

In 1998, the CRC proposed nine amendments to the Florida Constitution. Florida voters passed eight proposals. What issues might Florida voters face in the future?

### PASSED IN 1998

Conservation	Restructuring the state Cabinet
Firearms purchases	Technical revisions
Judicial selection	Basic rights
Election processes	Education

### FAILED IN 1998

Local and municipal property tax exemptions and citizen access to local officials

In 1998, only a simple majority vote (more than 50%) was required for an amendment's passage. As of 2006, at least 60% of the vote is required to pass.

Considerations for keeping up with a growing Sunshine State:

**Transportation**

**Education**

**Natural Resources**

**Crime & Justice**

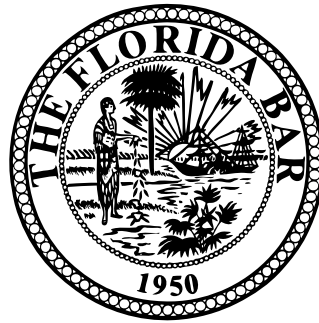
**Representation**

**Healthcare**

**Youth, Elderly  
& the Underserved**

What would you add?

This publication is provided by:



[www.flabar.org](http://www.flabar.org)



[www.collinsinstitute.fsu.edu](http://www.collinsinstitute.fsu.edu)



[www.flrea.org](http://www.flrea.org)

### Project Partners

**Bob Graham Center at University  
of Florida**

**Center for Governmental  
Responsibility at University  
of Florida**

**Community Foundation for  
Northeast Florida**

**Florida Association of Counties**

**The Florida Bar**

**The Florida Bar Foundation**

**Florida Chamber Foundation**

**Florida Justice Association  
Research & Education Foundation**

**The Florida Law Related  
Education Association, Inc.**

**Florida League of Cities**

**Florida Philanthropic Network**

**Florida Press Association**

**Florida TaxWatch**

**Justin Sayfie**

**Leadership Florida**

**League of Women Voters of  
Florida**

**NAACP Florida**

**Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of  
the National Bar Association**

This publication was created by:

The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.

**For more information on the Constitution Revision Commission, please visit:**

<http://www.revisefl.com/>



@ReviseFLCon