

PROPOSED  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
TO BE VOTED ON  
MARCH 11, 1980

NOTICE OF ELECTION

WHEREAS, The Legislature under the Constitution of the State of Florida, passed Joint Resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Florida, and they did determine and direct that the said Joint Resolutions be submitted to the electors of the State of Florida, at the Special Election to be held on March 11, 1980.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE FIRESTONE, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a Special Election will be held in each County in Florida, on March 11, 1980, for the ratification or rejection of the Joint Resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Florida; viz:

NO. 1

ARTICLE VII  
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which his interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein the exemption shall be increased to a total of twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real estate for each school district levy. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption for all other levies may be increased up to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real estate if the owner has attained age sixty-five or is totally and permanently disabled.

(d) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on school district levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be placed on the ballot:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6

Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to provide a homestead exemption of \$25,000 from certain ad valorem school millage levies, providing authorization for ad valorem tax relief for permanent resident renters, and providing that the \$25,000 exemption from certain ad valorem school millage levies shall take effect upon approval by the voters and apply to the taxes levied on the assessment rolls for the year 1980 and each year thereafter.

NO. 2

ARTICLE V  
JUDICIARY

SECTION 3. Supreme Court.—

(a) ORGANIZATION.—The supreme court shall consist of seven justices. Of the seven justices, each appellate district shall have at least one justice elected or appointed from the district to the supreme court who is a resident of the district at the time of his original appointment or election. Five justices shall constitute a quorum. The concurrence of four justices shall be necessary to a decision. When recusals for cause would prohibit the court from convening because of the requirements of this section, judges assigned to temporary duty may be substituted for justices.

(b) JURISDICTION.—The supreme court:

(1) Shall hear appeals from final judgments of trial courts imposing the death penalty and from orders of trial courts and decisions of district courts of appeal declaring invalid a state statute or a provision of the state constitution initially and directly passing on the validity of a state statute or a federal statute or treaty, or construing a provision of the state or federal constitution.

(2) When provided by general law, shall hear appeals from final judgments and orders of trial courts imposing life imprisonment or final judgments entered in proceedings for the validation of bonds or certificates of indebtedness and shall review action of statewide agencies relating to rates or service of utilities providing electric, gas, or telephone service.

(3) May review by certiorari any decision of a district court of appeal that expressly declares valid a state statute, or that expressly construes a provision of the state or federal constitution, or that expressly affects a class of constitutional or state officers, that passes upon a question certified by a district court of appeal to be of great public interest, or that expressly and directly conflicts that is in direct conflict with a decision of another any district court of appeal or of the supreme court on the same question of law, and any interlocutory order passing upon a matter which upon final judgment would be directly appealable to the supreme court, and may issue writs of certiorari to commissions established by general law having statewide jurisdiction.

(4) May review any decision of a district court of appeal that passes upon a question certified by it to be of great public importance, or that is certified by it to be in direct conflict with a decision of another district court of appeal.

(5) May review any order or judgment of a trial court certified by the district court of appeal in which an appeal is pending to be of great public importance, or to have a great effect on the proper administration of justice throughout the state, and certified to require immediate resolution by the supreme court.

(6) May review a question of law certified by the Supreme Court of the United States or a United States Court of Appeals which is determinative of the cause and for which there is no controlling precedent of the supreme court of Florida.

(7)(4) May issue writs of prohibition to courts and commissions in causes within the jurisdiction of the supreme court to review, and all writs necessary to the complete exercise of its jurisdiction.

(8)(5) May issue writs of mandamus and quo warranto to state officers and state agencies.

(9)(6) May, or any justice may, issue writs of habeas corpus returnable before the supreme court or any justice, a district court of appeal or any judge thereof, or any circuit judge.

(7) Shall have the power of direct review of administrative action prescribed by general law.

(c) CLERK AND MARSHAL.—The supreme court shall appoint a clerk and a marshal who shall hold office during the pleasure of the court and perform such duties as the court directs. Their compensation shall be fixed by general law. The marshal shall have the power to execute the process of the court throughout the state, and in any county may deputize the sheriff or a deputy sheriff for such purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be placed on the ballot:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
ARTICLE V, SECTION 3

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to modify the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Florida at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the 17th day of December A.D., 1979.

(SEAL)

GEORGE FIRESTONE  
SECRETARY OF STATE