



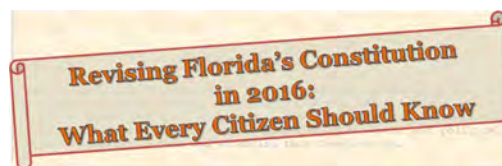
## **Too Important to Miss: The 2017-2018 Florida Constitution Revision Commission**

17 November 2016



## **CRC Background Recap**

- One of 5 ways to amend Florida's Constitution
- Meets every 20 years: 2017 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time
- 37 members tasked with carefully reviewing the state constitution
- Puts items directly on ballot for voter consideration



## CRC Background Recap (cont'd)

- Established by the 1968 Constitution
- Authorized to examine the state Constitution, *except* for matters related to taxation or the state budgetary process
- Enjoined to hold public hearings and make recommendations for revisions to go to ballot in the next general election
  - Article XI, Section 2 (c) Florida Constitution

## Commission Membership

37 Members

- Attorney General
- 15 appointed by Governor (appoints chair)
- 9 appointed by House Speaker
- 9 appointed by Senate President
- 3 appointed by Chief Justice, Supreme Court



1977 CRC Members at the Old Capitol

## First CRC 1977–1978



- Chaired by Sandy D'Alemberte
- Eight proposals
- None adopted on ballot, but some were implemented later

## Second CRC 1997–98



- Chaired by Dexter Douglas
- Nine proposals placed on ballot
- Eight were successful
- Major marketing efforts to inform citizens

## Getting Ready for the 2017 CRC

- Educate and inform public about the CRC prior to naming of the commission to ensure top-notch choices
- Provide analysis of possible amendments once CRC operations are underway
- Encourage citizens to participate in the process and VOTE in 2018



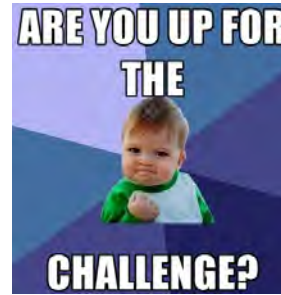
## PHASE 1: Assuring Top-Notch Commission members

- Highlight importance of the appointments
- Identify and recommend possible members
- Work with the media to publicize upcoming CRC and importance of commission members

**Get a seat at the table:** The Governor is now accepting applications is for the CRC. Apply today at <http://www.flgov.com/appointments/>.

## What kind of person does the CRC need?

- Creative
- Innovative
- Forward-thinking
- From all walks of life
- Bipartisan or nonpartisan
- Knowledgeable about government
- Reflective of Florida's diverse culture
- Civic-minded, cares about wellbeing of state



## PHASE 2: After the Commission is Named

- What amendments should be considered by the CRC?
- Two sets of hearings
  - Garnering ideas from public
  - Getting feedback on proposals adopted by the Commission
- Participate in hearings/submit position papers and proposals



## Encourage Citizens to ...

- Attend hearings
- Use the media to discuss ideas
- Follow Commission deliberations
- Communicate with Commission members
- Recommend your own ideas!
  - Use guidelines to draft an amendment
  - Refer to the Citizen's Guide



## Who can submit ideas?

- Individuals
- Organizations and groups
- Students/teachers
- PRETTY MUCH ANYONE!

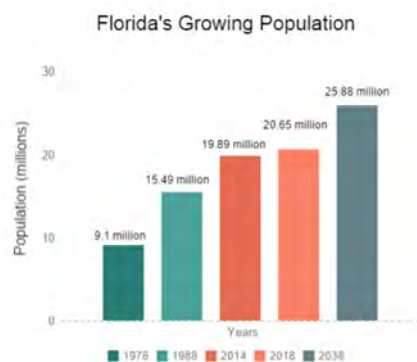


## Possible Commission Topics

What current issues of importance do you think need to be addressed in the Constitution?

- Term limits
- Judicial nominations
- Independent redistricting commission
- Higher education funding
- K-12 education funding
- Statutory initiative process

## Considerations for a Growing Sunshine State



Considerations for keeping up with a growing Sunshine State:

**Transportation**  
**Education**  
**Natural Resources**  
**Crime**  
**Representation**  
**Healthcare**  
**Youth, Elderly, and the**  
**Gun Control**  
**Immigration**  
**Economy**  
**What would you add?**

## Final Phase

- Amendments approved by the Commission go directly to the ballot
- Need 60% voter approval to be adopted
- Important to inform citizens about their choices
- November 2018



## Why is your vote important?

“Every generation of citizens has a right to choose for itself the form of government it believes most promotive of its own happiness.”

– *Thomas Jefferson*

“We are dealing with a constitutional democracy in which sovereignty resides in the people. It is their constitution...They have a right to change, abrogate or modify it in any manner they see fit...”

– *Glenn Terrell, former FL Supreme Court Justice*



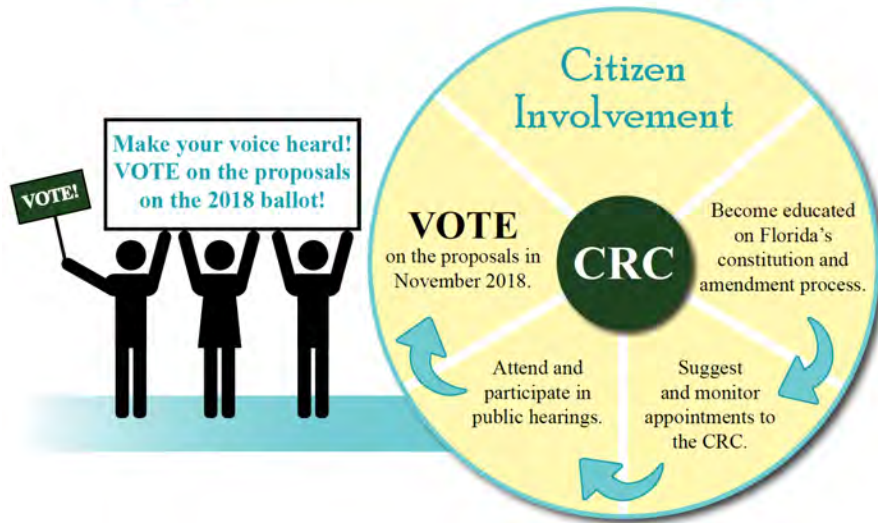
## Too Important to Miss

This is the citizens' opportunity to make a difference

- Members of the Commission
- Possible Amendments
- Informed voting



## The Role of Citizens



Partnership for Revising  
Florida's Constitution   
EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER

Website: [www.revisefl.com](http://www.revisefl.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/reviseFLcon](http://www.facebook.com/reviseFLcon)

Twitter: @reviseFLcon



## Partnership for Revising Florida's Constitution

- LeRoy Collins Institute
- Bob Graham Center at UF
- Florida Bar
- Florida Bar Foundation
- FL Chamber Foundation
- FL Justice Association
- FL League of Cities
- FL Association of Counties
- FL Philanthropic Network
- FL Press Association
- FL TaxWatch
- Justin Sayfie
- Leadership Florida
- FL League of Women Voters
- Florida NAACP
- Virgil Hawkins FL Chapter of the Nat'l Bar Association
- FL Justice Research & Education Association
- FL Law-Related Education Association
- Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
- Center for Government Responsibility at UF