

# 2017-18 Florida Constitution Revision Commission: Education Committee Proposals



## About the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)

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The Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) convenes once every 20 years to examine the Florida Constitution and proposes changes for voter consideration. Created by Article XI, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution, the CRC is composed of 37 Commissioners. Fifteen Commissioners are appointed by the Governor of Florida, nine by the President of the Florida Senate, nine by the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and three by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. The Attorney General of Florida automatically serves on the CRC. The Governor designates the Chair of the CRC.

The CRC meets for approximately one year, traveling across the State of Florida, identifying issues, performing research and possibly recommending changes to the Florida Constitution. As part of this process, the CRC holds public hearings to learn about issues that matter most to Floridians and considers proposed constitutional amendments submitted by the public.

Any proposals that pass the CRC's final vote will be placed on Florida's General Election ballot (November 6, 2018) and must secure at least 60 percent voter approval to become law.

The CRC includes the following substantive and procedural committees that consider proposals related to specific areas of the Florida Constitution, including bonding and investments, declaration of rights, education, ethics and elections, executive, finance and taxation, general provisions, judicial, legislative, local government, rules and administration, and style and drafting.

## Education Committee Proposals

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The education committee, chaired by State Board of Education Chairwoman Marva Johnson, agreed to advance nine proposals to the full Commission. The wide range of proposals, from appointed superintendents to recognition of the Florida College System, will soon be voted on by the full Commission. Commissioners are on a statewide tour seeking input on the 37 total active proposals through March 13, 2018.

Below is a brief overview of the nine active education CRC proposals:

### **No Aid Provision – Blaine Amendment ([P 4](#))**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Roberto Martinez

Removes the prohibition against using public revenues in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or any sectarian institution – including school vouchers for students attending sectarian schools. A similar proposal was submitted to voters in the 2012 General Election, which received 44.5% of the vote and was not adopted.

### **Civic Literacy ([P 10](#))**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Don Gaetz

Requires the Legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public education. Currently, there is no provision within the Florida Constitution that addresses specific education content areas such as civic literacy or civic education.

### **Appointed Superintendents ([P 33](#))**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Erika Donalds

Requires that the superintendent of schools of a school district be appointed by the district school board. Of the 67 current superintendents in Florida, approximately 40 percent are appointed by district school boards and approximately 60 percent are elected..

### **Term-limits for School District School Boards ([P 43](#))**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Erika Donalds

Establishes a two-term (8-year) limitation on the period for which a person may be elected as a member of a district school board, for terms beginning in 2016. Currently, there is no provision in the Florida constitution or law that limits the term of school board members.

### **State University Tuition and Fee Increases ([P 44](#))**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Nicole Washington

Requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature to increase university tuition and a 2/3 vote of a university board of trustees and the Board of Governors to increase university fees. Currently, public

university tuition increases are voted on within the legislature's budget process and student fees increases require a simple majority vote of the respective bodies.

### **Public education (P 45)**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Erika Donalds

Allows the Legislature to make provision for other educational services that benefit children and families of this state that are in addition to the system of free public schools.

### **Alternative School Authorizers (P 71)**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Erika Donalds

Authorizes the Legislature to enact general laws providing alternative processes to authorize the establishment of public schools (including charter schools) in the state.

### **The Florida College System (P 83)**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Nicole Washington

Establishes the State College System, including its mission and current governance structure, in the Constitution. Currently, the Florida College System, which serves over 800,000 students, is the only public education system not recognized in the Constitution.

### **Charter School Districts (P 93)**

**Proposal Sponsor:** Roberto Martinez

Authorizes high-performing school districts to become charter districts, which would allow for certain operational and financial flexibility.

For additional information, please visit [www.flcrc.gov](http://www.flcrc.gov)



Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's first collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and prosper in Florida's dynamic economy. Our mission is to create and sustain a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to increase college and career preparation, access, and completion for all Florida students. Our vision for Florida is Goal 2025: For 60% of working-age Floridians to hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025.

As a nonpartisan organization, FCAN strives to expand knowledge of research, data, policies and practices that impact postsecondary access and attainment in Florida. This legislative overview is intended as an educational resource and does not constitute an endorsement or opposition to any of the legislative proposals described herein.