Calendar for the Florida Constitution Revision Commission

Thursday, September 25, 1997

THE COMMISSION WILL CONVENE ON
Thursday, September 25, 1997
9:00 a.m.—until completion or 5:00 p.m.
and, if necessary,
Friday, September 26, 1997
9:00 a.m.—until completion or 5:00 p.m.

Daily Order of Business

1. Roll call
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of allegiance to the flag
4. Receiving communications
5. Introduction of proposals
6. Reports of committees
7. Matters on reconsideration
8. Special order as determined by the Rules and Administration Committee
9. Unfinished business
10. Correction and approval of journal

Standing committees will meet, if necessary, Thursday and Friday, fifteen minutes after recess of the sessions.

SPECIAL ORDER AS DETERMINED BY THE RULES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC AS PROVIDED IN RULE 3.3

Article I, Declaration of Rights

Article I, Section 2

I-2-1 Amend Art.I, s.2, in pertinent part, to read: ...No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, age or physical handicap.

I-2-1a Add a provision stating: A person 18 years of age or older is an adult for all purposes.

I-2-1b Include protection of the unborn

I-2-1c Protect life from conception through natural death

I-2-2 Add a provision to Art.I, s.2, as follows: The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this article unless specifically precluded by laws which enhance the protection of such persons.

I-2-3 Amend Art.I, s.2, to read: ...No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical handicap.

I-2-3a Amend Art.I, s.2, to read: ...No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, gender, or physical handicap.

I-2-3b Amend Art.I, s.2, striking the word "handicap" and substituting the word "disability" to conform with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I-2-4 Amend Art.I, s.2, to read: All natural persons are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to... acquire, possess and protect property, and acquire, possess and protect the highest form of title to such properties, i.e., including but not limited to, motor vehicles and
real property titles, such as MSO's and federally issued Land Patents; ...  

I-2-5 A basic right delineated in this section should include the right not to be fired except for cause, thus repealing the "at will" doctrine.  

I-2-6 This provision should apply to the workplace of every corporation, business and government office in the state.  

I-2-7 Add the following: The citizens of the State of Florida shall enjoy equal opportunity to employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, and other benefits of citizenship, except where otherwise provided by law. Additionally, the State, its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities, counties, public colleges and universities, community colleges, school districts, special districts, authorities and other government instrumentalities, are authorized to take actions necessary to remedy the present effects of past discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations, public education, the purchase of goods and services and the expenditure of public funds.  

I-2-8 The state shall not discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to any person based upon race, sex, ethnicity or national origin.  

I-2-9 Amend to provide the right of full, unrestricted enjoyment of the natural resources of the state and its political subdivisions, including sovereignty lands.  

**Article I, Section 3**  

I-3-1 Add to Art.I, s.3, the compelling state interest test. That is, laws affecting the free exercise clause should be subject to strict scrutiny.  

I-3-2 Modify the language in Art.I, s.3, regarding "indirect aid to sectarian institutions" to ensure that the provision is not interpreted to prevent students in parochial schools from receiving neutral benefits.  

I-3-3 Amend Art.I, s.3, to read: ... No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury to directly promote any church, sect, or religious denomination or indirectly aid any sectarian religious institution or program. The state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall deny equal access to a public benefit on account of religion, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.  

I-3-4 Include in Art.III, s.3, the following: Florida guarantees the people's right to acknowledge or disavow God according to the dictates of conscience. The people have the right to pray, peacefully assemble, and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage or traditions on private and public property. The State of Florida shall not require or coerce any person to pray, affirm any religious belief, or participate in any religious activity; initiate or designate school prayers or directly discriminate against religion or nonreligion. The State may only substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion if it shows that application of the burden to the person is in furtherance of a compelling state interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling interest.  

I-3-5 Add a provision prohibiting prayer in school.  

I-3-6 Allow the ten commandments to be posted in classrooms.  

I-3-7 Amend Art.I, s.3, to provide: There shall be no law respecting the establishment of one religion in preference to any other...  

**Article I, Section 4**  

I-4-1 This section should preclude any expression other than the verbal expression, by utterance, oral and vocal, or by writing or drawing, and which are in the English language. Protection is denied to physically destructive acts and to the generally offensive display of the human sexual or excretory organs.  

I-4-2 No government body shall make any law or ordinance allowing any display of the human sexual or excretory organs which are generally offensive to the local population - city, county or state - as objected to by the local population in the form of petitions signed by 10% of the local population.  

**Article I, Section 5**  

I-5-1 Amend Art.I, s.5, to read: Rights to assemble and associate. The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, to instruct their representatives, and to petition for redress of grievance. The rights of electoral participation and political association are fundamental; any law burdening their exercise is subject to strict judicial scrutiny for legitimacy regarding ends and means, and must be supported by clear and convincing evidence. Political choices and competition are primary interests of the citizenry.  

**Article I, Section 6**  

I-6-1 The right to work protection should be expanded to include farm workers.  

I-6-2 All Floridians shall have the right to join labor unions and to bargain collectively. It shall be a felony to coerce, intimidate or threaten employees because of their union advocacy or membership.  

I-6-3 Include a mechanism in Art.I, s.6, by which employees, especially those not covered by the National Labor Relations Act, can exercise their right to bargain collectively.  

I-6-4 The inalienable right to enjoy, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by means of exercising the right to work shall not be abridged or abrogated by any statute demanding compliance in order to exercise that right.  

I-6-5 This section should be amended to protect workers from the personal intrusion of employers on the drug testing, camera spying, discrimination of all kinds which includes your genetic makeup, your political ideas and speech; and economic status.  

I-6-6 Repeal the right-to-work provision.  

I-6-7 Workers compensation, medical benefits, and retirement benefits should be assured. We need to protect people injured on their jobs.  

I-6-8 Strengthen the whistle-blowers law.  

I-6-9 State employees should be required to retire at the age of 70.  

**Article I, Section 8**  

I-8-b-1 Exempt law enforcement officers from the 3-day waiting period to purchase a handgun.  

**Article I, Section 9**  

I-9-1 Amend Art.I, s.9, to read: No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, or be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense or be compelled in any criminal matter to be a witness against himself. Private
property may be forfeited only after felony conviction of, and 
exhaustion of appeals by, the property owner.

Article I, Section 12

I-21-2 Revert to the language of the 1885 Constitution, which reads: 
All courts in the State shall be open, so that every person 
for any injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation 
shall have remedy, by due course of law, and right and justice 
shall be administered without sale, denial or delay.

I-21-3 Overturn State v. Coleman, which provides that the court will 
not pass on the constitutionality of a statute if the case can be 
fully determined on other meritorious grounds.

Article I, Section 15

I-15-a-2 Amend Art.I, s.15-a, to read: All criminal charges should 
based upon grand jury 
indictment.

I-15-a-1b Add language to protect against the death penalty being 
imposed arbitrarily and capriciously. Imposition of the death 
penalty should require a unanimous jury recommendation for 
death.

I-15-a-2 All criminal charges should be based upon grand jury 
indictment.

I-15-x-1 Citizens should have the right to empanel a grand jury by 
petition.

Article I, Section 16

I-16-1 A criminal should not be able to sue the victim if the victim 
injures the criminal.

Article I, Section 17

I-17-1 Amend Art.I, s.17, to read: Excessive fines, cruel or unusual 
punishment, attainder, forfeiture of estate, indefinite 
imprisonment and unreasonable detention of witnesses are 
forbidden. There shall be proportionality between magnitude of 
 felony and the severity of forfeiture of property.

Article I, Section 18

I-18-1 Amend Art.I, s.18, to read: No administrative agency except 
the Department of Military Affairs in an appropriately convened 
Court-Martial action, shall impose a sentence of imprisonment, 
or shall it impose any other penalty except as provided by 

Article I, Section 19

I-19-1 Amend Art.I, s.19, to read: No person charged with crime shall 
be compelled to pay costs before a judgment of conviction has 
become final. A person not found guilty of a crime shall not be 
assessed fees or costs to recover property seized as evidence 
or otherwise held, impounded, or stored by the government.

I-19-2 A convicted person shall be compelled to pay the victim or the 
victim’s lawful representative, any costs incurred by the victim 
or representative, including but not limited to medical, prenatal care, and adoption costs, as the result of the crime, especially 
in the instance of rape where a child is conceived, and the 
determination of cost shall be retroactive up to two years from 
the date of this amendment.

Article I, Section 21

I-21-1 Amend Art.I, s.21, to read: The courts shall be open to every 
person for redress of any injury, without regard to the age of 
the litigants, and justice shall be administered without sale, 
denial or delay.
Article I, Section 24

I-24-1 All public records and documents published on electronic media must be encrypted to protect them from being changed by hackers. The 128-bit encryption method is suggested.

I-24-2 Ensure that all public records are open to everyone.

Article I, Section 25

I-25-1 This should be repealed, or something of substance added to it.

Article I, Section x

I-x-1 Add a Freedom of Conscience Amendment: No person shall be directly compelled to support or endorse any cause, charity, purpose, or organization, financially or otherwise, or indirectly to do so as a condition upon the receipt of a public benefit or the exercise of a public privilege or right, except in the payment of taxes enacted pursuant to general law or as a penalty imposed by a court for the commission of a crime.

I-x-2 Prohibit public funding of nursing homes with bad records of neglect.

I-x-3 Create a Bill of Rights for Children. Replace the concept that keeping the family together is the best policy, notwithstanding the family’s dysfunction.

I-x-4 Add a provision: A government or business establishment can make no law, rule or policy respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government or company for a redress of grievances.

I-x-5 Guarantee injured workers prompt payment of benefits and needed health care and therapy. Guarantee totally and permanently disabled income based on prior wages.

I-x-6 Establish a right to be paid a wage sufficient to support a person and family. Employers engaged in commerce grossing $100,000 or more in revenues per year shall pay employees a minimum wage of $10 per hour, indexed to increase with inflation.

I-x-7 The composition of the jailed populations by race and national origin cannot be significantly different from the composition of the general population.

I-x-8 Declare that the vestiges of racism no longer will be supported by public funds or designation for housing, historic districts, enterprise zones, or any similar enterprise whose past land use can be shown to have disadvantaged blacks historically.

I-x-9 Separate people with communicable diseases, such as AIDS, in schools and other places.

I-x-10 Allow nude beaches.

I-x-11 Provide for a separation between the government and political factions similar to the separation between government and religion.

I-x-12 Provide for the right to choose other than a licensed dentist to be fitted for and purchase removable dentures directly from a qualified dental lab technician/denturist/dental prosthetic therapist.

I-x-13 Provide the right to be free from conviction of victimless crimes.

I-x-14 Allow for possession, cultivation and transfer of marijuana for private purposes in small amounts for personal use.

I-x-14a Allow physicians to prescribe cannabis to certified patients.
I-x-15 An inmate shall lose all reductions of sentence upon a finding by a petit jury of the filing of a frivolous lawsuit.

I-x-16 Criminals must serve at least 85% of their time.

I-x-17 There should be established the right to choose one’s own doctor and hospital.

I-x-18 Provide for state public medical service provided free of charge without means testing.

I-x-18a Provide all children medical care, no matter what their means are.

I-x-19 Protect children’s rights first. Don’t let the foster care system get around the law.

I-x-20 Homosexuals should be able to adopt children.

I-x-21 Ensure that mentally ill people take their medicine, notwithstanding their civil rights.

I-x-22 Make it more difficult to be committed involuntarily.

Article II, General Provisions

Article II, Section 2
II-2-1 Explain the role of school districts among the three branches of state government.

II-2-2 Lawyers should be removed from elective office in the legislative and executive branches of government.

Article II, Section 5
II-5-1 No person shall serve a lifetime total of more than 8 years in any elected or appointed office, nor shall receive any compensation other than the official salary thereof. No salary increase shall apply to any officeholder while in office, nor shall take effect without a public referendum.

Article II, Section 6
II-6-1 Add the following section: It shall be the policy of this state to protect the safety of persons and property from natural and non-natural disasters. Adequate provision shall be made by law to provide incentives to ensure this measure of health, safety and welfare protection for all persons and property.

Article II, Section 7
II-7-a-1 Amend Art.II, s.7(a) to read: It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty and wildlife habitat.

II-7-b-1 Expand Art.II, s.7(b), beyond the Everglades Agricultural Area so that everywhere in the state, those who cause pollution are primarily responsible for paying the costs of abatement of that pollution.

II-7-x-1 Create an Environmental Bill of Rights:
   (1) Right to live in an environment free of toxic pollution of manmade chemicals;
   (2) Right to protect and preserve our pristine natural communities;
   (3) Right to ensure the existence of the scarce and fragile plant and animal species that share Florida;
   (4) Right to outdoor recreation;
   (5) Right to sustained economic success within our natural resources capacity.

II-7-x-2 Suggested additions to the Environmental Bill of Rights:
   (1) Protect the physical, chemical and biological wealth of Florida’s public lands;
   (2) Protect the public trust in wildlife and fisheries;
   (3) Protect the right of public access to state sovereign tidelines;
   (4) Protect fresh water resources;
   (5) Protect the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and recreational, scenic, historic and esthetic qualities of nature as part of a healthy environment.

II-7-x-3 Create a new article of the Constitution for natural resources.

II-7-x-4 It shall be a felony to emit or allow emissions of health-threatening particulates or noxious gases into the atmosphere.

II-7-x-4a Need remedies against environmental poisons being used by the government, which intrude onto private property.

II-7-x-5 Amend to provide for protection of local water supplies. Require local governments use their water before seeking another government’s water supply.

Article II, Section 8
II-8-a-1 Art.II, s.8(a), requiring full and public financial disclosure by elected constitutional officers, should be amended to include all elected officials in the state. This would pick up elected municipal officers and officers of special districts.

II-8-f-1 Authorize the Ethics Commission to initiate investigations (i.e., “primary” investigations).

II-8-f-1a Strengthen the powers of the Ethics Commission.

II-8-h-1 Amend Art.II, s.8(h)(1), to provide that full and public disclosure should allow for reporting of financial information to be made within reasonable ranges, rather than requiring specific figures.

II-8-h-2 Amend Art.II, s.8(h)(1), to provide that financial disclosure statements be filed directly with the Ethics Commission, rather than with the Secretary of State.

II-8-x-1 Transfer to Art.II, s.8, provisions of Art.III, s.18, which requires the enactment of a Code of Ethics for public officers and employees.

II-8-x-2 Members of the legislative branch should be subject to sanction for ethics violations notwithstanding reliance on the advice of counsel, as are all other officers and employees subject to the Code.

Article II, Section x
II-x-1 Create a new section: Legitimacy of Government Powers.-- Legitimate government, at any level, is established solely by direct and explicit consent of the governed. Relative to the citizenry, no branch of government has inherent or reserved powers, implicit or assumed prerogatives, or presupposed attributes of sovereignty. Powers must be expressly granted to government by the people, and the extent and range of such powers shall be strictly, narrowly construed.

II-x-2 Statement that Florida should and must declare its sovereignty from the United States government, and the United Nations and all its agencies. Any law or treaty not constitutional under State Constitution should not affect us.
II-x-3 Provide that Florida will not enforce illegal laws handed down by the federal government.

II-x-4 Create an agency to look into citizens concerns, including concerns about attorneys and judges, when no other agency can help someone.

II-x-5 Laws and rules should be reviewed periodically to get rid of the old wood.

Article III, Legislature

Article III, Section 1

III-1-1 The power of the Legislature to enact, amend, and repeal laws should be expressed.

III-1-1a Limit the Legislature from passing more than 100 bills per session.

III-1-1b Require legislators to read and understand legislation prior to voting.

III-1-2 Florida should have a one-house Legislature.

III-1-3 The requirement for single-member districts should be specifically set out in the Constitution.

III-1-4 Allow for multiple-member districts; at least a multiple-member house and a single-member senate.

Article III, Section 3

III-3-b-1 The Legislature should meet every other year.

III-3-b-2 Provide for a 45-day session, with a recess for 2 weeks, during which there would be committee meetings, then a 45-day session to conclude.

III-3-b-2a Supports the bifurcated session and proposes that a fiscal session precede the general session.

III-3-d-1 Amend Art.III, s.3(d), to read: Length of Session. A regular session of the legislature shall not exceed sixty consecutive days, and a special session shall not exceed twenty consecutive days, unless extended beyond such limit by a three-fifths vote of each house. During such an extension no new business may be taken up in either house without the consent of two-thirds of its membership.

Article III, Section 5

III-5-1 Art. III, s.5, should include a provision ensuring that a person may not be compelled to be a witness against himself when compelled to appear before a house of the Legislature or any of its committees.

Article III, Section 6

III-6-1 All laws shall include a clear and concise “Intent of the Legislature” abstract, spelling out what the law is intended to accomplish. This intent may not be changed or interpreted without the express consent of the Legislature. No executive or judicial body may make any rule or implementing guidelines without the express consent of the Legislature.

Article III, Section 7

III-7-1 All bills should be published and furnished to members in final form at least 3 days prior to final passage.

III-7-2 The people must be informed by public hearing of every statute which will affect their lives, businesses and freedoms.

III-7-3 Place some constraints on the amendatory process.

Article III, Section 8

III-8-1 The period during which the Governor may veto legislation when received during the session should be changed from 7 days to 15 days. The period for gubernatorial veto, when legislation is received after adjournment of the Legislature, should be changed from 15 days to 30 days.

Article III, Section 9

III-9-1 Create a new provision: Sunset Limitation of Statutes. In order that future generations not be burdened by legislative excesses of the past, each statute henceforth passed by the Legislature shall expire twenty years after its effective date. All current statutes shall expire ten years after passage of this amendment. The expiration of a statute shall encompass amendments to and deletions from the statute as originally enacted.

Article III, Section 10

III-10-1 Moral issues should be voted on at the local level. Counties should decide these issues.

Article III, Section 11

III-11-1 Amend Art.III, s.11(a)(19), to read: There shall be no special law or general law of local application pertaining to hunting or fresh-water fishing.

Article III, Section 15

III-15-a-1 House terms should be increased from 2 years to 4 years; Senate terms should be increased from 4 years to 6 years.

III-15-a-1a Increase the terms as set out in III-15-a-1, and provide for a 12-year term limit.

III-15-c-1 The residence qualification for state legislators shall be changed from 2 years to 6 years. Each legislator shall be at least 21 years of age, an elector and resident of the district from which elected and shall have resided in the state for a period of seven years prior to election.

III-15-c-2 Require a 1-year residence within the district in order to qualify to run for the Legislature.

Article III, Section 16

III-16-1 Establish an independent redistricting commission.

III-16-1a Provide for an elected reapportionment committee.

III-16-1b End the practice of gerrymandering.

III-16-2 There should be proportional representation for the Florida Legislature.

Article III, Section 18

III-18-1 This provision, which requires the enactment of a code of ethics for state officers and employees, should be transferred to Art.II, s.8, relating to Ethics in Government.
Article III, Section 19

III-19-1 This section needs to be substantially rewritten. It is a statute in the guise of Constitution.

III-19-2 Amend Art.III, s.19, to include the judicial branch within the requirements of the budget process.

III-19-3 Strengthen the Governor’s ability to serve as chief planning officer. Look at the Florida Commission on Government Accountability to the People as a model.

Article III, Section x

III-x-1 No legislative body shall incur any debt, nor allow any debt to stand, that is not discharged and paid in full before the expiration of 10 years.

III-x-2 Authorize the Legislature to enact tort reform to allow for a cap on non-economic damages, limit or eliminate punitive damages, limit lawyer contingency fees and provide immunity.

Article IV, Executive

Article IV, Section 1

IV-1-1 The Governor shall not create a commission by executive order to create a new form of government, such as a Commission for a Sustainable South Florida Government.

Article IV, Section 3

IV-3-b-1 Rewrite the provision regarding gubernatorial incapacity. It provides no standards and could result in a constitutional crisis.

Article IV, Section 5

IV-5-a-1 The Cabinet should be restructured; the Cabinet should be appointed by the Governor.

IV-5-a-1a The Comptroller and Insurance Commissioner should be appointed.

Article IV, Section 6

IV-6-1 Repeal this to the extent that a department may be placed under the direct supervision of the Governor and Cabinet.

Article IV, Section 7

IV-7-b-1 The Senate should be required to either remove or reinstate an official suspended by the Governor. Currently, the Senate can simply fail to take action.

Article IV, Section 8

IV-8-1 A person’s civil rights should be automatically restored upon completion of sentence and a subsequent time certain free from arrest.

Article IV, Section 9

IV-9-1 Unify the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to form the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; provide for appointment of members by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation. Authorize Commission to exercise executive and regulatory powers of the state pertaining to conservation of freshwater and marine aquatic life and wild animal life.

IV-9-2 The unelected Game Commission should be made subject to the control of the Legislature. Currently the Commission is authorized to exercise regulatory powers, and the Legislature may enact laws in aid of the Commission, not inconsistent with this provision.

Article IV, Section x

IV-x-1 Create a Department of Public Safety which would consolidate state law enforcement officers in one agency. Currently, at least 10 state agencies employ law enforcement officers.

IV-x-2 Create a separate department for persons with disabilities.

IV-x-3 No governmental body, committee, commission, study group, etc., should ever have more than 25% lawyers as members.

IV-x-4 Create a section as follows: Sunset Limitation of Administrative Rules.--Each administrative rule or regulation henceforth issued by a state agency or department shall expire ten years after its effective date. All current rules and regulations shall expire six years after passage of this amendment.

IV-x-5 Mandate the creation of a commission to develop specific guidelines regarding the protection of barrier islands, looking at developments on a case-by-case basis.

IV-x-6 All parole boards and all other appointed boards with functions of criminal sentence reduction, new trials or clemency shall be dissolved and prohibited. Such questions shall be decided only by petit juries.

IV-x-7 Establish a Cabinet position for environmental issues.

IV-x-8 Deregulate banking. Provide for a private-sector banking commission.

Article V, Judiciary

Article V, Section 1

V-1-1 Clarify the State of Florida’s responsibility to fully fund the judiciary.

V-1-2 Amend Art.V, s.1, relating to the structure of the judiciary to provide for a system of constables, justices of the peace and city judges.

Article V, Section 2

V-2-a-1 Court shall submit criminal rules of procedure to the Legislature for adoption.

V-2-b-1 Strike “temporary” from Art.V, s.2(b), to provide for unlimited cross-assignments of judges between the trial courts.

V-2-d-1 Amend Art.V, s.2(d), to provide that the chief judge of each circuit is responsible to see that all circuit court trials and grand jury proceedings are held in the county seat.

Article V, Section 3

V-3-a-1 Amend Art. V to allow the District Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court to submit questions of military law to the Federal Courts of Appeal for the Uniform Services for an advisory opinion.

V-3-a-2 Amend Art. V to allow a military court-martial to be conducted by military judges of the Florida National Guard, with direct appeal to the First District Court of Appeal.
V-3-a-3 Divide Florida into 7 districts and elect one Supreme Court justice from each.

V-3-a-4 Amend Art.V, s.3(b), to require a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court or a panel of judges of the district courts of appeal before any trial verdict is reversed, remanded or retried.

V-3-b-1 Amend Art.V, s.3(b), relating to capital cases to allow only 30 days between appeals.

V-3-b-2 Amend Art.V, s.3, to provide the Supreme Court with the opportunity to review per curiam affirmed decision of the district courts of appeal.

Article V, Section 5

V-5-1 Amend Art. V to provide a process to remove bias and discrimination from divorce and custody determinations.

Article V, Section 8

V-8-1 Amend Art.V, s.8, by removing the requirement for mandatory retirement of justices and judges over the age of 70.

V-8-2 Amend Art.V, s.8, relating to mandatory retirement, and raise the retirement age from 70 to age 72 with no opportunity for the justice or judge to serve any remaining term of office.

V-8-3 Amend Art.V, s.8, to provide that in order to be eligible for judicial office, candidates must, at the time of appointment or qualification for office, reside within the territorial jurisdiction of their court.

V-8-3 Amend Art.V, s.8, relating to the qualifications for judges to provide that judges do not have to be lawyers.

V-8-4 All judges should be approved by a qualifications screening process, even those who run for office.

V-8-4 Amend Art.V, s.8, relating to the qualifications of trial judges to increase the experience level for circuit and county court judges from 5 to 10 years membership in The Florida Bar.

Article V, Section 10

V-10-a-1 Amend Art.V, ss.10 and 11, to extend the system of merit selection and retention to the trial courts.

V-10-a-2 Amend Art.V, s.10(a), to provide that justices of the Supreme Court and all judges should be elected from single member districts for a single term of 8 years with no succeeding term.

V-10-a-3 Combine merit retention with popular election. Require unchallenged incumbent county and circuit judges to appear on the first primary ballot as retain or not retain. If not retained, candidates have 10 days to qualify.

V-10-a-4 Amend Art.V, s.10, to require the election of all justices and judges.

V-10-a-4a Elect judges with public funds.

V-10-a-4b Elect all judges with an 8-year term limit.

V-10-a-5 Eliminate the Judicial Nominating Commission process and authorize the Governor to appoint appellate judges, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

V-10-a-6 Appellate judges should have a 10-year term, subject to reconfirmation.

V-10-b-1 Amend Art.V, s.10(b), to increase the term of office of county court judges from four to six years.

Article V, Section 12

V-12-1 Strengthen the Judicial Qualifications Commission. Give it the power to remove judges for incompetency, not only misdeeds.

V-12-2 Judicial Qualifications Commission proceedings should not be confidential.

Article V, Section 15

V-15-1 Amend Art.V, s.15, to provide that all assets of The Florida Bar, The Florida Bar Foundation, and the Florida Lawyers Association for the Maintenance of Excellence shall be transferred to the State of Florida and controlled by the Florida Legislature.

V-15-2 Amend Art.V, s.15, to prohibit the judicial branch from hiring outside lobbyists.

V-15-3 Amend Art.V, s.15, to provide that lawyers be regulated by the executive branch rather than the judicial branch.

V-15-4 Require all lawyers to pay annual licensing fees to practice in Florida.

V-15-5 Require all lawyers to disclose that monies held for the benefit of their clients may be kept in an interest bearing account for the client’s benefit rather than an interest for the benefit of The Florida Bar Foundation.

Article V, Section 18

V-18-1 Removes public defenders from the Constitution and creates a Department of Public Defense with the Executive Branch.

Article V, Section 19

V-19-1 Create a new section that would provide for a system of court watchers. The purpose of the program is to determine if there have been any violations of federal or State Constitution.

V-19-1a There should be more oversight of judges. Judges should be more accountable.

Article V, Section x

V-x-1 Require mandatory education for judges before they take office, including judicial efficiency.

V-x-2 Provide that no active member of The Florida Bar may serve on the Judiciary Committee of either house of the Legislature.

V-x-3 Judges should base decisions on the rule of law, not on their opinions. Judicial activism is not part of the design of our government.

V-x-4 Provide for a magistrate system for family law cases, including child support.

Article V, Section 10

V-19-1b Improve supervision of attorneys and judges.
Article VI, Suffrage and Elections

Article VI, Section 1

VI-1-1 Allow NPA and Independent voters to vote in primary elections.

VI-1-2 A runoff election should only be held when no candidate gets at least 45% of the vote.

VI-1-3 Allow voting on weekends, allow 2 days for voting.

Article VI, Section 2

VI-2-1 Require that all candidates must be registered Florida voters for at least one year, and live in the district for at least 6 months, and continue to live in the district for the entire term.

VI-2-2 Amend Art.VI, s.2, to accurately reflect that the legal voting age is 18 rather than 21 years of age.

VI-2-3 All voters should be required to prove they are residents of Florida before being registered.

Article VI, Section 4

VI-4-1 Impose term limits on all officials, including judges.

VI-4-1a Limit terms to three for any public office.

VI-4-2 Remove all term limits from the Constitution.

VI-4-3 Review term limits to provide system that is equitable to all state senators.

VI-4-4 Extend term limits to include city and county officials.

Article VI, Section 5

VI-5 Amend Art.VI, s.5, to provide that a general election shall be held in each county on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year to choose a successor to each elective state, and county, municipal and district officer whose term will expire before the next general election and, except as provided herein, to fill each vacancy in elective office for the unexpired term portion of the term...

Article VI, Section 6

VI-6-1 Strike the entire section relating to municipal and district elections.

VI-6-2 Amend Art.VI, s.6, to provide that local election campaigns shall not commence earlier than 30/45 days before election date and at the state level 60/75 days.

Article VI, Section 7

VI-7-1 Provide a method for the distribution of electoral college votes.

Article VI, Section x

VI-x-1 Modify the ballot access laws to increase participation and diminish the power of the major parties.

VI-x-2 Remove restrictions on ballot access, including high filing fees, access laws, and petitioning requirements.

VI-x-3 Create a new section requiring a statewide referendum of all laws passed by the state legislature for that period.

VI-x-4 The rights of political associations in electoral participation should be enhanced.

VI-x-5 Include a declaration that competition and electoral choice are of interest to citizens. Minor parties and independents should not be suppressed.

VI-x-6 Any political party that has been in continuous national existence for twenty years and has run presidential candidates in at least four of the previous five presidential elections shall have statewide ballot access.

VI-x-7 All candidates for public office shall be treated equally. No qualified candidate shall have ballot access restrictions based upon affiliation with a political party or faction or upon the size of a political party or faction. All elections shall be non-partisan.

VI-x-8 Adopt language found in the Illinois Constitution creating a State Board of Elections and providing a “state board of elections shall be [have] general supervision over the administration and election laws throughout the state. The General Assembly [Legislature] shall determine the size, manner of selection and composition of the Board. No political party shall have a majority of members on the Board.”

VI-x-9 Provide for a mechanism to recall justices of the Supreme Court and other elected officials.

VI-x-9a The collection of signatures to recall a county commissioner is excessive.

VI-x-10 Amend ballot access laws to provide equal access for minor parties. Also provide mechanism for minor parties to receive refund of filing fees.

VI-x-11 Prohibit the use of general revenue to finance campaigns. Require that contributions must come from individuals who are electors qualified to vote for the candidate.

VI-x-12 Support public financing of campaigns.

VI-x-13 Limit campaign contributions to those who can vote for the candidate.

VI-x-14 Require political parties to pay for primary election. Allow for an open primary, thereby allowing all parties to participate.

VI-x-15 Prohibit the second primary and allow for weekend voting.

VI-x-16 Conduct non-partisan elections.

VI-x-17 Relating to campaign financing, provide for a statutory cap and prohibit contributions from those not residents of Florida or Florida businesses.

VI-x-18 Require the print and broadcast media to provide a set amount of space or time at reduced rates or free to political candidates.
States may not place financial burdens on candidates by requiring reports to be submitted by technology.

Limit all campaign contribution to $200.

Limit campaign contributions to $500 and do not permit public officials to take a position on referendum items.

Do not allow special elections when there are too few items to justify the expense of an election.

Require polling machines to be available so that the sentiment of citizens can be tested concerning various issues.

**Article VII, Finance and Taxation**

**Article VII, Section 1**

VII-1-a Amend Art. VII to read “[t]here shall be no gift taxation, value-added taxation, securities transfer taxation, generation-skipping taxation, taxation of tangible personal property not used for business purposes, or other tax not explicitly permitted under this constitution.”

VII-1-e-1 Limit the Legislature’s ability to raise taxes, require 2/3 majority vote of each legislative body or require 75% voter approval.

VII-1-e-2 Impose spending limits on the government.

**Article VII, Section 2**

VII-2-1 Remove intangible personal property taxes from the law.

VII-2-2 Exempt minors from intangible taxes up to $150,000.

**Article VII, Section 3**

VII-3-a-1 Provide greater equity to counties who have an inordinate amount of exempt property.

VII-3-a-2 Extend the exemption provided to county-owned seaports and airports to those owned by municipal and special district seaports and airports.

VII-3-1-3 Close all loopholes in the tax laws.

VII-3-a-4 Amend the doctrine of sovereign immunity to provide that public property leased to a private entity is subject to taxation.

VII-3-5 Prohibit a county or municipality from using cash derived from ad valorem taxes for economic development purposes.

**Article VII, Section 4**

VII-4-1 Collect property taxes on a monthly basis.

VII-4-2 Assess but do not levy property tax on the elderly. Let the estate handle the taxes. The elderly should not be forced from their homes because they cannot pay their taxes.

**Article VII, Section 5**

VII-5-1 Eliminate the constitutional ban on a state income tax.

VII-5-2 Prohibit state income tax.

**Article VII, Section 6**

VII-6-1 Amend Art. VII, s.6, to provide a homestead exemption on the second $25,000 rather than the first.

VII-6-1-a Revise the homestead exemption to allow a $25,000 exemption to any amount over the first $25,000 in value.

VII-6-1-b Remove the initial $5,000 exemption and start the $25,000 exemption thereafter.

VII-6-2 Amend Art. VII, s.6, to provide that everyone pays at least something for such basic things as schools and law enforcement.

VII-6-3 Modify the homestead exemption provision. Mobile home owners should be paying their share of taxes.

VII-6-4 Require everyone to pay ad valorem tax on 50% of the first $50,000 of assessed valuation and 100% on amounts over $50,000.

VII-6-5 Prohibit a county or municipality from using cash derived from ad valorem taxes for economic development purposes.

VII-6-6 Index the homestead exemption provision to inflation.

VII-6-7 Provide an exemption for the first $5,000 of tangible personal property.

VII-6-8 Eliminate homestead exemption.

VII-6-9 Raise the homestead exemption with the consequence of reducing the property tax base of local governments.

VII-6-10 Amend the Constitution to permit the partial year assessment of homestead property in order to recover the costs of providing services to new homestead property completed after January 1 of each new year.

VII-6-11 Add to paragraph (a), . . . inclusive of state Medicaid benefits paid to the owner chronic care in eligible facilities commencing 90 days from entry.

**Article VII, Section 9**

VII-9-a-1 Provide local school districts more flexibility to use 10 mils of nonvoted millage as they wish.

VII-9-a-2 Permit school districts to levy an increment of millage above 10 mils without the need for a referendum approval.

VII-9-a-3 Specify in the Constitution the amount or percentage of the 10 mil cap that may be used for capital improvement versus other purposes.

VII-9-a-4 The millage cap for schools should be set locally and not be set out in the Constitution.
VII-9-b-1 Adjust the constitutional formula for the distribution of motor vehicle license tax fee to provide a greater percentage of proceeds to school districts and community colleges.

VII-9-b-2 Provide that all natural persons who own property in counties other than the county in which they claim homestead be allowed to vote for every and all elected officials and all county issues.

VII-9-b-3 Provide that all persons who have no minor children or who home school are not responsible for property taxes associated with education.

VII-9-6 Require referendum before imposing special assessments.

Article VII, Section 12

VII-12-1 Narrow the referendum requirement of Art.VII, s.12, to indebtedness payable exclusively from ad valorem taxation and maturing more than 12 months more after issuance.

VII-12-2 Broaden the referendum requirement of Art.VII, s.12, to apply any indebtedness incurred where ad valorem taxation directly or indirectly supports the bond issuance.

VII-12-3 Amend to prohibit lease-purchasing agreements using ad valorem taxes.

Article VII, Section 13

VII-13-1 The Constitution should provide an assumption of correctness not be made in favor of the property appraiser.

Article VII, Section 14

VII-14-1 Place water management in general revenue and do not allow it independent taxation authority.

Article VII, Section 15

VII-15-1 Permit the state to set up a housing authority funded by bonds sold to the public and guaranteed by constitutionally mandated funds from tax money.

Article VII, Section x

VII-x-1 Change the administration and distribution of the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund to grant school districts a defined percentage of the proceeds.

VII-x-2 Reconcile the tax on manufacturers.

VII-x-3 (1) Make possible for the Legislature to earmark certain fees/taxes for the bonding of capital outlay and (2) restructure the tax system by eliminating the multitude of exemptions.

VII-x-4 Supports a provision that the cost of the justice system may not exceed 5% of the total budget.

VII-x-5 Opposes any amendment that would establish a constitutional state land acquisition fund or program.

VII-x-6 Supports a constitutional amendment that would prohibit taxing food and medicine.

VII-x-7 Supports the flat tax and national sales tax and federal flat tax of 12%. Intangibles tax should be eliminated.

VII-x-8 Tie increases in government to increases in personal income.

VII-x-9 State tax structure should balance between business and personal taxes.

VII-x-10 Mobile homeowners should not have to pay a sales tax on their purchase.

VII-x-11 Prohibit non-elected officials and boards from levying taxes.

VII-x-12 Neither the government nor its taxing authority should be permitted to charge more in penalties for late payment of taxes than the government or its agencies pay for early payment of taxes due.

VII-x-13 Outlaw any budget item that is indexed to inflation.

Article VIII, Local Government

Article VIII, Section 1

VIII-1-a-1 Do not revise Art. VIII relating to home rule.

VIII-1-d-1 Require constitutional officers, who are elected by voters, to levy the taxes necessary to support their individual budgets.

VIII-1-e-1 Require penalties if county commissions fail to follow the law by thwarting a home rule commission by failing to fund the expenses as required by law.

VIII-1-g-1 Amend Art.VIII, s.1(g), to permit charter counties to set forth in their charters a procedure for incorporation and annexation as an alternative to incorporation and annexation by special law.

VIII-1-1-1 Amend Art.VIII, s.1(g), to permit charter counties to set forth in their charters a procedure for incorporation and annexation as an alternative to incorporation and annexation by special law.

Article VIII, Section 2

VIII-2-1 Require study and a referendum before any municipality may be abolished, merged or consolidated with another local government.

VIII-2-a-1 Amend Art.VIII, s.2(a), regarding formation of municipalities, s.2(c), regarding annexation, and s.3, regarding consolidation, and to permit charter counties to provide a process for incorporation, consolidation and annexation in its charter or otherwise strengthen the role of local government in the formation process.

VIII-2-b-1 Amend Art.VIII, s.2(b), to provide that municipalities may exercise any power for municipal purposes except where prohibited by law.
Article VIII, Section 4

VIII-4-1 Remove Art. VIII, s.4, from the Constitution or amend it to read “… any function or power of a county, municipality or special district may be transferred to or contracted to be performed by another county, municipality or special district, after approval by vote of the electors of the transferor and approval by vote of the electors of the transferee, or as otherwise provided by law, or as provided by county charter.”

Article VIII, Section 9

VIII-9-b (a) Amend the Constitution to allow local government to levy taxes (in addition to ad valorem) not inconsistent with general law.

(b) Completely remove state tax preemption.

(c) Remove the 10 mil millage caps completely, or allow caps to be set by general law.

(d) Create a process whereby a local government may raise the millage caps.

(e) Eliminate the ad valorem tax and replace the tax with other revenue sources.

Article VIII, Section x

VIII-x-1 Require county managers to have a minimum qualification of an associates degree.

VIII-x-2 Require local government officials to be trained and skilled in the issues of building, zoning and code enforcement.

VIII-x-3 Home rule should be retained regardless of whether a county is chartered.

VIII-x-4 Reduce the size of government and eliminate all state level positions that could be handled at the local level.

VIII-x-5 Overrule Snyder v. Brevard County and Jennings v. Dade County thereby permitting citizens the right to speak with their elected official relating to zoning matters.

VIII-x-6 Require each community to have a binding referendum on community police forces.

VIII-x-7 (a) Require all counties to adopt a charter and permit the charters to provide process for the transfer of service delivery functions, annexation and incorporation with the terms of the charter.

(b) Retain the distinction between non-charter and charter counties yet permit charter counties to provide processes for the transfer of service delivery functions, annexation and incorporation with the terms of the charter.

VIII-x-8 (a) Recognize special districts as special purpose local governments created by general or special act and lacking home rule authority in Art. VIII.

(b) Recognize special districts as special purpose local governments but grant charter counties the authority to provide by charter a process for the transfer of service delivery functions from an independent special district whose boundaries fall within the county to the charter county.

Article IX, Education

Article IX, Section 1

IX-1-1 Specific appropriation budget should be designated in the Constitution.

IX-1-2 Advocates the language of the 1868 Constitution which provided that education shall be paramount in Florida and that there shall be a free public university system.

IX-1-3 Broaden the right to a free education to include the first two years of college.

Article IX, Section 2

IX-2-1 Create an appointed rather than elected Commissioner of Education.

Article IX, Section 4

IX-4-a-1 Regionalize school boards for counties with small populations.

IX-4-a-2 Allow counties to divide into smaller school districts.

IX-4-1 Clarify the status of school boards. Are they constitutional bodies?

Article IX, Section 5

IX-5-1 Recommends changing to an appointed superintendent of schools.

Article IX, Section x

IX-x-1 Until the underlying problems with the schools are solved so that students are prepared in basic skills, no additional funding should be provided.

IX-x-2 Consider a way to bring discipline into the schools.

IX-x-3 Provide for educational vouchers and school choice.

IX-x-3a School choice is too restrictive.

IX-x-4 Provide breakfast and lunch to public school students free of charge without means testing.

IX-x-5 Provide funding for education at a rate of no less than 25% of the amount spent on prisoners.

IX-x-6 The statutory grant of home rule power to school boards exceeds legislative authority.
Article X, Miscellaneous

Article X, Section 2

X-2-b Amend Art.X, s.2(b), to read: (b) The organizing, equipping, housing, maintaining, disciplining, including incarceration pursuant to Court-Martial actions, of the militia, and safekeeping of public arms may be provided for by law.

Amend Art.X, s.2(d), to read: (d) The qualifications of personnel and officers of the federally recognized national guard, including adjutant general, and the grounds and proceedings for their discipline, including incarceration pursuant to a valid Court-Martial proceeding, and removal shall conform to the appropriate United States Army or Air Force regulations and usages.

Article X, Section 4

X-4-a-1 Do not cap homestead or do away with unlimited homestead exemption.

X-4-a-2 Amend Art.X, s.4(a), to clarify that homestead property should not be protected from forfeiture actions.

X-4-a-3 Amend Art.X, s.4, to reduce the size of an estate that is protected in a bankruptcy estate. In addition, set a value which represents the amount protected.

X-4-a-4 Eliminate mechanics' liens.

X-4-c-1 The prohibition against devising a homestead if the devisee is survived by a spouse or minor children should be eliminated.

Article X, Section 6

X-6-a-1 Amend Art.X, s.6(a), to read “No private property shall be taken except for a substantial, explicit public use and with full compensation made to each owner or secured by deposit in the registry of the court and available to the owner”.

X-6-2 Make changes to the eminent domain law.

Article X, Section 7

X-7-1 Authorize casino gambling in Florida.

Article X, Section 10

X-10-1 Amend Art.X, s.10, to limit felonies to extremely serious crimes.

X-10-2 Define in Art.X, s.10, acts which constitute felonies. Decriminalize acts that are merely acts of poor moral conduct or opinionated disfavor.

Article X, Section 11

X-11-1 Clarify federal land and water body designations.

Article X, Section 13

X-13-1 Sovereign immunity should not apply when the government is performing a business or private function.

X-13-2 Eliminate the cap on the waiver of sovereign immunity.

Article X, Section 14

X-14-1 Make provisions that dues of the Florida Retirement System should be adequately protected.

X-14-2 Amend Art.X, s.14, to provide that the administration of the public retirement system shall require the Board of Trustees to hold and invest all assets for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to all members.

Article X, Section 15

X-15-1 Require lottery funds to be supplemental to general revenue with general revenue being no less than 4% of the actual percentage of the general revenue budget allocation to education as it was at the time the lottery was approved.

Article X, Section 16

X-16-1 Consider the impact of the net ban on the coastal heritage of Florida. Put the net ban back on the ballot now that people understand its effect.

X-16-2 Do not change, delete or modify the net ban.

Article X, Section x

X-x-1 Include tort reform in the revision process.

X-x-2 Provide a property rights amendment.

X-x-3 If a property owner meets all written requirements, the controlling governmental body should not be able to deny a permit. The term “compatibility” should be clearly defined.

X-x-4 Protect our environmental and planning agencies from laws that benefit a landowner who destroys a public resource at the expense of the community.

X-x-5 Adopt the following relating to private property rights: “State government is delegated the limited power to regulate the use of private property solely to protect public health and safety in accordance with the common law’s standards of nuisance.”

X-x-6 Adopt the following proposal relating to the government’s power to regulate the use of private property: “Government is delegated the limited power to regulate the use of private property solely to protect public health and safety, in accordance with common law’s standards of nuisance. This delegation of power shall be interpreted narrowly.”
Article XI, Amendments

Article XI, Section 2

XI-2-a-1 Members of the Constitution Revision Commission should be elected.

XI-2-a-2 Amend Art.XI, s.2(a)2., to read: The Constitution Revision Commission must include at least one citizen from the middle, lower-middle and lower economic class levels. The Legislature must appropriate a sum sufficient to cover travel and per diem expenses of the Commission members.

XI-2-a-3 Appointing authorities should be limited to appointing no more than 2 members of the same profession.

Article XI, Section 3

XI-3-1 Require a 3/5 vote for approval of constitutional amendments.

XI-3-2 Increase the number of signatures required for a petition to be placed on the ballot. Limit the time for the collection of signatures. Require a super majority vote and require the vote of a percentage of the counties. Allow for a statutory initiative.

XI-3-3 Provide for statutory initiatives.

XI-3-4 Limit initiatives to the framework of government and not to government regulation.

XI-3-5 Allow Floridians to vote on all constitutional amendments.

XI-3-6 Do not change the initiative process.

XI-3-7 Eliminate the need for the initiative method to amend the Constitution.

XI-3-7 Modify the initiative process to establish a criteria for determining issues that should be placed in the Constitution rather than the statutes.

XI-3-8 Ballot title and summary should be validated before the petition is circulated.

XI-3-9 Eliminate the single subject requirement for initiative petitions.

XI-3-10 Limit initiatives by (1) restricting the subject matter of an initiative to the subject of the structure of government or (2) treating initiatives like a special act which would apply only in counties where it passed.

XI-3-11 Modify the initiative process so that the Constitution cannot be so easily modified.

XI-3-12 Provide that initiatives must first be submitted to the Legislature. The Legislature would then have two years to act or the initiative would be placed on the ballot.

XI-3-13 When a citizen’s initiative is submitted for review by the Courts as required by law and the Court rejects the initiative on the basis of inadequate or unclear ballot title and summary, the Court shall direct the Secretary of State to prepare such title and summary with wording that is satisfactory to the Court.

XI-3-14 When a citizen’s initiative is eliminated because of inadequate or unclear ballot summary or title, require the Court to propose the necessary ballot statement and title.

XI-3-15 Regulate the funding relating to initiative petitions. Also provide for public forums.

XI-3-16 Make it a felony for any citizen to make a direct payment for another to sign a constitutional amendment initiative.

XI-3-17 “The amount of compensation for gatherers of signatures, if any, for Voter Initiative Amendments shall not be directly related to the number of signatures gathered. They may receive an hourly rate of compensation, but such rate of compensation shall not change until after the petition for the proposed amendment and those signatures have been submitted and the signatures verified in accordance with established law and rules pertaining to Voter Initiative Amendments.”

Article XII, Schedule

Article XII, Section 9

XII-9-1 Add P2000 program to the Constitution and extend it to at least the year 2020. P2000 funds should not be used for things other than preservation.

XII-9-2 Establish a Florida Land and Water Conservation Fund, using revenues dedicated from documentary stamps to support long-term debt and pay-as-you-go programs to purchase high quality state conservation lands, grants to local governments for community based conservation projects, funding environmental restoration projects on public lands, and financing incentives for long-term conservation stewardship of private lands.

XII-9-3 Amend to provide a policy of no-net loss of conservation and recreation lands.

XII-9-4 The time limits for bonding for land preservation should be extended from 2013 to 2020.

Article XII, Section x

XII-x-1 Remove all of Art. XII.

XII-x-2 Establish a rigorous and consistent process governing the sale, lease or use of state conservation lands that will limit their use for purposes other than those for which they were purchased.