



## CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

### Summary of Proposed Constitutional Revision

#### **Revision 2 (P 6002) – First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities**

*By Style and Drafting Committee; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Carlos Beruff; Pam Bondi; Lisa Carlton; Erika Donalds; Emery Gainey; Tom Grady; Brecht Heuchan; Marva Johnson; Darlene Jordan; Fred Karlinsky; Belinda Keiser; Frank Kruppenbacher; Tom Lee; Rich Newsome; Chris Nocco; Jeanette Nuñez; Sherry Plymale; Pam Stewart; Carolyn Timmann; Nicole Washington*

Revision 2 amends the Florida Constitution to revise and create provisions relating to higher education in the State of Florida. Specifically, this revision:

- Requires a supermajority vote of university boards of trustees and the State University System Board of Governors to change or authorize education related fees at any State University System institution. Currently, university boards of trustees have the authority to establish or increase a number of fees, including activity and service fees, health fees, technology fees, and financial aid fees. Approval of such fee changes requires a favorable vote of a majority of the thirteen-member trustee board. Approved fee changes that are subject to Board of Governors ratification likewise require a majority favorable vote by the seventeen-member Board of Governors.
  - This revision requires an affirmative vote of at least nine members of the university board of trustees, if approval by such body is mandated by law, and an affirmative vote of at least twelve members of the Board of Governors, if approval by such body is mandated by law, before a State University System institution may raise, impose, or authorize any education related fee. Fees subject to the supermajority vote requirement imposed by this revision do not include tuition.
- Establishes Florida's State College System as a constitutional entity. The Florida College System (FCS) was created by general law to maximize open access to education for students, respond to community needs for postsecondary academic education and career degree education, and provide associate and baccalaureate degrees that meet the state's employment needs. The FCS is currently comprised of 28 public community and state colleges, which are governed by a local board of trustees under the supervision of the State Board of Education. This revision specifies within the State Constitution the purposes of the State College System and its system of governance.

Revision 2 also waives certain higher education expenses and provides for payment of death benefits to survivors of first responders killed in the course of their official duties and to survivors of active duty members of the United States Armed Forces who die as a result of an accident or unlawful act. The death benefit is paid to survivors of first responders by the agency that employed the first responder and to survivors of members of the United States Armed Forces from general

revenue funds. First responder classes eligible for the survivor benefits provided by the revision include firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, and members of the Florida National Guard. The Legislature is required to implement the grant of survivor benefits by general law. This provision takes effect July 1, 2019.

If approved by the voters, Revision 2 takes effect January 8, 2019, except where otherwise indicated.

*Vote: 30-7*