

Florida Amendment 10, State and Local Government Structure Amendment (2018)

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Election date

November 6, 2018

Topic

Administration of government and County and municipal governance

Status

On the ballot

Type

Commission-referral

Origin

Legislative commission

Florida Amendment 10, the Florida State and Local Government Structure Amendment, is on the [ballot](#) in [Florida](#) as a [commission referral](#) on [November 6, 2018](#).^[1]

A "yes" vote supports this amendment to:

- require, rather than authorize, the legislature to provide for a state Department of Veterans Affairs;
- create a state Office of Domestic Security and Counter-Terrorism;
- require the [legislature](#) to convene regular session on the second Tuesday of January of even-numbered years; and
- prohibit counties from abolishing certain local offices—sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the circuit court—and requiring elections for these offices.

A "no" vote opposes this amendment to:

- require, rather than authorize, the legislature to provide for a state Department of Veterans Affairs;
- create a state Office of Domestic Security and Counter-Terrorism;
- require the [legislature](#) to convene regular session on the second Tuesday of January of even-numbered years; and

- prohibit counties from abolishing certain local offices—sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the circuit court—and requiring elections for these offices.

In Florida, a constitutional amendment requires a 60 percent supermajority vote at the ballot for approval.

Overview

How did this measure get on the ballot?

The [Florida Constitution Revision Commission \(CRC\)](#) voted 29-8 to place Amendment 10, which is composed of four constitutional amendments, on the ballot for the election. The 37-member commission, which meets every 20 years to propose changes to the [Florida Constitution](#), is unique amongst the states. Florida is the only state with a commission empowered to refer constitutional amendments to the ballot. Republicans, including legislative leaders and [Gov. Rick Scott](#), appointed 33 of the commissioners. [Attorney General Pam Bondi](#) (R) also served on the commission. [Jorge Labarga](#), chief justice of the [Florida Supreme Court](#), appointed the three remaining members.

As Amendment 10 is a package of four constitutional amendments, voters cannot approve or reject some, but not all, of the amendments. Voting “yes” on the ballot measure is a vote to pass the four constitutional amendments. Voting “no” on the ballot measure is a vote to reject the four constitutional amendments.

Text of the measure

Ballot title

The ballot title is as follows:[1]

“ STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATION.[2] ”

Ballot summary

The ballot summary is as follows:[1]

“ Requires legislature to retain department of veterans’ affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters’ ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even-numbered years from March to January; removes legislature’s authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.[2] ”

Constitutional changes

See also: [Florida Constitution](#)

Amendment 10 would amend [Section 3 of Article III](#), [Sections 4 and 11 of Article IV](#), and [Sections 1 and 6 of Article VIII](#) of the [Florida Constitution](#).

Campaign finance

Total campaign contributions:

Support:	\$0.00
Opposition:	\$0.00

See also: [Campaign finance requirements for Florida ballot measures](#)

As of July 21, 2018, there were no ballot measure committees registered in support of the measure or in opposition to the measure.^[3]

Background

Department of Veterans Affairs

[Section 6 of Article IV](#) of the [Florida Constitution](#) limits the number of executive departments to 25. In 1988, the [Florida State Legislature](#) sought to establish a state Department of Veterans Affairs; however, the legislature determined that no additional departments could be created due to the 25-departments limit. The legislature referred a [constitutional amendment](#) to the ballot to authorize the legislature to create a Department of Veterans Affairs, exempt from the 25-departments limit. Voters approved the amendment on November 8, 1988.^[4]

Following the approval of the constitutional amendment by voters, the state legislature established a state Department of Veterans Affairs.^[4] The amendment, however, did not *require* the legislature to establish the department. It only authorized the legislature to establish the department. The 2018 ballot measure would require the legislature to establish the department.

Status of constitutional local offices

The measure would prohibit counties from abolishing certain local offices—sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the circuit court—and requiring elections for these offices. In Florida, counties with charter counties are allowed to alter the duties of constitutional local offices or abolish the offices. The following map

illustrates which counties, as of 2018, are charter counties with altered offices, charter counties without altered offices, and non-charter governments.[\[5\]](#)