

By Senator Rossin

35-16B-01

1 Senate Joint Resolution No. \_\_\_\_  
 2 A joint resolution proposing amendments to  
 3 Section 15 of Article III, Section 5 of Article  
 4 IV, and Sections 4 and 7 of Article VI of the  
 5 State Constitution; revising the terms of  
 6 office for certain elected constitutional  
 7 officers; providing for staggered terms of  
 8 office; revising limitations on the number of  
 9 consecutive years during which certain elected  
 10 constitutional officers may hold office;  
 11 limiting the amount that a person or other  
 12 entity may contribute to a candidate for local  
 13 or statewide public office or to a political  
 14 party.

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 16 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18 That the following amendments to Section 15 of Article  
 19 III, Section 5 of Article IV, and Sections 4 and 7 of Article  
 20 VI of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be  
 21 submitted to the electors of this state for approval or  
 22 rejection at the next general election or an earlier special  
 23 election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

24 ARTICLE III  
 25 LEGISLATURE

26 SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.--  
 27 (a) SENATORS. Senators shall be elected for terms of  
 28 six four years, ~~those from odd-numbered districts in the years~~  
 29 ~~the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from~~  
 30 ~~even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of~~  
 31 ~~which are not multiples of four~~; except, at the election next

1 following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected  
2 for terms of two years or four years when necessary to  
3 maintain staggered terms. Senators from districts the number  
4 of which is a multiple of three shall be elected in each  
5 even-numbered year that is a multiple of three, senators from  
6 all other even-numbered districts shall be elected in the  
7 second year following each even-numbered year that is a  
8 multiple of three, and senators from all other odd-numbered  
9 districts shall be elected in the fourth year following each  
10 even-numbered year that is a multiple of three.

11 (b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of  
12 representatives shall be elected for terms of four ~~two~~ years,  
13 those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of  
14 which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered  
15 districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not  
16 multiples of four; except, at the election next following a  
17 reapportionment, some representatives shall be elected for  
18 terms of two years when necessary to maintain staggered terms  
19 in each even-numbered year.

20 (c) QUALIFICATIONS. Each legislator shall be at least  
21 twenty-one years of age, an elector and resident of the  
22 district from which elected and shall have resided in the  
23 state for a period of two years prior to election.

24 (d) ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES. Members of the  
25 legislature shall take office upon election. Vacancies in  
26 legislative office shall be filled only by election as  
27 provided by law.

28 ARTICLE IV

29 EXECUTIVE

30 SECTION 5. Election of governor, lieutenant governor  
31 and cabinet members; qualifications; terms.--



- 1 (1) Florida representative,
- 2 (2) Florida senator,
- 3 (3) Florida Lieutenant governor,
- 4 (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
- 5 (5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or
- 6 (6) U.S. Senator from Florida

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8 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will  
9 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in  
10 that office for twelve ~~eight~~ consecutive years.

11 SECTION 7. Campaign contribution ~~spending~~ limits; ~~and~~  
12 funding of campaigns for elective state-wide office.--

13 (a) A person or any other entity may not, directly or  
14 indirectly, contribute to or expend on behalf of any one  
15 candidate more than \$5,000 during the course of an election,  
16 which includes the first primary, any second primary, and the  
17 general election. This limitation applies to any contribution  
18 or expenditure made for the purpose of promoting a person's  
19 nomination or election to, or retention in, a local or  
20 statewide office that is filled by a vote of the electors. The  
21 legislature may provide by law additional restrictions on  
22 contributions or expenditures made to or on behalf of a  
23 candidate for public office.

24 (b) A person or any other entity may not, directly or  
25 indirectly, contribute to or expend on behalf of a political  
26 party more than \$5,000 during the course of an election, which  
27 includes the first primary, any second primary, and the  
28 general election.

29 (c) It is the policy of this state to provide for  
30 state-wide elections in which all qualified candidates may  
31 compete effectively. A method of public financing for

1 campaigns for state-wide office shall be established by law.  
2 Spending limits shall be established for such campaigns for  
3 candidates who use public funds in their campaigns. The  
4 legislature shall provide funding for this provision. General  
5 law implementing this paragraph shall be at least as  
6 protective of effective competition by a candidate who uses  
7 public funds as the general law in effect on January 1, 1998.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
9 placed on the ballot:

10 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

11 ARTICLE III, SECTION 15

12 ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5

13 ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

14 TERMS OF OFFICE AND TERM LIMITS.--Proposing amendments  
15 to the State Constitution to prohibit a person or other entity  
16 from contributing more than \$5,000 to a candidate for local or  
17 statewide public office or to a political party; increase the  
18 terms of office for Florida Senators from 4 years to 6 years  
19 and for Florida Representatives from 2 years to 4 years; and  
20 increase, from 8 years to 12 years, the number of consecutive  
21 years during which a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Florida  
22 Representative, Florida Senator, member of the Florida  
23 Cabinet, United States Representative from Florida, or United  
24 States Senator from Florida may hold office.

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