

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to revise the terms and term limits that apply to State Senators and State Representatives and to impose term limits on elected county and municipal officers.

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

That the following amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of a new Section in Article XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATURE

SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.—

(a) SENATORS. Senators shall be elected for staggered terms of six ~~four~~ years. The legislature must divide the senate districts as evenly as possible into three classes, ~~those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not multiples of four; except, at the election next following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected for terms of two years when necessary~~ to maintain staggered terms.

29 (b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of
 30 representatives shall be elected for terms of four ~~two~~ years,
 31 those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of
 32 which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered
 33 districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not
 34 multiples of four ~~in each even-numbered year.~~

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

39 (d) ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES. Members of the
 40 legislature shall take office upon election. Vacancies in
 41 legislative office shall be filled only by election as provided
 42 by law.

43 ARTICLE VI

44 SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

45 SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—

46 (a) A ~~No~~ person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in
 47 this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, is not ~~shall~~
 48 ~~be~~ qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil
 49 rights or removal of disability.

50 (b) A ~~No~~ person may not appear on the ballot for re-
 51 election as a senator, representative, county officer, or
 52 municipal officer if, by the end of the current term of office,
 53 the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have
 54 served) in that office for twelve consecutive years. ~~to any of~~
 55 ~~the following offices:~~

- 56 ~~(1) Florida representative,~~

- 57 ~~(2) Florida senator,~~
- 58 (c)(3) A person may not appear on the ballot for re-
- 59 election to the office of Florida Lieutenant governor or to
- 60 ~~(4) any office of the Florida cabinet office,~~
- 61 ~~(5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or~~
- 62 ~~(6) U.S. Senator from Florida~~

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64 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will

65 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that

66 office for eight consecutive years.

67 ARTICLE XII

68 SCHEDULE

69 Implementation of amendments relating to the terms of

70 certain elected officials.—

71 (a) The amendments to Section 15 of Article III and

72 Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of this section shall

73 take effect upon approval by the electors.

74 (b) During the organizational session following the 2012

75 general election, the Legislature shall implement the amendment

76 to subsection (a) of Section 15 of Article III by law. Under the

77 implementing legislation, senators elected during the 2012

78 general election shall be elected to terms of at least four

79 years. The terms of senators having two years remaining to their

80 terms on the date of the general election may be extended by two

81 years.

82 (c) Those representatives elected in even-numbered

83 districts in the 2012 general election shall be elected to terms

84 of two years. Those representatives elected in odd-numbered

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85 districts in the 2012 general election shall be elected to terms
 86 of four years.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
 88 placed on the ballot:

89 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

90 ARTICLE III, SECTION 15

91 ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

92 ARTICLE XII

93 TERMS OF STATE SENATORS, STATE REPRESENTATIVES, AND ELECTED
 94 COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.—The State Constitution provides
 95 that State Senators are elected to terms of 4 years and State
 96 Representatives are elected to terms of 2 years. The State
 97 Constitution also generally limits State Senators and State
 98 Representatives to serving 8 consecutive years in office.
 99 However, the State Constitution does not limit the number of
 100 consecutive years in office that may be served by a county or
 101 municipal officer.

102 This amendment increases the terms of State Senators from 4
 103 to 6 years and the terms of State Representatives from 2 to 4
 104 years. The amendment also generally limits State Senators, State
 105 Representatives, and elected county and municipal officers to
 106 serving 12 consecutive years in office. However, the amendment
 107 does not change the length of the term of any elected county or
 108 municipal office.