

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article IX and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election.

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

That the following amendment to Section 4 of Article IX 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 IX

EDUCATION

SECTION 4. School districts; school boards.—

(a) Each county shall constitute a school district; provided, two or more contiguous counties, upon vote of the electors of each county pursuant to law, may be combined into one school district. In each school district there shall be a school board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the electors in a partisan ~~nonpartisan~~ election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law.

26 (b) The school board shall operate, control and supervise  
 27 all free public schools within the school district and determine  
 28 the rate of school district taxes within the limits prescribed  
 29 herein. Two or more school districts may operate and finance  
 30 joint educational programs.

31 ARTICLE XII

32 SCHEDULE

33 Partisan election of members of district school boards.-

34 This section and the amendment to Section 4 of Article IX  
 35 requiring members of a district school board to be elected in a  
 36 partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election shall take  
 37 effect upon approval by the electors, except that members of  
 38 district school boards may not be elected on a partisan basis  
 39 until the general election held in November 2026. However,  
 40 partisan primary elections may occur before the general election  
 41 held on November 3, 2026, for purposes of nominating political  
 42 party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026  
 43 general election ballot.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
 45 placed on the ballot:

46 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

47 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4

48 ARTICLE XII

49 PARTISAN ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS.-

50 Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to require

HJR 31

2023

51 members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan  
52 election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that  
53 the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the  
54 November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary  
55 elections may occur before the 2026 general election for  
56 purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office  
57 for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.