

CS/HJR 679

2025

## House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing amendments to Section 1 of Article VIII and Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution to provide term limits for members of boards of county commissioners and district school boards; providing applicability.

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

That the following amendments to Section 1 of Article VIII and Section 4 of Article IX 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 VIII

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## SECTION 1. Counties.—

(a) POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. The state shall be divided by law into political subdivisions called counties. Counties may be created, abolished or changed by law, with provision for payment or apportionment of the public debt.

(b) COUNTY FUNDS. The care, custody and method of disbursing county funds shall be provided by general law.

(c) GOVERNMENT. Pursuant to general or special law, a

26 county government may be established by charter which shall be  
27 adopted, amended or repealed only upon vote of the electors of  
28 the county in a special election called for that purpose.

29 (d) COUNTY OFFICERS. There shall be elected by the  
30 electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a  
31 tax collector, a property appraiser, a supervisor of elections,  
32 and a clerk of the circuit court. Unless otherwise provided by  
33 special law approved by vote of the electors or pursuant to  
34 Article V, section 16, the clerk of the circuit court shall be  
35 ex officio clerk of the board of county commissioners, auditor,  
36 recorder and custodian of all county funds. Notwithstanding  
37 subsection 6(e) of this article, a county charter may not  
38 abolish the office of a sheriff, a tax collector, a property  
39 appraiser, a supervisor of elections, or a clerk of the circuit  
40 court; transfer the duties of those officers to another officer  
41 or office; change the length of the four-year term of office; or  
42 establish any manner of selection other than by election by the  
43 electors of the county.

44 (e) COMMISSIONERS. Except when otherwise provided by  
45 county charter, the governing body of each county shall be a  
46 board of county commissioners composed of five or seven members  
47 serving staggered terms of four years. After each decennial  
48 census the board of county commissioners shall divide the county  
49 into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in  
50 population as practicable. One commissioner residing in each

51 district shall be elected as provided by law. Except as may be  
52 provided by general law relating to single-member districts  
53 after decennial redistricting, a person may not appear on the  
54 ballot for re-election as a member of a board of county  
55 commissioners if, by the end of his or her current term of  
56 office, such person will have served, or, but for resignation,  
57 would have served, as a member of the board for eight  
58 consecutive years. Service in a term of office which commences  
59 on or before November 3, 2026, does not count toward the  
60 limitation imposed by this subsection. If a county charter  
61 provides that a chairperson or county mayor is elected county-  
62 wide, the limitation imposed by this subsection does not  
63 prohibit a term-limited commissioner elected from a single-  
64 member district from appearing on the ballot for election as  
65 chairperson or county mayor.

66 (f) NON-CHARTER GOVERNMENT. Counties not operating under  
67 county charters shall have such power of self-government as is  
68 provided by general or special law. The board of county  
69 commissioners of a county not operating under a charter may  
70 enact, in a manner prescribed by general law, county ordinances  
71 not inconsistent with general or special law, but an ordinance  
72 in conflict with a municipal ordinance shall not be effective  
73 within the municipality to the extent of such conflict.

74 (g) CHARTER GOVERNMENT. Counties operating under county  
75 charters shall have all powers of local self-government not

76 inconsistent with general law, or with special law approved by  
77 vote of the electors. The governing body of a county operating  
78 under a charter may enact county ordinances not inconsistent  
79 with general law. The charter shall provide which shall prevail  
80 in the event of conflict between county and municipal  
81 ordinances.

82       (h) TAXES; LIMITATION. Property situate within  
83 municipalities shall not be subject to taxation for services  
84 rendered by the county exclusively for the benefit of the  
85 property or residents in unincorporated areas.

86       (i) COUNTY ORDINANCES. Each county ordinance shall be  
87 filed with the custodian of state records and shall become  
88 effective at such time thereafter as is provided by general law.

89       (j) VIOLATION OF ORDINANCES. Persons violating county  
90 ordinances shall be prosecuted and punished as provided by law.

91       (k) COUNTY SEAT. In every county there shall be a county  
92 seat at which shall be located the principal offices and  
93 permanent records of all county officers. The county seat may  
94 not be moved except as provided by general law. Branch offices  
95 for the conduct of county business may be established elsewhere  
96 in the county by resolution of the governing body of the county  
97 in the manner prescribed by law. No instrument shall be deemed  
98 recorded until filed at the county seat, or a branch office  
99 designated by the governing body of the county for the recording  
100 of instruments, according to law.

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## 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 nonpartisan election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law. A person may not appear on the ballot for re-election to the office of school board member if, by the end of the current term of office, that person will have served, or, but for resignation, would have served, as a member of the school board for eight consecutive years. Service of a term of office which commenced before November 8, 2022, does not count toward the limitation imposed by this subsection.

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

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

## ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 1

## ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4

TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS.—Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to provide term limits of eight consecutive years for county commissioners for terms that commence after November 3, 2026, and to provide term limits of eight consecutive years for district school board members for terms that begin on or after November 8, 2022, as provided by general law. The amendments provide additional applicability.