

By the Committee on Style and Drafting

350-00433-17

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REVISION 3

A proposal to amend Section 4 of Article IX and create a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to establish a limitation on the period for which a person may be elected as a member of a district school board; to specify which schools are operated, controlled, and supervised by a school board; and to create a new section in Article IX of the State Constitution to require the Legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public education.

Be It Proposed by the Constitution Revision Commission of Florida:

Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution is amended, and a new section is added to that article, to read:

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.

(b) A person may not appear on the ballot for re-election to the office of school board if, by the end of the current term of office, the person would have served, or but for resignation would have served, in that office for eight consecutive years.

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33 ~~(c)(b)~~ The school board shall operate, control, and
 34 supervise all free public schools established by the district
 35 school board within the school district and determine the rate
 36 of school district taxes within the limits prescribed herein.
 37 Two or more school districts may operate and finance joint
 38 educational programs.

39 Civic literacy.-As education is essential to the
 40 preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the
 41 legislature shall provide by law for the promotion of civic
 42 literacy in order to ensure that students enrolled in public
 43 education understand and are prepared to exercise their rights
 44 and responsibilities as citizens of a constitutional republic.

45
 46 A new section is added to Article XII of the State
 47 Constitution to read:

48 ARTICLE XII

49 SCHEDULE

50 Limitation on terms of office for members of a district
 51 school board.-This section and the amendment to Section 4 of
 52 Article IX imposing term limits for the terms of office for
 53 members of a district school board shall take effect on the date
 54 it is approved by the electorate, but no service in a term of
 55 office which commenced prior to November 6, 2018, will be
 56 counted against the limitation imposed by this amendment.

57
 58 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the following statement be placed on
 59 the ballot:

60 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
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62 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4, NEW SECTION
63 ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION
64 SCHOOL BOARD TERM LIMITS AND DUTIES; PUBLIC SCHOOLS.-
65 Creates a term limit of eight consecutive years for school board
66 members and requires the legislature to provide for the
67 promotion of civic literacy in public schools. Currently,
68 district school boards have a constitutional duty to operate,
69 control, and supervise all public schools. The amendment
70 maintains a school board's duties to public schools it
71 establishes, but permits the state to operate, control, and
72 supervise public schools not established by the school board.