



Summary of the 2018 Amendments

Provided by the Southwest Florida Young Republicans

Amendment 1 - Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption

Approval of this amendment would increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed value of the homestead property greater than \$100,00 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies. Takes effect January 2019.

Amendment 2 - Limitations on Property Tax Assessments

Approval of this amendment would permanently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified non-homestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Amendment 3 - Voter Control of Gambling in Florida

Approval of this amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects Articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts.

Amendment 4 - Voting Restoration Amendment

Approval of this amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence, including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

Amendment 5 - Supermajority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees

Approval of this amendment would prohibit the Florida Legislature from raising or imposing taxes or fees unless two-thirds of both the House and Senate approve. The bill to raise or impose a tax or fee must be a single subject bill.

Amendment 6 (bundled) - Victims Rights and Judge

Subject 1: Approval of this amendment would establish a series of rights for crime victims, including the right to be notified of major developments in criminal cases and the right to be heard in legal proceedings.

Subject 2: It would also increase the retirement age for judges from 70 to 75, which is mandatory.

Subject 3: It would also provide that judges or hearing officers should not necessarily defer to the interpretation of laws and rules by governmental agencies in legal proceedings.

Amendment 7 (bundled) - First Responders and Higher Education

Subject 1: Approval of this amendment would require that the families of any law enforcement officer, paramedic, correctional officer and other first responders, including National Guardsmen and active military stationed in Florida, killed in the line of duty be paid death benefits.

Subject 2: It would establish a governance system for the 28 state and community colleges allowing a state board of education to supervise the state college system and defining the role of the local board of trustees for each state college.

Subject 3: It would require a supermajority vote by university boards of trustees and the Board of Governors when raising student fees; in other words, it requires that a public university that wants to raise a fee get nine votes from its board of trustees, and 12 votes from the state Board of Governor.

Amendment 8 (bundled) - Public Schools

Subject 1: Approval of this amendment would impose an eight-year term limit on local school board members.

Subject 2: It would allow an alternative process for approving public schools, including charter schools, rather than by local school boards.

Subject 3: It would establish a requirement for the teaching of civic literacy in public schools.

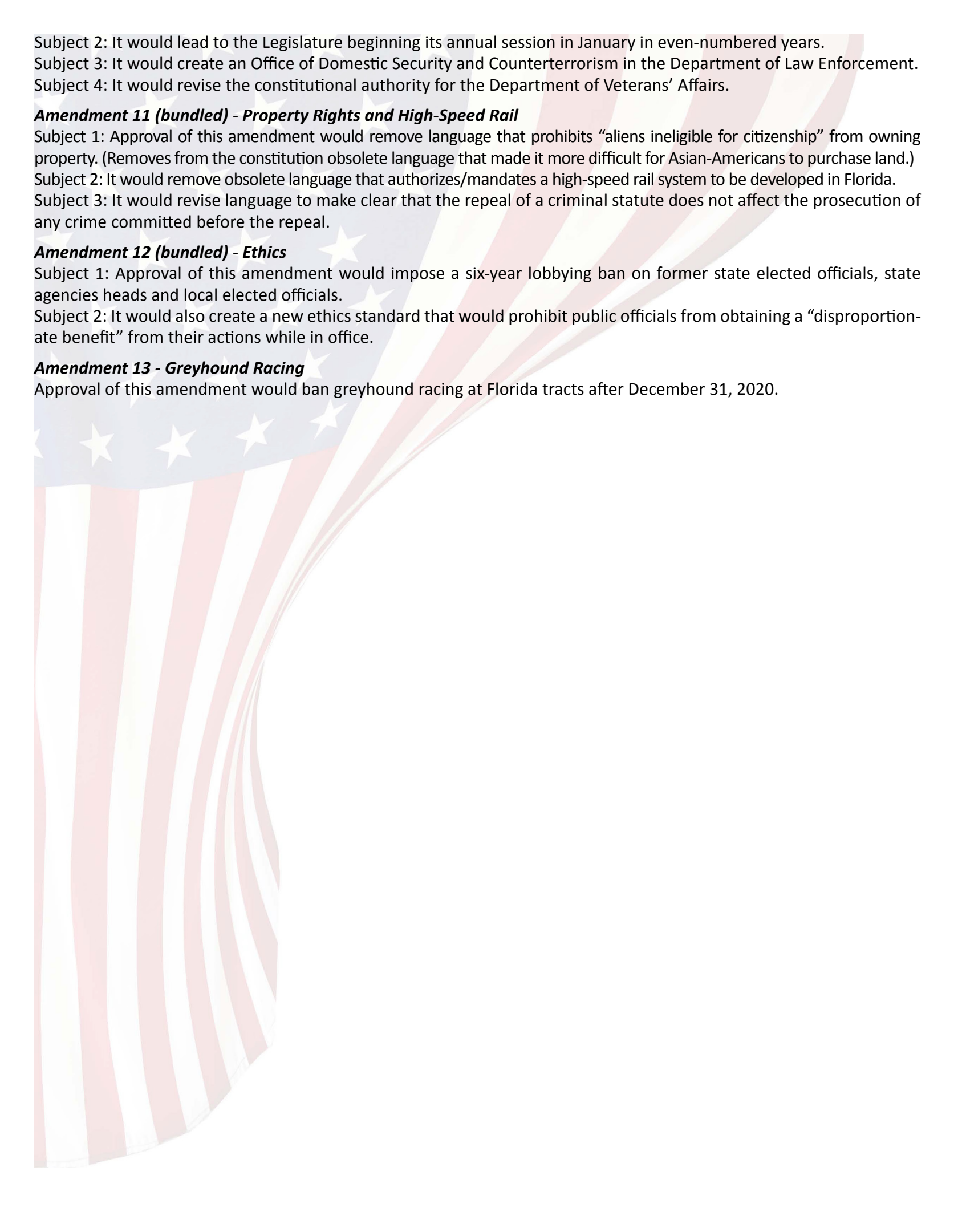
Amendment 9 (bundled) - Oil Drilling and Vaping

Subject 1: Approval of this amendment would prohibit drilling for gas and oil in specified state coastal waters.

Subject 2: Create a general ban on vaping and the use of electronic cigarettes in indoor workplaces.

Amendment 10 (bundled) - Governmental Structure

Subject 1: Approval of this amendment would require all charter-county governments to have elected constitutional officers, including sheriffs.

The background of the document is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes, appearing to wave. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white.

Subject 2: It would lead to the Legislature beginning its annual session in January in even-numbered years.
Subject 3: It would create an Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism in the Department of Law Enforcement.
Subject 4: It would revise the constitutional authority for the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Amendment 11 (bundled) - Property Rights and High-Speed Rail

Subject 1: Approval of this amendment would remove language that prohibits “aliens ineligible for citizenship” from owning property. (Removes from the constitution obsolete language that made it more difficult for Asian-Americans to purchase land.)
Subject 2: It would remove obsolete language that authorizes/mandates a high-speed rail system to be developed in Florida.
Subject 3: It would revise language to make clear that the repeal of a criminal statute does not affect the prosecution of any crime committed before the repeal.

Amendment 12 (bundled) - Ethics

Subject 1: Approval of this amendment would impose a six-year lobbying ban on former state elected officials, state agencies heads and local elected officials.
Subject 2: It would also create a new ethics standard that would prohibit public officials from obtaining a “disproportionate benefit” from their actions while in office.

Amendment 13 - Greyhound Racing

Approval of this amendment would ban greyhound racing at Florida tracks after December 31, 2020.