

# 2022 BALLOT QUESTIONS: EXPLAINED

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ED CHASE

PALM BEACH COUNTY

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

# WHAT QUESTIONS ARE ON THE NOVEMBER 8 BALLOT?

- Three Statewide Constitutional Amendments
- One Palm Beach County Question – Housing Bonds
- One P.B. Co. School Board Question – One Mill Levy

# HOW DO CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS MAKE THE STATEWIDE BALLOT?

- Legislative Joint Resolution
- Citizen Initiative
- Constitutional Convention
- Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
- Constitutional Revision Commission
  
- Must get 60% of the statewide vote

# BALLOT QUESTION 1 – LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

- Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2023, to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of any change or improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property's resistance to flood damage in determining the assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.

BALLOT QUESTION 1 –  
LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL  
PURPOSES

**WHO'S AFFECTED?**

- If you make improvements to real property used for residential purposes to improve resistance against flood damage, the value of those improvements cannot be used in determining the property's assessed value for local tax purposes.
- Local governments would not receive expected increases in ad valorem revenue.

# CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

- Currently, the State Constitution requires that a Constitution Revision Commission be convened once every 20 years to examine the State Constitution and propose any amendments that it deems appropriate.
- The most recent commission convened in 2017-2018, and proposed seven amendments to the State Constitution which appeared on the 2018 General Election ballot.
- CRC Members appointed by Governor (15), Speaker of the House (9), President of the Senate (9), and the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court (3).

# BALLOT QUESTION 2 – ABOLISHING THE CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

- Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals and is scheduled to next convene in 2037, as a method of submitting proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to electors of the state for approval. This amendment does not affect the ability to revise or amend the State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution.

BALLOT QUESTION 2 –  
ABOLISHING THE CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

## WHO'S AFFECTED?

- ~~Constitutional Revision Commission~~
- Legislative Joint Resolution
- Citizen Initiative
- Constitutional Convention
- Taxation and Budget Reform Commission



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BALLOT QUESTION 3 –  
ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION  
FOR SPECIFIED CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES WORKFORCE

# BALLOT QUESTION 3 – ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SPECIFIED CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES WORKFORCE

- Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption for nonschool levies of up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2023.

BALLOT QUESTION 3 –  
ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR  
SPECIFIED CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES WORKFORCE

**CURRENT STATUS:**

- Homesteaded property owners currently receive a \$25,000 exemption from all taxing authorities, and a second \$25,000 exemption from all taxing authorities, except school boards.
- The blind, quadriplegics, widows/widowers, seniors and permanently disabled and veterans and first responders also currently qualify for exemptions, from \$500 to complete exemption from all ad valorem taxes.

## BALLOT QUESTION 3 – ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SPECIFIED CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES WORKFORCE

### WHO'S AFFECTED?

- Homesteaded property owners who are classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members would get additional \$50,000 valuation exemption, on top of the current \$50,000.
- Renters would not be affected.
- Local Governments would see reduced revenue due to reduced assessed valuations.

# INCREASE WORKFORCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS TO ADDRESS RISING HOUSING COSTS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

- To increase workforce and affordable housing through the acquiring, constructing, equipping of residential units, shall County issue not exceeding \$200,000,000 of bonds, frequently combined with other funding, to create rental and homeownership opportunities for households earning up to 140% area median income, bearing interest rate(s) not exceeding legal maximum, maturing within twenty years from issuance, in one or more series, payable from County's full faith, credit and ad valorem taxing power per County Resolution R-2022-0626?

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA REFERENDUM TO CONTINUE AD VALOREM LEVY FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, TEACHERS AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS

- Shall the Palm Beach County School Board have continued authority to levy 1.00 mills of ad valorem millage for operational needs of public schools dedicated to funding school safety; school police; mental health services; arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers; and improved teacher pay beginning July 1, 2023 and automatically ending June 30, 2027, with oversight of all funds by an independent committee of citizens and experts?

# SCHOOL BOARD QUESTION - HISTORY

- In 2018, voters approved a tax increase that provided the school district of Palm Beach County with additional funding that's due to expire in 2023.
- If approved by voters the tax rate would stay the same – one mill, or \$1 for every \$1000 of a home's assessed value.
- An Independent Oversight Referendum Committee comprised of independent citizens reviews expenditures as specified in the ballot question.

# SCHOOL BOARD QUESTION

## WHO'S AFFECTED?

- If approved, the tax would raise approximately \$240 million for district schools and charter schools and would sunset in 2027.
- The district is asking to continue that tax to fund school safety, school police, mental health services, arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers, and improved teacher pay.
- If not passed, the School Board must make “severe cuts to its operating budget, including significant reductions to arts, music, physical education, career and academic programs.” (Cite: School Board Resolution calling for 2022 referendum.)



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THANK YOU.

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