

By Senator Gruters

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Senate 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 limit the terms of office for a member of a district school board.

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 nonpartisan election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law.

(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

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30 joint educational programs.

31 (c) A person may not appear on the ballot for reelection to
32 the office of school board member if, by the end of his or her
33 current term of office, the person will have served, or but for
34 resignation would have served, in that office for twelve
35 consecutive years.

36 ARTICLE XII

37 SCHEDULE

38 Limitation on terms of office for members of a district
39 school board.—This section and the amendment to Section 4 of
40 Article IX imposing limits on the terms of office for members of
41 a district school board shall take effect on the date they are
42 approved by the electorate, but no service in a term of office
43 that commenced before November 3, 2020, will be counted toward
44 the limitation imposed by this amendment.

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

47 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

48 ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4

49 ARTICLE XII

50 LIMITATION ON TERMS OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS OF A DISTRICT
51 SCHOOL BOARD.—Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution
52 to limit terms for school board members by prohibiting incumbent
53 members who have held the office for the preceding twelve years
54 from appearing on a ballot for reelection to that office and to
55 specify that the amendment applies only to terms of office
56 beginning on or after November 3, 2020.