

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article VI of the State Constitution, relating to disqualifications from voting and holding public office, to automatically restore the voting rights and right to hold public office of felons under certain circumstances.

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

That the following amendments to Section 4 of Article VI 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 VI

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—

(a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, shall be qualified to vote or hold office, except as follows:

(1) If convicted of a felony of a sexual nature or a felony involving a homicide, upon restoration of civil rights.

(2) If convicted of any felony not specified in paragraph (1), upon completion of sentence.

(3) If adjudicated mentally incompetent, upon ~~until~~ restoration of civil rights or removal of disability.

(b) No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to

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29 | any of the following offices:

- 30 | (1) Florida representative,
- 31 | (2) Florida senator,
- 32 | (3) Florida Lieutenant governor,
- 33 | (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
- 34 | (5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or
- 35 | (6) U.S. Senator from Florida

36 |
 37 | if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will
 38 | have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that
 39 | office for eight consecutive years.

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

42 | CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

43 | ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

44 | AUTOMATIC RESTORATION OF FELONS' CIVIL RIGHTS.—Proposing an
 45 | amendment to the State Constitution to automatically restore
 46 | right to vote and hold office of a person convicted of a felony
 47 | upon completion of sentence, unless the person was convicted of
 48 | homicide or a sexual offense, in which case restoration of civil
 49 | rights must be granted by the Board of Executive Clemency. The
 50 | amendment maintains the requirement that a person declared
 51 | mentally incompetent must have that disability removed before
 52 | voting or holding office.