

2024 BALLOT
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
AND QUESTIONS:
EXPLAINED

PALM BEACH COUNTY
OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WHAT AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ON THE NOVEMBER 5 BALLOT?

- Six Statewide Proposed Constitutional Amendments
- County Question #1 – School Board One-Half Cent Surtax

HOW DO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS 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

HOW DID 2024 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS MAKE THE STATEWIDE BALLOT?

Legislative Joint Resolution (4)

Citizen Initiative (2)

AMENDMENT 1 – PARTISAN ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS

Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to **require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election** rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the 2026 general election for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.

Placed on ballot by 2024 Florida Legislature.

AMENDMENT 1 – PARTISAN ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS

Voters passed Amendment 11 in 1998 to make school board elections non-partisan.

What does Amendment 1 do?

- Starting with primary elections in 2026, school board elections would now be **partisan** instead of **non-partisan**.
- Supporters say the change would increase candidate transparency.
- Opponents worry it would further politicize school board races.

AMENDMENT 2 – RIGHT TO FISH AND HUNT

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section of Article IV of the State Constitution.

Placed on ballot by 2024 Florida Legislature.

AMENDMENT 2 – RIGHT TO FISH AND HUNT

- 23 States have the right to hunt and fish included in their constitution.
- Passage would not affect Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulation authority.
- Supporters argue this right must be established to prevent legislative or ballot challenges to those rights, or the criminalization of hunting or fishing.
- Opponents argue that using hunting and fishing as the preferred means of population control could lead to more relaxed hunting and fishing regulations, or impede other regulations.

AMENDMENT 3 – ADULT PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA

Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date.

Placed on the ballot by Citizen Initiative.

AMENDMENT 3 – ADULT PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA

How did it get on the ballot?

- Smart & Safe Florida led the petition effort, raising \$75 million.
- Trulieve, the state's largest medical marijuana company, gave the majority of \$ to collect 1,033,770 valid signatures and advertise in support.
- Keep Florida Clean, created by Gov. DeSantis' team, just collected \$12 million to oppose.

AMENDMENT 3 – ADULT PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA

What does a YES vote mean?

- Legalizes marijuana possession for personal use up to 3 ounces.
- Must be 21 to possess.
- Current medical marijuana dispensaries could sell.
- State could enact regulations, such as limiting use in public places.

AMENDMENT 3 – ADULT PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA

What does a NO vote mean?

- Medical Marijuana statewide question failed in 2014; **it passed with 71% in 2016.**
- Those guidelines would remain in place, allowing only for consumption and sale for medical purposes.

AMENDMENT 3 – ADULT PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA

What are people saying?

Supporters say:

- Marijuana available through legal means would be safer to consume and would be taxable, resulting in additional revenue to the state.

Opponents say:

- Recreational marijuana could result in reduced productivity in the classroom and workplace, and could lead to greater drug abuse in the state.

AMENDMENT 4 – AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION

No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.

Placed on the ballot by Citizen Initiative.

AMENDMENT 4 – AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION

How did it get on the ballot?

- Floridians Protecting Freedom, a collection of abortion rights groups, led the petition effort, raising \$20 million to gather 997,035 signatures and advertise in support.
- At least 4 anti-abortion PACs have formed to oppose the amendment.

AMENDMENT 4 – AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION

Florida's 6-week abortion limitation took effect May 1, 2024.

What will Amendment 4 do?

- This amendment would assure abortion access until fetal viability.
- Would allow abortions to protect a patient's health, as determined by a health care provider.
- Does not change the Legislature's authority to require parental notification for a minor's abortion.

AMENDMENT 4 – AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION

What are people saying?

Supporters say:

- Amendment would guarantee Floridians' constitutional right to an abortion, guarding against future legislative interference.
- Women need abortion access up to 24 weeks instead of current 6 weeks.

Opponents say:

- Amendment is not necessary as the legislature already has the ability to regulate abortions.
- Disputes on legal definition and date of “fetal viability.”

AMENDMENT 5 – ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF CERTAIN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2025.

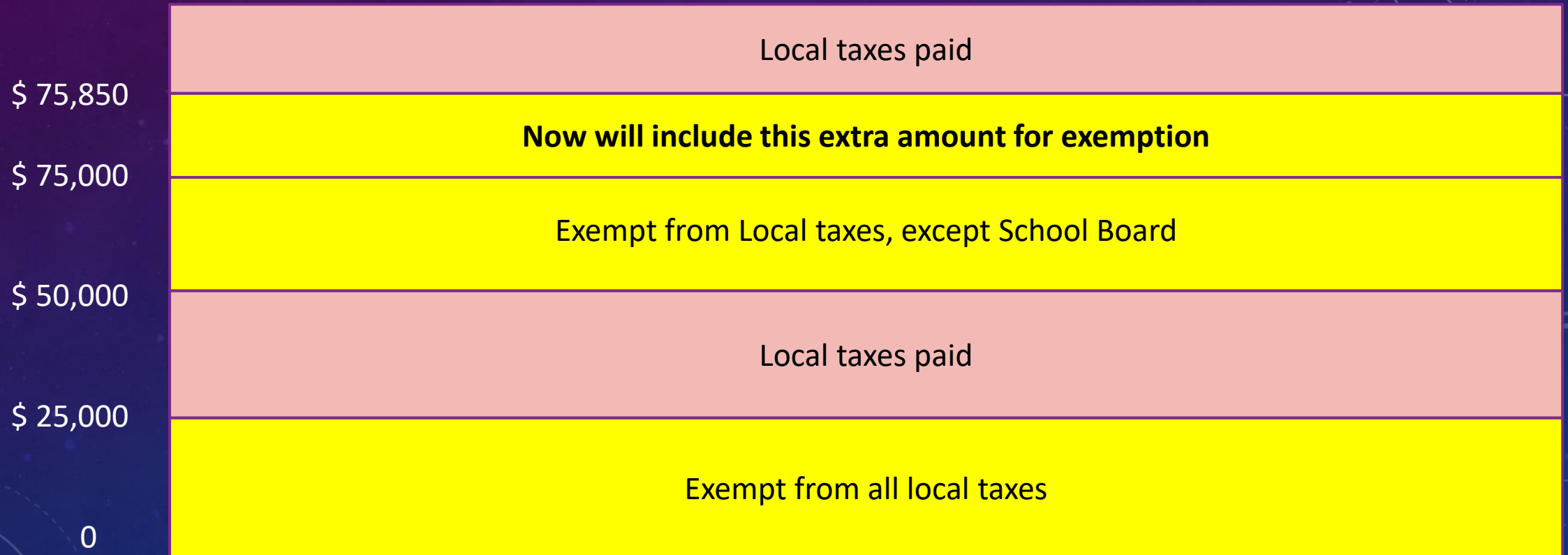
Placed on ballot by 2024 Legislature.

AMENDMENT 5 – ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF CERTAIN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

What will Amendment 5 do?

- The Legislature wants to increase the amount of home value exempted from local taxes in accordance with the Consumer Price Index each year.
- CPI in 2023: 3.4%

AMENDMENT 5 – ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF CERTAIN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS



AMENDMENT 5 – ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUE OF CERTAIN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

What are people saying?

- Supporters say this will give homeowners some relief on their taxes by increasing their tax exemption by adjusting for inflation.
- Opponents say it will have a negative financial impact on local governments.

AMENDMENT 6 – REPEAL OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING REQUIREMENT

Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

Placed on ballot by 2024 Legislature.

AMENDMENT 6 – REPEAL OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING REQUIREMENT

Where did it come from?

- Approved statewide by the voters in 1998, this program offered public campaign financing to Gubernatorial and Cabinet candidates.
- It was enacted to encourage qualified persons to seek statewide office who may not otherwise do so and to protect the effective competition by candidates using public funding.
- A 2010 Constitutional Amendment to repeal failed, getting only 53% of the vote.

AMENDMENT 6 – REPEAL OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING REQUIREMENT

How does it work now?

- To qualify for matching funds, candidates:
 - Must raise a certain threshold amount from Florida residents.
 - Must limit contributions from personal funds and party contributions.
 - Must abide by expenditure limits.
- In 2022, more than \$13 million in public funds was distributed:

DeSantis \$7.3 million	Crist \$3.8 million
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AMENDMENT 6 – REPEAL OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING REQUIREMENT

What will Amendment 6 do?

- If passed, public campaign financing program would be repealed.
- Supporters say it would save taxpayer dollars that could go to other services.
- Opponents say it would hurt underfunded candidates who are facing competitors getting big-donor money, leveling the electoral playing field.

PALM BEACH COUNTY QUESTION # 1 – SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY SURTAX

To support educational opportunities for students by upgrading and enhancing safety and security of schools; classroom technology and equipment, school buildings and facilities, and school buses, for Palm Beach County traditional public and charter public schools; **shall the School Board levy a one-half cent sales surtax** beginning January 1, 2026 and, by law, automatically ending December 31, 2035, with oversight of all funds by an independent committee of citizens and experts?

_____ FOR THE ONE-HALF CENT TAX

_____ AGAINST THE ONE-HALF CENT TAX

SCHOOL BOARD QUESTION # 1 - HISTORY

- In 2016, voters approved a fully penny that provided local governments (50%) and the school district of Palm Beach County (50%) with additional funding that's due to expire in 2025.
- The district is asking to continue a half-penny to fund capital improvements or repairs to buildings, facilities, equipment, classroom technology, and school buses.
- This is separate and different from the 1.0 mill added to local property taxes in 2022 that supports enhanced teacher salaries and other operational needs (arts, music, School Police).
- May not be used for operational needs or teacher salaries.
- An Independent Oversight Referendum Committee comprised of independent citizens reviews expenditures as specified in the ballot question.

SCHOOL BOARD QUESTION #1

What will Question 1 do?

- If approved by voters, Palm Beach County's sales tax rate will become 6.5% (now at 7.0%).
- The surtax would raise approximately \$200 million/year for district schools and charter schools and would sunset in 2035.
- All District-operated **and** charter schools in Palm Beach County will benefit from this measure

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, overlapping circular patterns and numerical scales. Some of the visible numbers include 40, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260. The text is centered and rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

THANK YOU.

2024 BALLOT CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS AND QUESTIONS:
EXPLAINED

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