

U.S. Constitution: Article V

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Amending the U.S. Constitution

Article V explains the steps necessary for the U.S Constitution to be changed, or amended.



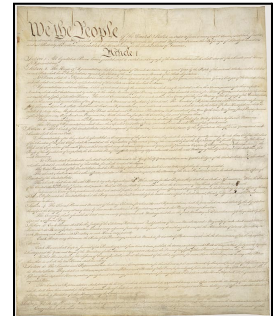
Step 1: Proposal:

An amendment is proposed by a two-thirds vote in Congress (House of Representatives [287 of the 435 members] and Senate [66 of the 100 members]) **or** by a national convention made up of two thirds of the states

Step 2: Ratification

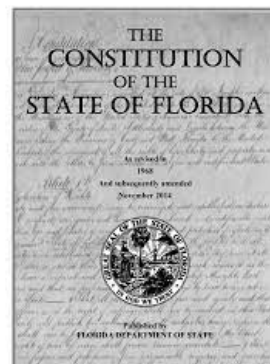
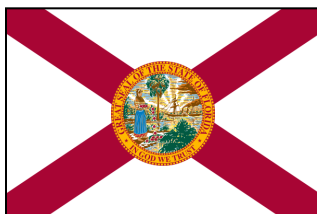
The amendment must then be ratified by either three fourths of the state legislatures or by a state convention of three fourths of the states

We the People do not directly vote on new amendments, and the President does not vote on or veto any amendment.



Amending the Florida Constitution

While amending the Florida Constitution also involves a proposal and approval process, amendments may be submitted using one of five different methods. At the national level, only elected state and federal legislators may vote on constitutional amendments; in Florida, all registered voters may vote on amendments.



Step 1: Proposal

Method	Description
Ballot Initiative Process	According to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution, a committee must register with the Secretary of State. The committee must collect a number of signatures equal to 8% of the votes cast in the most recent presidential election from at least one-half of the congressional districts in the state. Based on presidential voting in 2020, 877,263 signatures will be required for amendments to be placed on the 2024 ballot secured from voters residing in at least 14 congressional districts.
Constitutional Convention	Florida voters may call a constitutional convention by collecting a number equal to 15% of those voting for president in the last presidential election in Florida. At the next general election, provided that it takes place at least 90 days later, Florida voters must approve, with a majority, "Shall a constitutional convention be held?" in order to proceed with a constitutional convention.
Constitution Revision Commission	Composed of 37 members, this commission meets every 20 years to examine the state constitution and propose the amendments deemed necessary. The commission last met in 2017 and will next meet in 2037. Members of the Constitutional Revision Commission include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Attorney General 2. 15 members chosen by the Governor 3. 9 members chosen by the Speaker of the House 4. 9 members chosen by the Senate President 5. 3 members chosen by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court
Legislative Joint Resolution	The Florida Legislature can pass a joint resolution supported by three-fifths (60%) of the membership of each house of the legislature. The proposed amendment will appear on the next general election ballot provided that the next general election is at least 90 days later.
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission	This is a 22-member Commission that last met in 2007 and will meet every 20 th year thereafter. <p>Members of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 11 members chosen by the Governor 2. 7 members chosen by the Speaker of the House 3. 7 members chosen by the Senate President <p>(Note: No voting member of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission may be a member of the state legislature at the time of appointment)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Four non-voting ex officio members who are members of the legislature at the time of appointment two of which are chosen by the Speaker of the House and two of which are chosen by the Senate President. One of the Speaker's and one of the Senate President's selections must be a member of the minority party in their chamber.

Step 2: Approval/Adoption

To adopt and be added to the Florida Constitution, 60% of the voters must approve the amendment in the next general election.

Fun Facts:

Since 1791, the U.S Constitution has had thousands of proposed amendments, but only 17 amendments have been added.

Since 1968, the current Florida Constitution has had 144 amendments added.

Sources and Image Credits:

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