The November election will be here before you know it. Even though Election Day is November 3, voting begins much sooner as illustrated below. Florida, and the country, will be making many important decisions from electing/re-electing the President to deciding who to support in the numerous Congressional and State Legislative races. Furthermore, there will be several proposed amendments to Florida’s Constitution on the ballot, and a couple of them are important to the electric cooperatives. Below are summaries for each of the amendments that will appear on the ballot. Additionally, staff is recommending positions on Amendments 3 and 4, and briefly offers the logic behind each recommendation. If you have any questions please reach out to Allison Carter (allison@feca.com).

**Amendment 1: Citizenship Required to Vote in Florida Elections**

*Summary*: This amendment provides that only United States Citizens who are at least eighteen years of age, a permanent resident of Florida, and registered to vote, as provided by law, shall be qualified to vote in a Florida election.

Position: None

**Amendment 2: Raising Florida’s Minimum Wage**

*Summary*: Raises minimum wage to $10.00 per hour effective September 30, 2021. Each year thereafter, minimum wage shall increase by $1.00 per hour until the minimum wage reaches $15.00 per hour on September 30, 2026. From that point forward, future minimum wage increases shall revert to being adjusted annually for inflation starting September 30, 2027.

Position: None

**Amendment 3: All Voters Vote in Primary Elections for State Legislature, Governor, and Cabinet**

*Summary*: Allows all registered voters to vote in primaries for state legislature, governor, and cabinet regardless of political party affiliation. All candidates for an office, including party nominated candidates, appear on the same primary ballot. The two highest vote-getters advance to the general election. If only two candidates qualify, no primary is held, and the winner is determined in the general election. Candidate’s party affiliation may appear on the ballot as provided by law. Effective January 1, 2024.

**Position: Oppose**

* The top two vote-getters in a given race would advance to the general election, even if they are affiliated with the same party.
* During a time when partisanship reigns over compromise, the Democratic and Republican Parties stand together to strongly oppose this proposed amendment. This process as proposed in this amendment, is similar to how elections are held in a handful of states, such as California.
* This approach would be an extreme change to Florida’s electoral process with the potential to exponentially increase the cost of races at the state level.

**Amendment 4: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments**

*Summary*: Requires all proposed amendments or revisions to the state constitution to be approved by the voters in two elections, instead of one, in order to take effect. The proposal applies the current threshold (60%) for passage in each of the two elections.

**Position: Support**

* By requiring an amendment to pass twice, it will make it more difficult for special interests to have direct access to Florida’s Constitution.
* This concept is similar to Nevada’s requirement that Constitutional amendments pass twice. You may recall in the last election cycle that Nevada was able to ward off a Constitutional amendment to re-regulate the electric industry when the amendment failed its second time on the ballot.

**Amendment 5: Limitation on Homestead Assessments**

*Summary*: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective date January 1, 2021, to increase, from 2 years to 3 years, the period of time during which accrued Save-Our-Homes benefits may be transferred from a prior homestead to a new homestead.

Position: None

**Amendment 6: Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities**

*Summary*: Provides that the homestead property tax discount for certain veterans with permanent combat-related disabilities carries over to such veteran’s surviving spouse who holds legal or beneficial title to, and who permanently resides on, the homestead property, until he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the property. The discount may be transferred to a new homestead property of the surviving spouse under certain conditions. The amendment takes effect January 1, 2021.

Position: None

**2020 General Election Dates:**

* Sept 19 Vote-by-mail stateside and overseas uniformed service members and

overseas civilians - deadline for election officials to send ballots

* Sep 24 Vote-by-mail domestic voters - deadline for election officials to send

ballots

* Oct 5 Registration deadline
* Oct 24-31 Early voting
* Nov 3 General Election
* Nov 3, 7 PM Vote-by-mail return deadline