

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members AGENDA ITEM 5

From: Staff

Date: June 15, 2018 Council Meeting

Subject: Constitution Revision Commission Update – Presentation by Indian River County Commissioner and Constitution Revision Commission Member, Bob Solari

Introduction

The 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) is the third Commission of its kind in Florida history. Florida's Constitution was amended in 1968 and requires the CRC to: 1) convene every 20 years to examine the Florida Constitution; 2) hold public hearings throughout the state; and 3) recommend any changes to the Florida Constitution for voter consideration. The 2017-2018 CRC has completed its work and issued its final report on May 9, 2018 (Attachment 1).

Background

The 2017-2018 CRC was a group of 37 people who reviewed and recommended changes to Florida's Constitution (see CRC Member List). Fifteen members were appointed by the Governor; nine by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; nine by the President of the Florida Senate; three by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court; and one by the Attorney General of Florida. Four of those members reside in the Treasure Coast Region.

This CRC was chaired by Carlos Beruff, a Governor's appointment. The CRC held its organizational meeting on March 20, 2017. On July 14, 2017, Chairman Beruff formed 12 committees and announced committee assignments (see CRC Committee List).

The 2017-2018 CRC completed its work on May 9, 2018 and recommended eight revisions or amendments to the Florida Constitution which will be placed on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot. Five additional constitutional amendments, three from the Florida Legislature and two qualified by citizen initiatives, will also be on the November ballot, for a total of 13 (Attachment 2). Proposed constitutional amendments must be approved by at least 60 percent of the electors voting on the measure. Unless another date is specified in the amendment, all approved measures will become effective on January 8, 2019.

## Conclusion

Since the last CRC convened in 1997-1998, Florida's population has grown by more than five million people and access to social media and the Internet has created a historic level of public input. Changing a constitution has a much more lasting impact than changing state laws. Florida's CRC is historic in that it occurs only once every 20 years. The CRC has ultimately decided on eight proposed changes to the Florida Constitution that will make it to the ballot for a voter decision on November 6, 2018. Council is pleased to have CRC member Bob Solari provide Council a briefing on the CRC's recommended constitutional amendments.

## Recommendation

For information purposes only.

Attachments