

Constitutional Term Limits Proposed for County Commissioners and School Board Members

HB 27 – Rep. Jeff Holcomb

General Bill Summary

HB 27 is a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Florida Constitution to establish term limits for members of boards of county commissioners and district school boards. The proposed amendment would limit individuals serving in these offices to 12 consecutive years.

Under the proposal, a person who has served 12 consecutive years as a county commissioner or school board member would not be eligible to appear on the ballot for reelection until four years have passed since the end of their last term. After that four-year break, the individual could again run for the office.

The resolution specifies that service beginning on or after November 5, 2024, counts toward the 12-year limit. This means that current officeholders' service after that date would apply toward the term-limit calculation.

Because the proposal amends the Florida Constitution, it must first be approved by the Legislature and then placed on the 2026 general election ballot. The amendment would take effect only if approved by at least 60 percent of Florida voters.

Potential County Impact

If approved by voters, HB 27 would establish uniform statewide term limits for county commissioners, affecting governance structures in all 67 counties.

Many counties currently have no term limits or different locally adopted limits, so the amendment would standardize a 12-year consecutive service cap across the state. This may increase the frequency of turnover on county commissions, particularly in counties where commissioners historically serve extended tenures.

Higher turnover could require counties to strengthen orientation, training, and administrative support for newly elected commissioners. It may also affect continuity of long-term policy initiatives, regional planning efforts, and institutional knowledge within county leadership.

County supervisors of elections and county attorneys may also need to ensure that candidate eligibility determinations account for cumulative service toward the 12-year limit.

The amendment does not create a direct fiscal mandate for counties, but administrative adjustments related to candidate qualification, election guidance, and leadership transition may occur.

Effective Date

If approved by at least **60% of voters in the November 2026 general election**, the constitutional amendment would take effect **January 5, 2027**. Service beginning **November 5, 2024** counts toward the 12-year consecutive service limit.

Primary Statutory References

(Constitutional amendment – not statutory changes)

- **Art. VIII, s. 1(e), Fla. Const.**
- **Art. IX, s. 4, Fla. Const.**