

By Commissioner Plymale

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1 A proposal to create
2 Section 8 of Article IX of the State Constitution to
3 establish a governance structure for the State College
4 System.

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6 Be It Proposed by the Constitution Revision Commission of
7 Florida:

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9 Section 8 of Article IX of the State Constitution is
10 created to read:

11 ARTICLE IX

12 EDUCATION

13 SECTION 8. State College System.-

14 (a) PURPOSES. In order to achieve excellence and to provide
15 open access to undergraduate education to the students of this
16 state; to originate the 2+2 pathway to a baccalaureate degree;
17 to ensure superior commitment to teaching and learning; and to
18 respond quickly and efficiently to meet the demand of
19 communities by aligning certificate and degree programs with
20 local and regional workforce needs, the people hereby establish
21 a system of governance for the state college system of Florida.

22 (b) STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM. There shall be a single college
23 system comprised of all public community and state colleges. A
24 board of trustees shall administer each individually governed
25 public college and the board of directors of the college system
26 shall oversee, coordinate, and provide statewide leadership for
27 the state college system.

28 (c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each local constituent
29 college shall be administered by a local board of trustees, as
30 prescribed by law, dedicated to the purposes of the state
31 college system. A member of a board of trustees must be a
32 resident of the service delivery area of the college. The board

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33 of directors shall determine the powers and duties of the boards
34 of trustees as prescribed by law. Each citizen member shall be
35 appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

36 (d) STATEWIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The board of directors
37 shall be a body corporate consisting of seventeen members. The
38 board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible
39 for the management of the whole college system. These
40 responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, affirming
41 the distinctive mission of each constituent college, ensuring
42 the well-planned coordination and operation of the system,
43 reinforcing articulation and pathways with public schools and
44 the state university system, and avoiding unnecessary
45 duplication of facilities or programs while assuring open and
46 geographic access. The board's management shall be subject to
47 the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure
48 of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as
49 provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board sixteen
50 citizens dedicated to the purposes of the state college system,
51 including a state college faculty member and a student of the
52 state college system. The appointed members shall be confirmed
53 by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years, except
54 the faculty member shall serve a two-year term and a student
55 member shall serve a one-year term, as provided by law. The
56 commissioner of education shall also be a member of the board.