

By Commissioner Washington

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1 A proposal to create
2 Section 8 of Article IX of the State Constitution to
3 specify the purposes of the State College System and
4 to provide for the governance structure of the 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. Increasingly, education and training beyond
15 high school is necessary for individuals to meet Florida's
16 workforce demands. In order to provide an affordable, primary
17 access point to undergraduate education to Floridians, and to
18 respond quickly and efficiently to meet the demand of employers
19 by aligning certificate and degree programs with regional
20 workforce needs, the people hereby establish the Florida College
21 System. The mission of the college system is to provide open
22 access to postsecondary education that will prepare students
23 either to transfer into the university system or the workforce
24 by obtaining a workforce-aligned credential.

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

31 (c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each local constituent
32 college shall be administered by a local board of trustees, as

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33 prescribed by law, dedicated to the purposes of the state
34 college system. A member of a board of trustees must be a
35 resident of the service delivery area of the college. The powers
36 and duties of the boards of trustees shall be prescribed by
37 general law. Each citizen member shall be appointed by the
38 governor and confirmed by the senate.

39 (d) ROLE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. The board shall
40 operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the
41 management of the whole college system. These responsibilities
42 include, but are not limited to, affirming the distinctive
43 mission of each constituent college, ensuring the well-planned
44 coordination and operation of the system, reinforcing
45 articulation and pathways with public schools and the state
46 university system, and ensuring that academic programs align to
47 community workforce needs. The board's management of the college
48 system shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to
49 appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall
50 account for such expenditures as provided by law.