

# 2025 Proposed Constitutional Amendments

**Election Date: March 29, 2025**

<b>Proposed Amendment No. 1</b>	<b>Do you support an amendment granting the Louisiana Supreme Court jurisdiction to discipline out-of-state lawyers for unethical legal practices in the state of Louisiana, and to grant the legislature the authority to establish trial courts of limited and specialized jurisdiction?</b>
	<p><a href="#">2024 Third Extraordinary Session, ACT 2 (SB 1)</a></p> <p><u>Existing constitution</u> grants the supreme court exclusive original jurisdiction of disciplinary proceedings against a member of the bar.</p> <p><u>New constitutional amendment</u> retains <u>existing constitution</u> provision but further grants the court original jurisdiction for proceedings against any lawyer specially admitted by a court of this state for a particular proceeding, and any lawyer not admitted in this state who practices law or renders or offers to render any legal services in this state.</p> <p><u>Prior constitution</u> authorized the legislature to establish trial courts of limited jurisdiction having parishwide territorial jurisdiction and subject matter jurisdiction throughout the state.</p> <p><u>New constitutional amendment</u> authorizes establishment of trial courts of limited or specialized jurisdiction by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.</p> <p><u>Existing constitution</u> provides that district courts have exclusive original jurisdiction of felony cases and cases involving title to immovable property, except family court jurisdiction involving movable and immovable property cases related to partition of community property and settlement of claims arising from matrimonial regimes in divorce or annulment proceedings.</p> <p><u>New constitutional amendment</u> retains <u>existing constitution</u> provision but specifically provides that except as authorized in the constitution, the district court has exclusive original jurisdiction involving felony cases and cases involving immovable property as provided in the <u>existing constitution</u>.</p> <p>Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on March 29, 2025, or at another statewide election authorized by law, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>(Amends Const. Art. V, §5(B), 15(A), and 16(A))</p>
<b>Proposed Amendment No. 2</b>	<b>Do you support an amendment to revise Article VII of the Constitution of Louisiana including revisions to lower the maximum rate of income tax, increase income tax deductions for citizens over sixty-five, provide for a government growth limit, modify operation of certain constitutional funds, provide for property tax exemptions retaining the homestead exemption and exemption for religious organizations, provide a permanent teacher salary increase by requiring a surplus payment to teacher retirement debt, and make other modifications?</b>
	<p><a href="#">2024 Third Extraordinary Session, ACT 1 (HB 7)</a></p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment revises and reorganizes the extensive revenue and taxation provisions in the state constitution. A sampling of the proposed changes includes the following:</p>

<p><b>Proposed Amendment No. 2</b> <i>continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would restrict the legislature's authority to: enact or modify certain revenue-raising measures, make changes to new classes of funds once they have been enacted, and appropriate certain revenues.</li> <li>• Would modify the flow of revenues into the state general fund and certain protected funds by eliminating some of the protected funds and redirecting certain revenues from others.</li> <li>• Would remove certain funds from the constitution, though they would remain in statute.</li> <li>• Would modify authorized payments to locals for natural resources severance taxes and authorize payments to locals that irrevocably elect to exempt business inventory from taxation.</li> <li>• Would eliminate certain protected funds presently in the constitution and use the monies in those funds to make a payment to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for liquidation of retirement debt. Further requires use of savings generated by such payment for a permanent pay raise for certain educational employees.</li> <li>• Would move certain property tax exemptions out of the constitution.</li> <li>• Would authorize a parish to reduce the business inventory tax rate that it assesses.</li> </ul> <p>Certain elements of present constitution will remain, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The homestead exemption, the special assessment level for qualified property owners, and an additional exemption for disabled veterans.</li> <li>• The Budget Stabilization Fund, used to offset all or a part of unexpected declines in state revenues, depending on the magnitude of the decline.</li> <li>• The Transportation Trust Fund, used to fund construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in the state and federal highway systems, among other enumerated uses.</li> <li>• The Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, used to fund the state's Coastal Protection Plan.</li> <li>• The Health Excellence and TOPS Funds within the Millennium Trust, used to help fund certain health initiatives and the TOPS program.</li> <li>• The requirement that state supplemental payments to local fire and police be fully funded each year.</li> <li>• Revenue sharing provisions, requiring the allocation and distribution of at least \$90M each year to the parishes of the state.</li> </ul> <p>(Amends Const. Art. VII, §§1 - 28; Adds Const. Art. VII, §§29 - 42)</p>
<p><b>Proposed Amendment No. 3</b></p>	<p><b>Do you support an amendment to provide the legislature the authority to determine which felony crimes, when committed by a person under the age of seventeen, may be transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult?</b></p>
	<p><a href="#">2024 Third Extraordinary Session, ACT 3 (SB 2)</a></p>

**Proposed  
Amendment  
No. 3  
*continued***

Proposed constitutional amendment retains existing constitutional provisions requiring that the determination of guilt or innocence, the detention, and the custody of a person who is alleged to have committed a crime prior to his 17th birthday be pursuant to special juvenile procedures as provided by law.

Prior constitution authorizes the legislature, by a 2/3rds vote of each house, to provide that special juvenile procedures not apply to juveniles arrested for having committed any of the following offenses:

- (1) 1st or 2nd degree murder.
- (2) Manslaughter.
- (3) Aggravated rape.
- (4) Armed robbery.
- (5) Aggravated burglary.
- (6) Aggravated kidnapping.
- (7) Attempted 1st degree murder.
- (8) Attempted 2nd degree murder.
- (9) Forcible rape.
- (10) Simple rape.
- (11) 2nd degree kidnapping.
- (12) A second or subsequent aggravated battery.
- (13) A second or subsequent aggravated burglary.
- (14) A second or subsequent offense of burglary of an inhabited dwelling.
- (15) A second or subsequent felony-grade violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law or prohibited transactions in drug-related objects, involving the manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances.

Proposed constitutional amendment removes the specific list of offenses contained in existing constitution and provides that special juvenile procedures shall not apply to juveniles arrested for certain felony offenses which may be provided by law enacted by 2/3rds vote of each house of the legislature.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains the constitutional authorization for the legislature, by 2/3rds vote of each house, to lower the maximum ages of persons to whom juvenile procedures apply.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains constitutional authorization for the legislature, by 2/3rds vote of each house, to establish a procedure by which the court of original jurisdiction may waive special juvenile procedures in order that adult procedures apply in individual cases.

<p><b>Proposed Amendment No. 3</b> <i>continued</i></p>	<p><u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> retains constitutional authorization for the legislature, by a majority vote of each house, to make special provisions for detention and custody of juveniles who are subject to the jurisdiction of the district court pending determination of guilt or innocence.</p> <p>Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on March 29, 2025.</p> <p>(Amends Const. Art. V, §19)</p>
<p><b>Proposed Amendment No. 4</b></p>	<p><b>Do you support an amendment to provide for the use of the earliest election date to fill judicial vacancies?</b></p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>2024 Third Extraordinary Session, ACT 4 (SB 5)</u></a></p> <p><u>Prior constitution</u> provided for calling a special election by the governor to fill a newly created judgeship or vacancy in a judgeship within 12 months after the day the judgeship is created or the vacancy occurs, except when the vacancy occurs in the last 12 months of an existing term.</p> <p><u>New constitutional amendment</u> provides for calling the special election on the date first available pursuant to law after the day the vacancy occurs or judgeship is established, except when the vacancy occurs in the last 12 months of a term.</p> <p><u>New constitutional amendment</u> provides that if the date of the next gubernatorial or congressional election is within 12 months of the date when the vacancy occurred, then the special election shall be held at the next available gubernatorial or congressional election date, if the special election can be held on that date in accordance with applicable law.</p> <p><u>Existing constitution</u> requires that until a vacancy is filled, the supreme court appoints a person meeting the qualifications for office, except domicile, to serve at its pleasure and that this appointee is not eligible as a candidate at the election to fill the vacancy or the newly created judgeship.</p> <p><u>New constitutional amendment</u> retains this ineligibility of the appointee, but authorizes the legislature to provide exceptions concerning appointees to courts of limited or specialized jurisdiction upon request of the supreme court.</p> <p>Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on March 29, 2025.</p> <p>(Amends Const. Art. V, §22(B))</p>