

Capitol Report

Week Ending March 15, 2019

Overview

Week two of the 2019 legislative session was very active for many of our priority bills. Here are the best and the worst. You can read the full list of actions on our priority bills [here](#).

This session, there are a number of joint resolutions introduced that are very familiar. Many of these provisions recall proposals made during the meeting of the 2018 Constitution Revision Commission. Common Cause and partner organizations were successful in opposing many of these proposals so that they did not make the 2018 ballot.

Tip:

A Joint Resolution (bill) identified as SJR or HJR - is the only authorized method by which the legislature may propose amendments to the State Constitution. If passed, the proposed amendment would appear on a statewide ballot for voter approval or rejection. It must pass each house by a three-fifths vote of the membership.

On our priority list, we are tracking joint resolutions to add to the 2020 ballot amendments to repeal public campaign financing (O); abolish the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)(O); keep the CRC and Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to single subject (S); and increase the percentage of votes required to pass an amendment to 66 and 2/3%(O). Your support in these positions may mean we won't have to expend resources during the 2020 election to defeat those joint resolutions we oppose. Read this great opinion with recommendations by Carol Weissert and Sandy D'Alemberte: [Make changes but don't abolish the Constitution Revision Commission](#)

GOOD

- **[SJR690: Single Subject Limitation for Taxation and Budget Reform](#)**. It was reported favorably from [Ethics and Elections Committee](#), and moves to the [Rules Committee](#). **Common Cause supports this bill.**

- **SJR74: Single-subject Limitation for Constitution Revision Commission Proposals.** It was reported favorably from the [Rules Committee](#) and placed on the calendar for 2nd reading. **Common Cause supports this bill.**



- **HJR613 and HB615 (SJR270 and SB272): Repeal of Public Campaign Financing.** **Requirement.** House Joint Resolution proposes to repeal the constitutional requirement to provide partial public financing for people campaigning for statewide offices. The bill Passed Favorably by Oversight, Transparency and Public Management Subcommittee; YEAS 8 NAYS 5 and heads to Public Integrity and Ethics Committee. **Common Cause opposes these bills.**
- **HB131 (identical to SB230): Voter Registration Maintenance.** Requires supervisors of elections to enter into agreements with clerks of circuit courts to receive specified information; requires supervisors of elections to compare certain information with statewide voter registration system; requires DHSMV to furnish monthly to DOS list of persons who identified themselves as aliens. Bill passed favorable by Oversight, Transparency and Public Management Subcommittee; YEAS 9 NAYS 1 and will move to the Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee. **Common Cause Florida opposes this bill.**
- **CS/CS/HJR 249: Repeal of Constitution Revision Commission.** Joint Resolution by State Affairs Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee to Repeal the Constitution Revision Commission; Proposes amendments to State Constitution to repeal establishment, membership selection & composition, & duties of Constitution Revision Commission. Common Cause opposes this bill. Received 1st reading and reported favorably CS/CS by State Affairs Committee. **Common Cause opposes this bill.**

Looking Ahead to Week 3

Watch live on [The Florida Channel](#) or view [On Demand Video from the committee page](#).

Wednesday, March 20, 4:00pm - [Ethics and Elections Committee](#). Common Cause will provide testimony to the committee.

- **SB230 (identical to HB131): Voter Registration Maintenance.** Requiring supervisors of elections to enter into agreements with clerks of the circuit courts to receive specified information; requiring a monthly to the Department of State a list of persons who identified themselves as aliens; requiring the Department of State to compare the list with the statewide voter registration system and provide the names of registered voters who are aliens to the supervisors of elections of the counties in which the voters are registered. **Common Cause opposes this bill.**
- **SB342: Public Records/Voters and Voter Registration.** Providing an exemption from public records requirements for information concerning preregistered voter registration applicants



who are minors; providing for future legislative review and repeal; providing for retroactive application; providing a statement of public necessity. **Common Cause supports this bill.**

- **SJR232 (identical to HB57): Percentage of Elector Votes Required to Approve an Amendment or a Revision.** JOINT RESOLUTION Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the percentage of elector votes required to approve an amendment or a revision to the State Constitution from 60 percent to 66 and 2/3 percent **Common Cause opposes this bill.**

Thursday, March 21, 10:00 a.m. the Senate will convene.

Take Action Now - Call the Senate [Ethics and Elections Committee](#) members and let them know your support or opposition of the bills on the committee [agenda](#) for March 20, 2019.

LEGISLATION

Common Cause Florida is currently tracking a number of bills. They include a record number of bills to improve elections and a record number to preempt local communities from self governance. These bills have been filed by legislators and subject matter committees. The Common Cause Florida Team has put them in online tracking application for you here : <https://airtable.com/shrn93mUWOqI2il2Z>

Position Code: **N** – No position; **O** – Oppose; and **S**- Support

The Capitol Report is filed weekly. We will send special notices for actions that can be taken by Common Cause members in our advocacy efforts. Follow [Common Cause Florida](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Text **MATTER** to **97779** to join our list of **Common Cause Florida** members willing to take action to strengthen our democracy. If you want reminders for the upcoming legislative action and public meetings,

Text **MATTER** to **97779***

*Message & data rates may apply. Common Cause may contact you with campaign updates and other offers of engagement. Reply STOP to unsubscribe at any time.

