A proposal to revise
ARTICLE VIII, s. 1, Fla. Const.; authorizing
counties to elect county officers in
nonpartisan elections; providing procedures.

It is proposed by the Florida Constitution Revision Commission
that:

Section 1. Section 1 of Article VIII of the Florida
Constitution is revised by amending that section to read:

ARTICLE VIII
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SECTION 1. Counties.--
(a) POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. The state shall be
divided by law into political subdivisions called counties.
Counties may be created, abolished or changed by law, with
provision for payment or apportionment of the public debt.
(b) COUNTY FUNDS. The care, custody and method of
disbursing county funds shall be provided by general law.
(c) GOVERNMENT. Pursuant to general or special law, a
county government may be established by charter which shall be
adopted, amended or repealed only upon vote of the electors of
the county in a special election called for that purpose.
(d) COUNTY OFFICERS.
(1) There shall be elected by the electors of each
county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a tax collector, a
property appraiser, a supervisor of elections, and a clerk of
the circuit court; except, when provided by county charter or
special law approved by vote of the electors of the county,
any county officer may be chosen in another manner therein
specified, or any county office may be abolished when all the

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duties of the office prescribed by general law are transferred
to another office. When not otherwise provided by county
charter or special law approved by vote of the electors, the
clerk of the circuit court shall be ex officio clerk of the
board of county commissioners, auditor, recorder and custodian
of all county funds.

(2) Any county may exercise the option to elect its
county officers in a nonpartisan election by either the filing
with the supervisor of elections of a petition signed by the
number of electors equal to at least ten percent of the votes
cast in the county in the last election in which presidential
electors were chosen, or by ordinance approved by the board of
county commissioners. The question shall be placed on the
ballot at the next regularly scheduled county election
occurring after the petition is filed or the ordinance is
approved.

(e) COMMISSIONERS. Except when otherwise provided by
county charter, the governing body of each county shall be a
board of county commissioners composed of five or seven
members serving staggered terms of four years. After each
decennial census the board of county commissioners shall
divide the county into districts of contiguous territory as
nearly equal in population as practicable. One commissioner
residing in each district shall be elected as provided by law.

(f) NON-CHARTER GOVERNMENT. Counties not operating
under county charters shall have such power of self-government
as is provided by general or special law. The board of county
commissioners of a county not operating under a charter may
enact, in a manner prescribed by general law, county
ordinances not inconsistent with general or special law, but
an ordinance in conflict with a municipal ordinance shall not

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be effective within the municipality to the extent of such conflict.

(g) CHARTER GOVERNMENT. Counties operating under county charters shall have all powers of local self-government not inconsistent with general law, or with special law approved by vote of the electors. The governing body of a county operating under a charter may enact county ordinances not inconsistent with general law. The charter shall provide which shall prevail in the event of conflict between county and municipal ordinances.

(h) TAXES; LIMITATION. Property situate within municipalities shall not be subject to taxation for services rendered by the county exclusively for the benefit of the property or residents in unincorporated areas.

(i) COUNTY ORDINANCES. Each county ordinance shall be filed with the secretary of state and shall become effective at such time thereafter as is provided by general law.

(j) VIOLATION OF ORDINANCES. Persons violating county ordinances shall be prosecuted and punished as provided by law.

(k) COUNTY SEAT. In every county there shall be a county seat at which shall be located the principal offices and permanent records of all county officers. The county seat may not be moved except as provided by general law. Branch offices for the conduct of county business may be established elsewhere in the county by resolution of the governing body of the county in the manner prescribed by law. No instrument shall be deemed recorded in the county until filed at the county seat according to law.