

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ROCKLEDGE,
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING
CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION
PROPOSAL 11 (P 11) TO ALLOW ALL
ELECTORS, REGARDLESS OF PARTY
AFFILIATION, TO VOTE IN PARTISAN
PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Florida,
Article VI (Suffrage and Elections), Section 5 (Primary,
general, and special elections), provides direction on the
structure of primary, general, and special elections; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Florida,
Article VI, Section 5(b), currently allows all qualified
electors, regardless of party affiliation, to vote in primary
elections for an office only when all candidates for that
office have the same party affiliation and the winner will
have no opposition in the general election; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Article creates a closed
primary election system that restricts the right of electors
to vote when the political party with which they are
registered does not have a candidate for a specific office;
and

WHEREAS, the qualification of write-in candidates for
general elections has resulted in the closing of numerous

Florida primary elections that otherwise would have been open to all voters, regardless of party affiliation; and

WHEREAS, nine (9) states, including Florida, have closed primaries; and

WHEREAS, voter turnout in Florida primary elections is significantly lower than in general elections; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the largest growth in Florida voter registration has been among voters who do not affiliate with any political party; and

WHEREAS, when primary elections in Florida are closed, unaffiliated voters are disenfranchised and may not participate in the primary process; and

WHEREAS, Constitution Revision Commission Proposal 11 seeks to correct this disenfranchisement of voters by adding language stating that if all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation, and the winner will have either no opposition in the general election, or opposition only from one or more write-in candidates, then all qualified electors regardless of party affiliation may vote in the primary elections for that office; and

WHEREAS, the effect of Constitution Revision Commission Proposal 11 would be to open Florida primary elections to all Florida voters under specified circumstances, regardless of any political party affiliation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rockledge finds it in the best interest of the residents of the City and all Floridians that primary elections be open to all registered voters, regardless of party affiliation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKLEDGE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Rockledge urges all members of the Constitution Revision Commission to approve Proposal 11 and encourages all residents of the City of Rockledge and the State of Florida to vote to approve this proposed change to the Constitution of the State of Florida.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Constitution Revision Commission, each municipality in Brevard County, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, the Space Coast League of Cities, the Brevard County Legislative Delegation, the Florida League of Cities, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Florida Senate, and the Governor of Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rockledge, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Chairman, City Council of the
City of Rockledge, Florida

ATTEST:

City Clerk