

The Collins Institute and the 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission

In **Fall 2014**, the Collins Institute director began meeting with groups who later joined the Partnership for Revising Florida's Constitution to discuss a public education campaign on the significance of the 2017-2018 constitution revision commission and to encourage citizen involvement

January 21, 2015 The first meeting of the ReviseFL Partnership was held. Partnership members included: Bob Graham Center at UF; Center for Governmental Responsibility at UF; Community Foundation for Northeast Florida; Florida Association of Counties; The Florida Bar; The Florida Bar Foundation; Florida Chamber Foundation; Florida Justice Association Research and Education Foundation; Florida Law Related Education Association; Florida League of Cities; Florida Philanthropic Network; Florida Press Association; Florida TaxWatch; Justin Sayfie; Leadership Florida; League of Women Voters of Florida; Florida NAACP; and The Virgil Hawkins Chapter of the National Bar Association. The LeRoy Collins Institute was the convener and lead partner.

In **June 2015**, The Jesse Ball duPont Fund provided \$27,600 funding for the Partnership. This was used to fund 12 months of Core Message marketing. Core Message setup and maintained the webpage, developed a social media presence, and conducted media-related activities including drafting op ed pieces, organizing press conferences, and monitoring press coverage.

In **Fall 2015**, The LeRoy Collins Institute Board Chair Lester Abberger and Director Carol Weissert met with governor's staff and staff for the Senate President and Speaker regarding the appointment process.

In **October 2015** the Partnership for Revising Florida's Constitution was launched with a press conference and a one-day event entitled, "Anticipating the 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission" featuring members of the two previous commissions talking about the importance of the CRC building on their experiences. The meeting was videotaped and made available on the Partnership website.

In October 2015, 120,000 copies of the Citizens Guide to the CRC were published and distributed widely across the state. The Florida Bar provided funding for the guide and its distribution. The Florida Hispanic Bar translated the guide to Spanish and printed and distributed it. Here's the link to the Citizens Guide: <http://www.revisefl.com/images/FloridaCRCCitizens%27Guide.pdf>

A webpage, ReviseFL, and twitter account were established and updated regularly on events relating to the CRC. Several individual Partners also had web pages on the CRC, linked to the Partnership page.

In October 2015 an animated video on the CRC process was made available to Partners and others on the Partnership website. (In 2018, the video was included in a display on the CRC at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum.) <http://www.revisefl.com/index.php/resources/additional-resources>

Collins board member Sandy D'Alemberte and Institute Director Carol Weissert taught two classes on the CRC for law students and political science doctoral students in Fall 2014 and Spring 2017.

Two statewide polls were conducted about the knowledge of the public about the CRC by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at UF. Results were published on the Bureau's webpage in March 2017: <https://www.bebr.ufl.edu/survey/website-article/constitution-revision-commission-little-known-great-potential>

Op ed by Board Chair Lester Abberger and Director Carol Weissert appeared in the Tampa Bay Times on Dec. 16, 2016 entitled "Constitution Revision Commission: Do Your Part to Improve Florida."

Beginning in Fall 2015, Collins Institute director made a series of presentations on the CRC to groups including

--Jan. 5, 2016—conducted webinar for the League of Women Voters of Florida on the CRC. Provided power points for use by Leagues across the state.

--Jan. 21, 2016—Trial Lawyers Section Teachers' Law School Fl Bar. Ponte Vedra Beach

--Oct. 14, 2016 Lee County Bar Association, Ft. Myers

--Oct. 24, 2016 Noles Engaged in Politics Tallahassee

--November 17, 2016 Florida Campus Compact Fl. Tampa.

--the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, Escambia County and Collier County (2016-2017); the League of Women Voters of Florida annual meeting (August 2017)

--January 23, 2017 The Federalist Society, FSU Law School Tallahassee

--Feb. 28, 2017 APA Florida Public Policy Workshop—Tallahassee

--Jan. 27, 2017 Tallahassee Bar Association Tallahassee

--January 31, 2017 Associated Press Summit Tallahassee

--Jan. 24, 2017 Tallahassee Active Lifelong Leaders Tallahassee

--Feb. 7, 2017 Tallahassee Rotary Club

--Feb. 10, 2017 Connect Day at the Capitol, Leadership Florida Tallahassee

--Feb. 11, 2017 The Future of Florida Summit, Bob Graham Center, UF Gainesville

--March 29, 2017 Florida Commission on the Status of Women Tallahassee

--Aug. 14, 2017 Presentation, Tallahassee Lions Club

--Nov. 3, 2017 Seminole Regional Chamber of Commerce, Longwood