





1 Do you support an amendment to authorize a local government where the  
 2 voters have approved implementation of a constitutional civil service system  
 3 for its employees to hold another election to allow the voters to decide to  
 4 cease operation of the civil service system? (Amends Article X, Section  
 5 14(B); Adds Article X, Section 14(D))

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 503 Original

2016 Regular Session

Leopold

**Abstract:** Authorizes a city, parish, or city-parish that has implemented a classified system of employment through an election to call and hold another election for the purpose of submitting to qualified electors the question of whether or not the city, parish, or city-parish shall continue to implement the classified system of employment.

Present constitution (Art. X, Part I) establishes the city civil service system and includes all persons holding offices and positions of trust or employment in the employ of each city having over four hundred thousand population and in every instrumentality thereof. Provides for the exclusion of paid firemen and municipal policemen. Provides that the city civil service is divided into the unclassified and the classified service. Provides for those included within the unclassified service. Establishes a department of city civil service in each city.

Present constitution provides that permanent appointments and promotions in the classified city civil service shall be made only after certification by the department of civil service under a general system based upon merit, efficiency, fitness, and length of service, as ascertained by examination which, so far as practical, shall be competitive. Provides that no person who has gained permanent status in the city civil service shall be subject to disciplinary action, except for cause expressed in writing. Provides that such person shall have the right of appeal before the commission.

Present constitution vests the commission with broad and general rulemaking and subpoena powers for the administration and regulation of the classified service, including the power to adopt rules regulating employment, promotion, demotion, and compensation and disbursements and also the power to adopt a uniform pay and classification plan.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Present constitution authorizes each city having a population exceeding 10,000 but not exceeding 400,000, each parish, and each parish governed jointly with one or more cities under a plan of government having a population exceeding 10,000, to elect to be governed by the provisions of present constitution if approved by a majority of its electors voting at an election held for that purpose. Requires that the election be ordered and held upon either of the following:

- (1) Adoption of an ordinance by the governing authority calling the election.

- (2) Presentation to the governing authority of a petition calling for such an election signed by electors equal in number to 5% of the registered voters of the city, parish, or city-parish.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes each city, parish, or city-parish that has elected to be governed by present constitution to hold another election for the purpose of allowing the qualified electors to determine if the city, parish, or city-parish shall continue to be governed by present constitution. Provides that no such election can be held within three years of the date of the election to be governed by present constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that if a majority of the qualified electors voting on the proposition at an election held for that purpose determine that the city, parish, or city-parish shall no longer be governed by present constitution, then the provisions shall no longer be applicable. Prohibits the governing authority from taking any action if a majority of the qualified electors determine that the city, parish, or city-parish shall continue to be governed by present constitution and provides that no election may be held for the purpose of submitting the same proposition to the qualified electors for at least three years from the date of the election.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2016.

(Amends Const. Art. X, §14(B); Adds Const. Art. X, §14(D))