

STATEMENT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
October 20, 2007

In compliance with R.S. 18:431, R.S. 18:552, R.S. 18:553 and R.S. 18:1306, a statement of the Proposed Constitutional Amendments in the order in which they will appear on the ballot for the October 20, 2007 election is provided as follows:

1. Act 483 (2007 Regular Session) amends Article VII, Section 10(D)(3)(a) and(c).

Present Constitution requires the legislature to provide by law for the payment by the state of supplements to the salaries of full-time local law enforcement and fire protection officers of the state. Further provides that the legislature shall appropriate funds sufficient to fully fund the cost of such state supplements.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment prohibits the reduction of any payments by the state of salary supplements to full-time local law enforcement and fire protection officers of the state.

Present Constitution provides that full funding of salary supplements to full-time local law enforcement and fire protection officers of the state shall be equal to the amount which is required to meet the requirements of law in effect on July 1, 2001.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment provides that full funding of salary supplements to full-time local law enforcement and fire protection officers of the state shall be equal to the amount which is required to meet the requirements of law.

2. Act 485 (2007 Regular Session) amends Article X, Section 10(A)(1).

Present Constitution vests the state and city civil service commissions with broad and general rulemaking and subpoena power for the administration and regulation of the classified service, including the power to adopt rules regulating compensation and disbursements to employees; and to adopt a uniform pay and classification plan.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment authorizes the legislature to supplement the uniform pay plans for sworn, commissioned law enforcement officers employed by a bona fide police agency of the state or its political subdivisions and for fire protection officers employed by a port authority from any available funds of the state, department, agency or the political subdivision. Further requires that such supplement may be made available only for sworn, commissioned law enforcement officers employed on a full-time basis who serve the welfare of the public in the capacity of a police officer by providing police services to the general public, by effecting arrests, issuing citations, and serving warrants while patrolling waterways and riverfront areas and for fire protection officers employed on a full-time basis who provide fire protection services to a port authority.

3. Act 484 (2007 Regular Session) amends Article X, Section 29(E)(5).

Present Constitution provides that all assets, proceeds, or income of the state and statewide public retirement systems and all contributions and payments made to such system to provide for retirement and related benefits shall be held, invested as authorized by law, or disbursed as in trust for the exclusive purpose of providing such benefits, refunds, and administrative expenses under the management of the boards of trustees and shall not be encumbered for or diverted to any other purpose. Further provides that the accrued benefits of members of any state or statewide public retirement system shall not be diminished or impaired and future benefit provisions for members of the state and statewide public retirement systems shall only be altered by legislative enactment.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment retains present law and clarifies that future benefits provisions for members of the state and statewide public retirement systems shall be altered only by legislative enactment.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment provides that no benefit provision for any member of a state retirement system having an actuarial cost shall be approved by the legislature unless a funding source providing new or additional funds sufficient to pay all such actuarial cost within ten years of the effective date of the benefit provision is identified in such enactment. Further provides that this provision shall be implemented as provided by law.

4. Act 486 (2007 Regular Session) amends Article VII, Section 21(C)(19).

Present Constitution exempts from ad valorem taxation all artwork which is listed as a consignment article by an art dealer. Further provides that “artwork” includes sculptures, glass works, paintings, drawings, signed and numbered posters, photographs, mixed media, collages, or any other item which would be considered as the material result of a creative endeavor.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment adds an exemption from ad valorem taxation for jewelry which is listed as a consignment article by an art or jewelry dealer.