

Constitutional Amendment for Judicial Reform

BY DAVID G. BRONNER

An important constitutional amendment (**Statewide Amendment 1**) will be on the ballot **March 1, 2016**. The Legislature passed Judicial Retirement reform (Act 2015-498) and legislation (Act 2015-342) to phase out the costly super-numerary systems for Circuit Clerks and District Attorneys. **These changes will not take effect unless the voters pass this constitutional amendment.**

These important cost-saving changes will reduce retirement benefits payable

to future judges and will eliminate, over time, two unfunded statewide supernumerary systems. Currently, Circuit Clerks and District Attorneys do not pay any-



thing toward their future supernumerary benefits. After meeting certain service requirements, the taxpayers pay them a

life-time benefit from current revenue. There is no fund for the payment of these benefits.

If this constitutional amendment passes, these elected officials will begin making contributions to a funded retirement plan like other state employees.

The Legislature has done its part in passing these important reforms. It is now up to you, the voters, to implement these positive changes for our state. Vote **YES** for this fiscally prudent amendment. ●