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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2025 Constitutional Amendment Propositions

Proposition 1 (SJR 59)

"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."

Background:

TSTC trains workers for high-demand jobs but has limited access to capital funding. Prop. 1 would create a permanent endowment-like fund for new buildings, equipment, and campus expansion, outside the normal state budget process.

Vote For: Creates permanent funds to provide TSTC with a dedicated, stable source of capital funding for facilities and equipment, capped at ~$52 million initially, indexed to inflation.

Vote Against: Leaves TSTC dependent on the Higher Education Fund and the Legislature's biennial budget process for future facilities and expansion.

Proposition 2 (SJR 18)

"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."

Background:

Texas has no capital gains tax, but this would constitutionally prohibit one in the future. Prop. 2 would prohibit future legislatures from imposing a state tax on realized or unrealized capital gains for individuals, families, estates, and trusts.

Vote For: Ensures Texas cannot impose a capital gains tax, reinforcing its low-tax business-friendly environment.

Vote Against: Keeps the current prohibition on income tax but allows future legislatures the flexibility to impose a capital gains tax if desired.

Proposition 3 (SJR 5)
"The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."

Background:
Currently, bail is guaranteed except in very limited cases. Prop. 3 would allow judges to deny bail for serious felonies (murder, aggravated assault, trafficking, etc.) if the defendant poses a flight risk or danger to the public.

Vote For: Expands judges' ability to deny bail for serious violent crimes to protect public safety.

Vote Against: Keeps current bail standards, where judges set bail but generally cannot deny it outside narrow circumstances.

Proposition 4 (HJR 7)
"The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue."

Background:
Texas faces over $154 billion in projected water infrastructure needs to meet the growth of Texas' population and businesses. Prop. 4 would guarantee funding for water conservation, supply, and infrastructure projects through a new dedicated fund.

Vote For: Creates a dedicated $1 billion annual revenue stream for long-term water projects, giving stability to water planning.

Vote Against: Leaves water funding entirely up to the Legislature's normal budget process, with no guaranteed dedicated revenue.

Proposition 5 (HJR 99)
"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail."

Background:
Livestock feed is exempt from sales tax, but retailers currently pay property taxes on stored inventory. Prop 5 would authorize the Legislature to exempt animal feed stored for retail sale from property taxes.

Vote For: Allows stored livestock feed to be exempt from property tax calculations, lowering costs for retailers and consumers.

Vote Against: Keeps feed inventory taxable as property.

Proposition 6 (HJR 4)
"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions."

Background:
Texas is now home to the Texas Stock Exchange (TXSE). The State of Texas has established itself as a hub for business and now a new financial market. Prop. 6 would prohibit future legislation from imposing taxes on securities transactions and occupation taxes on TXSE or any future security market in Texas.

Vote For: Permanently bans transaction taxes on buying/selling securities in Texas, promoting a business-friendly environment.

Vote Against: Leaves the door open for future legislatures to impose a financial transaction tax if desired.

Proposition 7 (HJR 133)
"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected."

Background:
Texas law gives surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans a property tax exemption. After the federal PACT Act expanded presumptive service-connected conditions, some surviving spouses were left out. Prop. 7 would reflect the changes made in the PACT Act with the state's property tax exemptions.

Vote For: Expands existing tax relief so more surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans receive homestead exemptions.

Vote Against: Surviving spouses of veterans with certain service-connected disabilities remain ineligible for property tax exemptions.

Proposition 8 (HJR 2)

"The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift."

Background:
Texas has no estate, inheritance, or gift tax. Prop. 8 would constitutionally prohibit future legislatures from creating an inheritance tax.

Vote For: Constitutionally bans Texas from imposing estate/inheritance/gift taxes in the future.

Vote Against: Allows future legislatures the option to adopt estate, inheritance, or gift taxes.

Proposition 9 (HJR 1)

"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income."

Background:
Property owners and small businesses who use tangible personal property as a source of income pay property tax on the full value of the property except for a small exemption based on administrative costs. Prop. 9 would raise the property tax exemption for property used for income to $125,000.

Vote For: Reduces tax burdens for property owners who use personal property as a source of income.

Vote Against: Keeps current smaller exemption tied only to administrative cost of collection.

Proposition 10 (SJR 84)

"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire."

Background:
Property is taxed at its value on January 1 of each year. If a home catches fire later in the year, the owner is still expected to pay property taxes on the pre-fire value. Prop. 10 allows a temporary exemption for homes destroyed by fire.

Vote For: Provides short-term relief by exempting destroyed homes from taxation in the year of the fire.

Vote Against: Keeps current system, where property may still be taxed at pre-destruction value until reassessed the next year.

Proposition 11 (SJR 85)

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled."

Background:
Elderly and disabled homeowners may currently receive a $10,000 property tax exemption. Prop. 11 would raise the property tax exemption to $60,000.

Vote For: Expands property tax relief for seniors and disabled homeowners, with the state covering lost school revenue.

Vote Against: Keeps exemption at $10,000, limiting property tax relief.

Proposition 12 (SJR 27)

"The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission's recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct."

Background:
Reforms the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) and review tribunals conducted by SCJC**.** Prop 12 would restructure membership, expand citizen representation, and strengthen powers to discipline judges.

Vote For: Increases transparency and accountability in judicial misconduct oversight.

Vote Against: Keeps the current structure with limited powers to sanction judges.

Proposition 13 (SJR 2)
"The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from $100,000 to $140,000."

Background:
Currently, homeowners may qualify for a homestead exemption at $100,000 of their property value. Prop 13 would provide homeowners with property tax relief by increasing the homestead exemption to $140,000. The state would fund the lost school district property tax revenue with general revenue funds.

Vote For: Reduces property taxes for homeowners by raising the homestead exemption; providing the largest exemption increase in decades.

Vote Against: Keeps the homestead exemption at $100,000, limiting property tax relief.

Proposition 14 (SJR 3)
"The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund $3 billion from state general revenue."

Background:
In 2007, the legislature created the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to drive medical research with cancer in Texas. To support research into dementia, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's diseases, the legislature proposed a similar institute: the

Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT). Prop. 14 would dedicate $3 Billion to create DPRIT and support medical research in the State of Texas.

Vote For: Establishes DPRIT with $3 billion to fund research and prevention of dementia, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's.

Vote Against: Leaves dementia research to existing limited funding streams.

Proposition 15 (SJR 34)

"The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."

Background:
Prop. 15 would codify that parents are the primary decision-makers for their children into the Texas Constitution, aligning with existing court precedent.

Vote For: Codifies parental rights in education, health, and upbringing at the constitutional level.

Vote Against: Leaves protections to existing state law and court precedent without elevating them constitutionally.

Proposition 16 (SJR 37)

"The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."

Background:
State law already requires U.S. citizenship to vote, but is not explicitly outlined in the Texas Constitution. Prop. 16 would clarify that only U.S. citizens may vote in Texas elections.

Vote For: Explicitly requires U.S. citizenship to vote, aligning the Constitution with current state law.

Vote Against: Keeps current legal standard without constitutional clarification.

Proposition 17 (HJR 34)

"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements."

Background:

Homeowners in counties that border Mexico with border security infrastructure or other security improvements (fencing or surveillance equipment) are currently faced with an increase to their property's taxable value. Prop. 17 would provide these homeowners an exemption for the added value from property tax calculations.

Vote For: Incentivizes landowners to allow border walls, fencing, or security equipment by exempting the added property value from taxes, providing property tax relief.

Vote Against: Prevents homeowners with border security infrastructure or security improvements from receiving property tax relief.