

2025 Texas Constitutional Amendment Ballot Propositions (November 4, 2025 Election)



ROACH & ASSOCIATES, PLLC
"PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY IN REPRESENTATION"

In 2025, the State of Texas experienced a budget *surplus* equal to approximately \$24 billion. The Texas Legislature met in regular session earlier in the year and ultimately passed over 1,300 bills and joint resolutions during the regular session, some of which will directly impact this budget surplus. Seventeen (17) of these bills require state-wide voter approval and would become actual amendments to the Texas Constitution. Accordingly, these 17 propositions are among the items on the upcoming November 4, 2025 election ballot. Below is a list of the propositions along with some additional details about the ballot measures. **Feel free to take this to the polls with you (*you are allowed to have a ballot reference guide and related information with you at the polls*).**

Some of the proposed amendments would create or alter funds to support things like medical research, groundwater infrastructure, and technical college investments. Others would increase property tax exemptions for small businesses (from \$2,500 to \$125,000), would continue the recent trend of providing greater exemptions from school district property taxes for homesteads (from \$100,000 to \$140,000) and for elderly and disabled (from \$10,000 to \$60,000), and would extend exemptions to certain properties and/or certain owners under a wide range of various conditions. Other amendments would affect issues like parental rights, voting requirements, bail reform, and judicial accountability. The propositions are as follows:

Proposition 1 (SJR 59) – "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of funds to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."

This amendment would create two dedicated state funds to support infrastructure, land acquisition, and equipment for the Texas State Technical College System (TSTC), seeded with an initial \$850 million from general revenue. These funds would operate outside the normal state budget and legislative oversight.

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."

This amendment would permanently prohibit the Texas Legislature from imposing any tax on capital gains on from property held by and individual family, estate, or trust for personal investment–like stocks, bonds, real estate, and cars—whether realized or unrealized. Texas currently does not have such a tax, so the measure functions as a safeguard to preserve the state's existing low-tax structure.

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."

This amendment would authorize judges to deny bail to individuals charged with a list of serious felonies, such as murder, aggravated assault, and human trafficking, if the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that release would endanger the public or risk flight. It embeds mandatory bail denial for certain charges into the state constitution, with limited discretion for judges.¹

¹ Currently, Section 11 of Article 1 of the Texas Constitution guarantees all prisoners the right to bail with the following exceptions: capital offenses, an accused who has twice been convicted of a felony, an accused who has committed a felony while on bail for a prior felony, or a person accused of a violent sexual offense committed while under the supervision of a criminal justice agency of the State—this amendment would the current list.

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.”

This amendment would allocate up to \$1 billion per year in sales tax revenue into a new Texas Water Fund to support water infrastructure projects. The funding would occur automatically each year, bypassing the normal legislative appropriations process thereby guaranteeing water infrastructure funding, and would continue until August 31, 2047, unless extended by the Legislature.²

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.”

This amendment would give the Legislature the authority to exempt animal feed held for retail sale from local property taxes. It does not require the exemption but permits future legislation to implement it, potentially correcting a tax inconsistency within the agricultural supply chain.

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.”

This amendment would preemptively prohibit the Legislature from imposing taxes on securities transactions or from creating new occupation taxes on registered financial market operators like brokers and exchanges. It aims to shield investors and financial institutions from future taxation.

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.”

This amendment would allow the Legislature to enact a law where the surviving spouse of a veteran who died for a service-connected cause could be exempt from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence. This would only as long as the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the veteran.

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.”

This amendment would permanently prohibit the Legislature from imposing estate, inheritance, or gift taxes. Texas does not currently levy such taxes, so this measure acts as a safeguard to prevent future reintroduction.

² At least 25% of the initial appropriation must go to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund. The amendment also includes restrictions on using funds for certain groundwater transport infrastructure. The Legislature may adjust or suspend allocations during declared disasters, with the intent to replenish the fund later.

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."

This amendment would allow the Legislature to exempt up to \$250,000 of the market value of income-generating personal property, such as business equipment or tools, from local property taxes. The exemption would ease the tax burden on small businesses and the self-employed.

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."

This amendment would give the Legislature authority to provide a temporary property tax exemption for homesteads that are entirely destroyed by fire. The exemption would apply only to the value of the destroyed structure, not the land, and would be implemented through future legislation.

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."

This amendment would authorize the Legislature to raise the additional school property tax exemption for elderly and disabled homeowners from \$10,000 to \$60,000. The increased exemption would reduce school district taxes for qualifying individuals and would be offset by state funds to maintain school district funding levels.³

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."

This amendment would expand and restructure the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC), increasing its membership and public representation, while enhancing its ability to issue public sanctions against judges. It also introduces new powers, including the authority to suspend or remove judges upon indictment for certain crimes.

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."

This amendment would raise the school district property tax exemption on homesteads from \$100,000 to \$140,000, reducing taxable home values and offering tax relief to homeowners. The state would reimburse school districts for the resulting loss in revenue.⁴

³ An eligible disabled person who is also 65 years of age or older may not receive both exemptions from a school district but may choose either. However, an eligible person may utilize the 65+/disabled exemption and the general school district homestead exemption (under [Prop. 13](#)), providing a total exemption of up to \$200,000.

⁴ In 2023, voters approved Proposition 4 to increase this ISD exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000; thus, this amendment would increase it again, this time to \$140,000.

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."

This amendment would create a new state-run medical research institute and permanently dedicate \$3 billion from general revenue, plus up to \$300 million annually, for research and infrastructure related to dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases. The fund would exist outside the state's regular spending cap.

Proposition 15 (SJR 34) – "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."

This "Parental Bill of Rights" amendment would enshrine in the Texas Constitution the inherent rights of parents "to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing." Some of the provisions in the legislation include reasonable access to the school principal or an administrator, the ability to request a change in class or teacher for a student, accessibility to psychological and counseling records, teacher evaluations, and other documents, among many others.⁵

Proposition 16 (SJR 37) – "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States Citizen."

This amendment would ensure the Texas Constitution clarifies that only U.S. citizens may vote in Texas elections. Current law already limits voting to citizens, but this measure ensures the restriction is in the Constitution to prevent future legal or policy changes which might allow non-citizen voting. The amendment would not make any practical changes but would only serve as an additional safeguard so the current state law cannot be changed as easily.

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."

This amendment would allow the Legislature to add property tax exemptions for the value of border security infrastructure on land in counties bordering Mexico. It is intended to be avoid penalizing landowners for voluntary security-related improvements. The Legislature would also be allowed to define "border security infrastructure" and to prescribe additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

⁵ Texas is one of 25 states with a Parental Bill of Rights. [Prop. 15](#) further codifies certain parental decision making into law instead of allowing wide and varied discretion by administrators, judges, and certain counselors and mental/medical health professionals.