

SHORT ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THESE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Prop 1: Discussion: TSTC gets only irregular funding for construction.

“For” means you support TSTC receiving tax dollars (like colleges/universities), trade skills as a college alternative, & helping grow a better trained Texas workforce to better meet Texas’ growth demands.

“Against” means you are against increasing permanent government spending and would prefer to leave TSTC funding in the Legislature’s hands to decide whether they’re spending more or less each year.

Prop 2: Discussion: Texas Law states no personal income tax, and there is no CURRENT proposal in the Legislature to begin taxing unrealized or realized capital gains.

“For” means you want permanent insurance that won’t change, you believe taxes discourage investments and make businesses move, and you believe the concept of taxing “unrealized” gains hurts our economy.

“Against” means you don’t believe this amendment is necessary right now, and you don’t want to limit the Legislature from being able to pass an unrealized/realized capital gains tax in the future.

Prop 3: Discussion: Currently Texas magistrates are not allowed to deny bail for many violent crimes; this would allow them to deny it if the defendant is a “threat”. Federal courts/many states already do this.

“For” means you believe this prevents repeat offenders committing more crimes while out on bail, as shown in Harris County (162 homicide cases filed since 2021 against defendants free on bond).

“Against” means you are concerned about the defendant’s financial/personal burdens, longer jail time, loss of presumption of innocence, causing overcrowded jails, and undermining right to speedy trial.

Prop 4: Discussion: 1600 people/day move to Texas. Water shortages are increasing. This would give \$1B yearly from sales tax revenues to the Texas Water Fund. Federal Govt may not fund.

“For” means you’re concerned that Texas population growth will exceed water supply and that giving the TWF money to study the water situation and make plans will promote confidence and progress.

“Against” means you’re concerned about how the money will be prioritized; i.e. building new water supplies costs more than \$1B but consultants don’t, and about permanent sales tax funds being diverted.

Prop 5: Discussion: State law is inconsistent: animal feed is exempt from taxation unless it’s inventoried at a store or business. Most yearly inventories are done when feed inventory is high.

“For” means you want lower feed prices for Texas farmers, which could lower Texas food costs.

“Against” means you object to these feed sellers being unfairly benefited from not paying taxes, while almost all other inventory is taxed.

Prop 6: Discussion: Since Texas got its first fully integrated stock exchange in 2025, this would prohibit occupation taxes on registered securities market operators and taxes on securities transactions.

“For” means you want to provide a low-tax business-friendly environment to encourage businesses to come, and you’re concerned about more taxes hurting retirees who live off their savings transactions

“Against” means you think the wealthy would benefit most from this, and/or you don’t believe in banning future revenue streams (if needed), and you want future Legislators to be able to tax this if it’s needed.

Prop 7: Discussion: 100% disabled veterans due to service-related “incident” and surviving spouses are already entitled to a property tax break. Veterans who die without 100% disability rating from a service-related “condition” (see Federal PACT ACT) don’t give surviving spouse the same tax break.

“For” means you want this State law to match new Federal law, and for the discrepancy to be fixed.

“Against” means you believe this unfairly expands tax exemptions, which raises others’ property taxes.

Prop 8: Discussion: Prevents future State “death tax” on transfers of estate, inheritance, legacy, succession or gift. Texas already has no inheritance tax, since 2015.

“For” means you believe the money/property left behind has already been taxed, and it’s an undue hardship to heirs to try to retain property if death taxes were to be levied in the future.

“Against” means you feel it’s unnecessary to pass this, because there’s no current proposal to enact a death tax and you’re concerned it limits future Legislators from enacting a tax if the State needs it.

Prop 9: Discussion: Business owners would receive an exemption of \$125K for personal property used to produce income in their business.

“For” means you want tax relief for businesses, particularly small businesses, allowing for expansion to benefit the economy; you want to attract businesses to move to Texas; tax revenue loss would be minor.

“Against” means you’re concerned with redistribution of the property tax, loss of overall state tax revenue, and with lowering tax revenues for local school districts so the state would have to help fund them.

Prop 10: Discussion: When a homestead is destroyed by fire, this gives the homeowner a temporary property tax exemption, instead of having to pay previous market value.

“For” means you want to give homeowners relief to rebuild and you want to fix the current property tax system, which doesn’t allow for a temporary loss of value.

“Against” means you don’t want them to get a temporary property tax exemption, and you want them to continue to pay property taxes on previous “full market value”.

Prop 11: Discussion: Increases the over-65 and disabled homeowners’ school district property taxes (their biggest property tax burden) exemption from \$110K to \$120K (over-65) and \$170K (disabled).

“For” means you believe most elderly/over 65 homeowners on limited/fixed incomes need this extra exemption to make homes handicap accessible, pay medical bills and stay in their home for stability.

“Against” means you’re concerned about tax revenue loss limiting other public services, like health care spending, schools, and infrastructure, and you believe recent property tax relief is enough.

Prop 12: Discussion: Adds regular citizens to the makeup of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, to oversee judicial actions.

“For” means you’ve been concerned about misconduct, abuse and competence of judges who don’t face enough discipline, and that adding regular citizens to this group would provide better oversight.

“Against” means you don’t agree that the Governor appointing citizens would help, and prefer judges to be appointed to hold their own accountable. You’re also concerned about partisanship advantages.

Prop 13: Discussion: Increases homestead exemption from \$100K to \$140K for elementary/secondary school property taxes. These are the largest share of most property taxes.

“For” means you support giving homeowners relief as recent tax relief bills have been ineffective because of higher home values and higher local property tax rates; lower taxes would help first-time homebuyers.

“Against” means you’re concerned about loss of revenue that could fund public services and that Texas should spend its’ surplus on those or renter-rebate programs rather than giving back to property owners.

Prop 14: Discussion: Creating/funding \$3B for a Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas for research, prevention and treatment.

“For” means you believe this major long-term investment will help the economy by attracting new jobs (researchers and doctors), and you think the state should absorb the “lack of profitability” of research.

“Against” means you oppose long-term taxpayer-funded expansion of state government, you want private industries, universities and non-profits to do this, and are concerned about bureaucratic inefficiency.

Prop 15: Discussion: Parents are the primary decision-makers for their children: protected by Federal case law but threatened by future judges’ decisions.

“For” means you believe this will help parents defend their rights in future judicial proceedings, and that this provides a clear and legal foundation to protect Texas’ Parents’ rights.

“Against” either means you believe others may have a (potentially bigger) role, in helping or caring for Texas children, or you don’t believe this proposed amendment is protective enough of parental rights.

Prop 16: Discussion: Proposed Constitutional Amendment affirming voters in Texas must be U.S. Citizens. This would help to prevent non-citizens voting in local TX elections, a trend across the U.S.

“For” means you agree that non-citizens can’t vote in Texas elections, though many that vote for it believe it doesn’t go far enough, since PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP is still not required in Federal elections.

“Against” means you are worried this will incite anti-immigrant “rhetoric” by making it appear a bigger problem than it is, and/or that this amendment isn’t necessary because it’s not a problem.

Prop 17: Discussion: Allowing landowners at the Texas/Mexico border, who donate their private property for use in border protection, property tax relief by exempting security-related improvements.

“For” means you want to remove the tax burden on landowners that deal with construction of border walls, roads and surveillance systems, which could incentivize new landowners to donate property.

“Against” means you believe that border landowners should not receive tax exemptions for donating land to provide further border security, and local government would have to cover the property tax shortfall.

Disclaimer: this summary is based on my own research, but it’s up to you to do your own research. You’re the responsible, informed Voter.