Proposition 1- SJR 59: The Establishment of Special Funds for State Technical College System Amendment. This will be on the Texas ballot on November 4, 2025

This amendment creates the Available Fund or the Available Workforce Education Fund and the *Permanent Fund* or *Permanent Technical Institution Infrastructure Fund* as special funds in the state treasury. It will separate this funding in a separate state treasury fund to provide a dedicated revenue source for capital projects and equipment purchases for equipment purchases for the Texas State Technical College System. The State Comptroller would be responsible for managing the funds.

About Texas State Technical College.
Texas State Technical College (TSTC) was established in 1969 to help Texas meet the state's evolving workforce needs. There are currently 11 campuses of TSTC. As technology needs in the workplace continue to increase, the current generation that has grown up with ever-changing technology has the opportunity to move into these technical fields through the training that is provided at the TSTC campuses. The campuses focus on advanced emerging technologies, offering the ability for students to become certified in technical areas. Certifications are essential for employers to know which individuals are fully prepared for the specialized technical fields.

What Your Vote Means:
A **yes** vote on this proposition will amend the state constitution to establish the Permanent Technical Infrastructure Fund (Permanent Fund) and the Available Workforce Education Fund (Available Fund) as special funds outside of the General Revenue Fund to support the Texas State Technical College System.

A **no** vote opposes the changes to the state constitution as described above.

Supporters

- **Corporations**
- Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas, Inc

Organizations

- Associated General Contractors- Texas Building Branch
- NFIB
- Texas Association of Builders
- Texas Construction Association
- Texas Economic Development Council
- Texas Realtors

Source of information: https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_2025_ballot_measures

Proposition 3-(SJR 5) A Denial of Bail for Certain Violent or Sexual Offenses Punishable as a Felony Amendment

This amendment allows judges to deny bail in certain felony cases under specific conditions.

The amendment would add the following lists of offenses to the **state constitution** for which a person could be denied bail if a judge or magistrate determines that bail is insufficient to deter the accused from failing to appear in court:

- murder
- capital murder
- aggravated assault resulting in serious bodily injury to the victim of performed with a firearm, club, knife, or explosive
- aggravated kidnapping, robbery, and sexual assault
- indecency with a child
- human trafficking

It would also allow denial of bail, after a hearing and clear and convincing evidence, if bail is deemed insufficient to ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, or alleged victims.

Are there any existing conditions or offenses where an accused could be denied bail?

Section 11 of Article 1 of the Texas Constitution guarantees all prisoners the right to bail with 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 they were indicted for
- a person accused of a felony with a deadly weapon after being convicted of a prior felony
- a person accused of a violent sexual offense committed while under the supervision of a criminal justice agency of the State or a political subdivision of the State for a prior felony.

  Bail can also be denied or revoked if the offender is accused of a felony or an offense involving family violence and they violate the conditions of release.

Supporters

Officials

- Governor Greg Abbott (R)
- State Senator Joan Huffman (R)
- Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot (D)
- Comal County Criminal District Attorney Jennifer Tharp
- Lt. Governor Dan Patrick (R)

Unions

- Austin Police Association
- Dallas Police Association
- San Antonio Police Officers Association
- Texas Police Chiefs Association

Organizations

- Crime Stoppers
- Sheriffs Association of Texas
- Texas Municipal Police Association
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
- The Professional Bondsman of Texas

Opponents

Organizations

- Texas Civil Rights Project
- Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- Texas Jail Project
- Texas Policy Research

Source of information: Ballotpedia.org

A YES vote supports amending the state constitution to deny bail to individuals accused of certain violent or sexual offenses that are punishable as a felony.

A NO vote opposes the amending of the state constitution to make the above changes.

Proposition 5: Property Tax Exemption on Retail Animal Feed Amendment

This amendment would add a section 1-s of the state constitution. The text following would be added. (Section 1-s(a) *The legislature by general law may exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.)*

HB 1399 is the implementing legislation for this amendment, so it won't take effect if the amendment does not pass.

There appears to be no current opposition campaign for this resolution.

A yes vote supports amending the state constitution to authorize the state legislature to pass a property tax exemption on animal feed held by the property owner for retail sale.

A no vote opposes the amending the state constitution to authorize the state legislature to pass a property tax exemption on animal feed held by the property owner for retail sale.

Supporters:

Officials- State Representative Cody Harris (R)

Corporations- Colony Ranch Supply, Inc.

Organizations-

Texas Farm Bureau (AGFUND)

Texas Policy Research

Texas Policy Research: "By reducing a targeted tax burden on agricultural retailers, this measure promotes free enterprise and strengthens private property rights. Though exemptions should be used cautiously, this permissive amendment gives the Legislature flexibility to deliver fairer tax treatment without mandating new spending."

Ballotpedia.org

Proposition 7- Establish Homestead Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Veterans Killed by a Service- Connected Disease Amendment (2025)

Texas Proposition 7- the **Establish Homestead Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Veterans Killed by a Service-Connected Disease Amendment,** is on the ballot in Texas as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 4, 2025.

What Your Vote Means:

A "**yes**" vote supports amending the state constitution to authorize the state legislature to establish a property tax exemption on all or part of the market value of the homestead of a surviving spouse of a veteran who died from a service-connected disease.

A "**no**" vote opposes amending the state constitution to authorize the state legislature to establish a property tax exemption on all or part of the market value of the homestead of a surviving spouse of a veteran who died from a service-connected disease.

Have Texans decided on similar amendments before?

Between 1972 and 2021, Texas voters decided on 8 constitutional amendments related to tax exemption for veterans. All 8 were approved with at least 69% of the vote.

How do property tax exemptions work in Texas?

A homestead property tax exemption reduces the taxable value of a residence. State law defines residence homestead as a structure (including a mobile home) or a separately secured and occupied portion of a structure; any land the structure is on, not to exceed 20 acres; and improvements used in the residential occupancy of the structure if the structure and land are owned by the same person.

Ballotpedia has not located arguments in opposition to the ballot measure. You can share arguments, along with source links for this information with us at editor@ballotpedia.org

Constitutional Changes

The measure would amend section 1-b of Article 8 of the state constitution. See Ballotpedia for a copy of the section of the current Texas Constitution for proposed amendment.

Texas Proposition 9-Authorize $125,000 Tax Exemptions for Tangible Property Used for Income Production Amendments (2025)

Texas Proposition 9, the Authorize Tax Exemption for Tangible Property Used for Income Production Amendment, is on the ballot in Texas as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 4, 2025.

A **yes** vote supports amending the state constitution to authorizes the state legislature to exempt $125,000 of the market value of personal tangible property used for income production from taxes.

A **no** vote opposes amending the state constitution to authorize the state legislature to exempt $125,000 of market value of personal tangible property used for income production from taxes.

How would Proposition 9 change the tax exemption on property used for income production?

Currently, the Texas Constitution authorizes the Texas State Legislature to exempt tangible personal property used for income production if it has a taxable value of less than the minimum amount needed to cover the costs of administering taxes on the property, which is about $2,500. Proposition 9 would amend the constitution to authorize the state legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation $125,000 of the market value of tangible personal property used for the production of income.

The state legislature also passed the implementing legislation for Proposition 9, House Bill 9 (HB9), during the regular session. It would take effect on January 1, 2026, if Proposition 9 is approved. To read more about HB9, click here.

Who Supports and Opposes Proposition 9?

Americans for Prosperity, Huffines Liberty Foundation, Texas Apartment Association, Texas Association of Manufacturers, Texas Oil & Gas Association, Texas Policy Research, and Texas Restaurant Association **support** Proposition 9. Texas Policy Research said, “By reducing taxes on productive assets, this amendment promotes free enterprise, supports private property rights, and aligns with limited government principles. It provides targeted relief for small businesses and entrepreneurs, encouraging investment and job creation without imposing direct costs on the state.

Harris County Commissioners Court and Travis County Commissioners Court oppose Proposition 9.

Source of Information Ballotpedia

Texas Proposition 13, Increase Homestead Tax Exemption Amendment (2025)

Texas Proposition 13, the Increase Homestead Tax Exemption Amendment, is on the ballot in Texas as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 4, 2025.

A **yes** vote **supports** amending the state constitution to increase the property tax exemption from $100,000 to $140,000 of the market value of a homestead.

A **no** vote **opposes** amending the state constitution to increase the property tax exemption from $100,000 to $140,000 of the market value of a homestead.

What would the amendment do?

The amendment would authorize the state legislature to increase the homestead property tax exemption from $100,000 to $140,000. The legislature passed **Senate Bill 4**, the implementing legislation, during the 2025 legislative session. It would take effect if the amendment is approved.

In order to qualify for a homestead property exemption in Texas, the home must be the principal residence of the individual and can include up to 20 acres of land. The individual must also have an ownership interest in the property.

If a property's assessed value is $300,000, under the proposed amendments, $140,000 would be deducted from the assessed value for a new taxable amount of $160,000.

How much revenue is collected from property taxes in Texas?

Texas does not have a state property tax. Local governments, such as school districts, cities, and counties, are authorized to levy property taxes in the state. The rate of local taxes is applied to the taxable value after any exemptions are deducted. In fiscal year 2023, $81.4 billion was collected in property taxes in Texas, nearly half (48.5%) was collected by school districts.

When was the last time the homestead exemption was increased?

Texas voters approved **Proposition 4** by 2023 by a margin of 83% to 16.6%, increasing the exemption from $40,000 to $100,000. Since 1997, Texans have approved four amendments to increase the homestead property tax exemptions. They were all approved with at least 83% of voters.

If approved, the homestead exemption for school district property taxes from $100,000 to $140,000. The increased exemption would take effect on January 1, 2025 and applies only to a tax year beginning on or after that date.

Supporters

Officials

- Governor Greg Abbott (R)
- State Senator Paul Bettencourt (R)

Organizations

- Americans for Prosperity
- South Texans' Property Rights Association
- Texas Association of Builders
- Texas Policy Research
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
- Texas Realtors
- The LIBRE Initiative

Opposition

Ballotpedia has not located a campaign in opposition to the ballot measure.

Source: [Ballotpedia]

Texas Proposition 15, the **Parental Rights Amendment,** is on the ballot in Texas as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 4, 2025.

A **yes** vote **supports** amending the Texas Constitution to provide that parents have the right "to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing" and the responsibility "to nurture and protect the parent's child."

A **no** vote **opposes** amending the Texas Constitution to provide that parents have the right "to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's "upbringing" and the responsibility "to nurture and protect the parent's child."

What would Proposition 15 add to the state Constitution?

The amendment would add language to the state constitution to provide that parents have the right "to exercise care, custody, and control of the parents' child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing" and the responsibility "to nurture and protect the parent's child".

Texas is one of the 25 states that have a **Parent's Bill of Rights** in state law. The law provides that parents have the right to access their child's student records, copies of state assessment, and teaching materials, among other provisions.

Who supports and opposes Proposition 15?

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission, Family Freedom Project, Texans for Vaccine choice, Texas Eagle Forum, Texas Home School Coalition, Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Texas Right to Life PAC registered in support of the resolution during the legislative session. Jeremy Newman, director of public policy for the Texas Home School Coalition: "This is a priority because, currently, the constitutional rights of parents are found only in case law, which is controlled by judges. Those rights could disappear if we have bad judges who make it into office. Adding parental rights to the Texas Constitution is a critical protection for these most foundational rights that families have, which are essential to the functioning of our society."

Ballotpedia has not located a campaign in opposition to the ballot measure.

Constitutional Changes

The measure would add a Section 37 to Article 1 of the Texas Constitution.

Supporters

Officials

- State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R)

Organizations

- Baptist General Convention of Texas Chrisitan Life Commission
- Family Freedom Project
- Texans for Vaccine Choice
- Texas Eagle Forum
- Texas Home School Coalition
- Texas Policy Research
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
- Texas Right to Life PAC
- Texas Values

Arguments

- **State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-1):** The amendment would "provide clarity for lawyers, judges, and parents. Parents' constitutional rights are scattered over a hundred years of case law. This resolution is designed to put all well established law in one place in the Constitution.
- **Jeremy Newman, director of public policy for the Texas Home School Coalition:** "This is a priority because, currently, the constitutional rights are found only in case law, which is controlled by judges. Those rights could disappear if we have bad judges who make it into off…. Adding parental rights to the Texas Constitution is a critical protection for these most foundational rights that families have, which are essential to the functioning of our society.
- **Texas Policy Research:** "Proposition 15 affirms individual liberty, personal responsibility, and limited government by codifying parental rights and ensuring state action in narrowly constrained. It empowers families to guide their children's upbringing without unwarranted interference from public institutions

Opposition:

Ballotpedia has not located a campaign in opposition to the ballot measure.

Proposition 17-Property Tax Exemption for Border Security Infrastructure Amendment (2025)

Texas Proposition 17, the **Property Tax Exemption for Border Infrastructure Amendment,** is on the ballot in Texas as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 4, 2025

A "**yes**" vote **supports** allowing the Texas State Legislature to exempt from property taxes increases in a property's value- located in a county bordering Mexico- that results from building or installing border ***security infrastructure***.

A "**no**" vote **opposes** allowing the Texas State Legislature to exempt from property taxes increases in property value- located in a county bordering Mexico-that results from building or installing border ***security infrastructure***.

Overview

What would Proposition 17 do?

Proposition 17 would amend Article 8 of the state constitution to authorize the state legislature, through law, to provide a property tax exemption for an increase in property's value as a result of installing or construction of border security infrastructure or related improvement on a property in a county bordering Mexico. The amendment would authorize the state legislature to define *border security infrastructure* and to pass additional eligibility requirement for exemption.

The Texas State Legislature passed the implementing legislation, House Bill 247, during the 2025 legislative session. You can read the details of the **bill here**.

Who supports and opposes Proposition 17?

South Texans' Property Rights Association, Texas Farm Bureau (AGFUND), and Texas Policy Research endorsed Proposition 17. Texas Policy Research said, "Proposition 17 respects private property rights, individual liberty, and limited government by preventing tax penalties for landowners who choose to invest in border security. While exemptions should be used sparingly, this one is well-targeted and permissive, offering relief without expanding state program or spending.

True Texas Project registered in opposition to Proposition 17 during the legislative session. Ballotpedia has not located arguments in opposition to the ballot measure.

Ballot Title

The ballot title is as follows.

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.

Constitutional Changes

The measure would amend Article 8 of the constitution.

Supporters:

Officials

- State Representative Ryan Guillen

Organizations

- South Texans' Property Rights Association
- Texas Farm Bureau (AGFUND)
- Texas Policy Research

Arguments

- **Texas Policy Research:** "Proposition 17 respects private property rights, individual liberty and limited government by preventing tax penalties for landowners who choose to invest in border security. While exemption should be used sparingly, this one is well-targeted and permissive, offering relief without expanding state programs or spending.

- **State Rep. Ryan Guillen (R-31):**"H.J.R. 34 seeks to ensure that property owners supporting border security efforts are not financially penalized for their contributions by providing a property tax exemption for the value added to property through the construction or installation of border security infrastructure and related improvements."

Opposition

Ballotpedia has not located a campaign in opposition to the ballot measure.

Organizations

- True Texas Project

Proposition 11- Increase Homestead Tax Exemption for Elderly and Disabled Amendment (2025)

Texas Proposition 11, the Increase Homestead Tax Exemption for Elderly and Disabled Amendment is on the ballot as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 4, 2025

A "**yes**" vote **supports** amending the state constitution to increase the property tax exemption from $10,000 to $60,000 of the market value for homesteads owned by elderly or disabled individuals.

A "**no**" vote **opposes** amending the state constitution to increase the property tax exemption from $10,000 to $60,000 of the market value for homesteads owned by elderly or disabled individuals.

How do property tax exemptions on homesteads work in Texas?

A homestead property tax exemption reduces the taxable value of a residence. State law defines residence. State law defines residence homestead as a structure (including a mobile home) or a separately secured and occupied portion of a structure; any land the structure is on, not to exceed 20 acres; and improvement used in the residential occupancy of the structure, if the structure and the land are owned by the same person.

In addition to the elderly and disabled property tax exemption, the Texas Constitution authorizes a general homestead exemption of $100,000, which is also available to residents 65 years and older and disabled persons. This means the taxable value of a residence owned by a person 65 years or older or disabled is currently reduced by $110,000. In November, Texas voters will also be deciding on an amendment to increase the general homestead tax exemption from $100,000 to $140,000, raising the combined exemption for elderly and disabled persons to $200,000 if both amendments are approved.

Who supports and opposes Proposition 11

Proposition 11 was **endorsed by** South Texans' Property Rights Association, Texas Association of Builders, Texas Realtors, and Texas Silver-Haired Legislature during the legislative process. Ballotpedia has not located arguments in support of the ballot measure.

Texas Policy Research **opposes** Proposition 11, saying, “While compassionate in intent, this measure shifts the tax burden onto younger and non-exempt Texans, expands state spending commitments without reform, and erodes tax equity. True relief should come through comprehensive reform-not piecemeal exemption that weaken limited government and fiscal discipline.

The measure would amend section1-b of Article 8 of the state constitution.

Information provided by Ballotpedia

Analysis of Constitutional Amendments
for Texas Ballot for November 4, 2025

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."

Explanation

The amendment clearly states that it would ban any taxation of capital gains meaning both the taxation of the profit from the sale of a capital asset and of the theoretical profit on an asset before a sale.

Pros

Republican-aligned organizations argue that a "Yes" vote is necessary to reinforce Texas's "pro-business" environment and maintain its status as an "economic leader". They assert that explicitly prohibiting a capital gains tax would prevent "capital flight," discourage investors and businesses from relocating, and ensure long-term certainty in the state's tax policy. The measure is also framed as a way to protect private property rights, help families build generational wealth, and prevent "double taxation" on assets purchased with already-taxed income.

Cons

This continues a sad string of constitutional amendments preventing any fair system of taxation in Texas. In 2019, voters approved an amendment that prohibited a state income tax and in 2023, an amendment banning a wealth or net worth tax passed.

It continues policies of fiscal irresponsibility by limiting the ability of future legislatures to make decisions and respond to unforeseen economic circumstances. The state's budget is heavily dependent on sales taxes, which account for over half of its general revenue. This reliance makes the budget highly volatile and susceptible to economic downturns, as sales tax revenue drops sharply during recessions. By permanently removing a good and socially balanced source of revenue, the amendment strips the state of a vital tool for fiscal management.

Bans on capital gains that originate in intergenerational wealth also undermine the idea of meritocracy as family background and not merit decide financial well-being.

The Texas tax system is already one of the most regressive in the nation. The current framework of sales and property taxes disproportionately burdens working families and low-income individuals, who spend a larger percentage of their income on taxable goods and services. It is also an unnecessary political stunt since no current legislative proposal to institute a capital gains tax exists.

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 Proposition would authorize the state legislature to allocate sales tax revenue that exceeds the first $46.5 billion with a maximum of $1 billion per fiscal year to the state water fund and authorize the state legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to adjust the amount allocated.

In plain English: Automatically sends state sales tax dollars into a special water fund to build pipelines, reservoirs, and shore up water supplies across Texas.

Pro: The Leg vote seems to be unanimous in approving the amendment. Texas's water supply is full of uncertainties. Leaking water pipes and deteriorating infrastructure plague the state's water systems. Prolonged droughts and record-setting heat waves are depleting the state's rivers. And a growing population is adding more stress to the system every day.

One state figure estimates there could be a severe shortage of municipal water by 2030 if there is recurring, record-breaking drought conditions across the state, and if water entities and state leaders fail to put in place key strategies to secure water supplies.

Con: The conservative leaning Texas Policy Research is a No for this proposition due to prioritizing limited government control over our lives.

Background: https://www.texastribune.org/series/texas-water-supply-drought/

https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_4,_Allocate_Portion_of_Sales_Tax_Revenue_to_Water_Fund_Amendment_(2025)

Proposition 6 - HJR 4

Ballot Language: "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."

Further explanation: would prohibit the Texas Legislature from passing laws that impose an occupation tax on certain entities transacting securities or a tax on certain securities transactions

Pros: With Texas' development of a fully integrated stock exchange, H.J.R. 4 proposes a constitutional amendment to ban new taxes on securities transfers and financial transactions, protecting Texans and businesses.

Cons: would make it harder for future legislatures to make tax policy by including a prohibition on securities transaction taxes in the state constitution. The state may experience an economic downturn and could benefit from having a securities transaction or occupation tax to raise revenues at that time." By adding the prohibition to the state constitution, any changes to the policy would require another constitutional amendment approved by two-thirds of state legislators and voters.

Texas Proposition 6 (2025) *Prohibit Taxes on Certain Securities Transactions Amendment*

Ballot Wording: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the Texas Legislature from imposing an occupation tax on a registered securities market operator or a tax on securities transactions."

Summary: This amendment would prohibit the Texas Legislature from enacting:

- Occupation taxes on registered securities market operators.
- Taxes on securities transactions.

It defines “security” based on federal law as of January 1, 2025. The amendment does *not* prohibit general business taxes, mineral taxes, insurance premium taxes, sales taxes, or document filing fees.

Pros:

- Reinforces Texas’s reputation as a low-tax state.
- May attract financial institutions and trading platforms.
- Prevents future legislatures from imposing transaction-based taxes that could affect investors.

Cons:

- Limits flexibility for future fiscal policy.
- Potential loss of a revenue stream for state programs.
- May disproportionately benefit financial sector entities over others.

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."

Explanation

The official purpose of this constitutional amendment is to permanently prohibit the Texas Legislature from imposing any tax on a decedent’s property, or on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift. An estate tax is paid by the deceased person's estate, while an inheritance tax is paid by the heir. Since Texas currently has no such taxes, this amendment is a preventive measure. The resolution makes two key exceptions: it does not apply to local ad valorem property taxes (the primary source of income for school districts, for example) or a tax on a motor vehicle gift.

Pros

Proponents, often from conservative and libertarian groups, argue that a "Yes" vote on Proposition 8 reinforces core principles of limited government and economic freedom. They assert that a tax on a decedent's property is a penalty on a lifetime of savings and that this amendment would prevent future legislative overreach. Supporters claim the measure would ensure "generational business continuity," protecting family farms and small businesses from being forced into liquidation to pay tax liabilities upon the owner's death. They also contend that such taxes discourage savings, stifle job creation, and could prompt wealthy individuals to leave the state, while this amendment would foster a more pro-business environment.

Cons

This constitutional amendment has similar implications as proposition 2. Proposition 8 is a strategic move to permanently restrict the state's ability to create a more equitable tax system. By constitutionally banning a tax on wealth transfer, it ties the hands of future legislatures, removing a potential tool to address public funding shortfalls. The state's current tax model relies heavily on regressive sales and property taxes, which place a disproportionate burden on low- and middle-income families. A state-level estate tax on the ultra-wealthy could provide a significant revenue stream to fund critical public services, such as public education, without increasing the burden on the average Texan. The argument that the tax would hurt small businesses is largely misleading, as any such tax would likely have a high exemption threshold, only affecting a very small number of businesses, certainly not what most people imagine a small business to be. There is also little evidence that such taxes discourage savings, stifle job creation, and prompt wealthy individuals to leave the state. While this rhetoric is common among Republicans, it is important to scrutinize the economic reality behind these claims. Currently, for example, the federal estate tax exemption is exceptionally high, at $13.99 million per individual in 2025, meaning the tax only affects an infinitesimally small number of the wealthiest Americans.

Proposition 10, Property Tax Exemption for Improvements to Homestead Destroyed by Fire Amendment

Ballot Wording

"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."

What the Proposition Would Do

- Amends Section 1-b, Article VIII of the Texas Constitution.
- Authorizes the Legislature to create a temporary property tax exemption for improvements made to a homestead that was completely destroyed by fire.
- Allows lawmakers to define the duration and eligibility criteria of the exemption through general law.
- Senate Bill 467 (SB 467) would implement the amendment if approved.

Pros

- Offers financial relief to homeowners rebuilding after a fire.
- Encourages timely reconstruction and recovery.
- Reinforces property rights and disaster resilience.

Cons

- Reduces local tax revenue, potentially impacting public services.
- Could create administrative complexity for appraisal districts.
- May raise equity concerns if not uniformly applied.

Proposition 12 SJR 27

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."

Explanation

This amendment would revise the structure and expand the authority of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC), the independent state agency that investigates and addresses misconduct by Texas judges and justices.

The key provisions of the proposed amendment include:

1. Structural Reform: the amendment would remove the requirement that the six members appointed by the Texas Supreme Court, with the advice and consent of the state Senate, be judges from specific courts. The 13 member SCJC would also increase the number of citizen appointees rising from five to seven. This aims to increase public oversight of the commission.
2. Enhanced Disciplinary Powers: The amendment grants the SCJC new authority to issue public, not private, sanctions—such as admonitions, warnings, and reprimands.
3. Mandatory Suspension: It changes the current discretionary power to a mandatory requiring the SCJC to immediately suspend a judge upon indictment by a state or federal grand jury for a felony or a misdemeanor involving official misconduct.

Pros

Proponents of Proposition 12 argue that these reforms are necessary to modernize judicial oversight and strengthen public confidence in the judiciary. The amendment is a response to concerns about "lack of public accountability" within the current system. By increasing the number of citizen appointees, the measure broadens public oversight and makes the commission more representative.

The new process to issue public sanctions is intended to expedite discipline in clear-cut cases of judicial misconduct and increase transparency for the public. Proponents contend this reinforces the principle that judges must be held personally accountable for their behavior, ensuring that misconduct has real consequences and strengthening judicial integrity. A more robust disciplinary process, they argue, contributes to a stable legal environment and supports public trust.

Cons

Opponents of the amendment raise significant concerns about due process and judicial independence. The ability to issue expedited public sanctions could damage a judge's reputation and career without affording them a full opportunity to defend themselves. This is viewed as a form of punishment that weakens civil liberties.

The mandatory suspension provision is seen as a particularly dangerous threat to judicial independence. It could allow politically motivated indictments—regardless of their merit—to automatically remove a judge from the bench. This risks turning a legal instrument into a political weapon and could lead to a judiciary that is more responsive to political pressure than to the rule of law. Critics note that while the goals are laudable, the expanded powers could be "misused" and risk undermining the judiciary if left unchecked.

Proposition 12 presents a conflict between two core principles: the desire for greater government accountability and the need to protect individual liberties and due process. While the amendment's aims of increased transparency and citizen oversight align with progressive values, its methods are deeply flawed.

The potential for procedural overreach and political misuse is substantial. The protections of due process and the independence of the judiciary are foundational to a fair and just legal system and should not be compromised. The risks posed by the mandatory suspension provision and the lack of a full process for public sanctions are too great.

Texas Proposition 14, the **Establish Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**

> A "**yes**" vote supports amending the state constitution to establish the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas with $3 billion from the general fund.
>
> A "**no**" vote opposes amending the state constitution to establish the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas with $3 billion from the general fund.

What would the amendment do?

The amendment would establish the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas in the state constitution and authorize the comptroller to allocate $3 billion from the general fund to the Dementia Prevention and Research fund created by the amendment to fund the institute. The amendment would task the institute with researching causes, means of prevention, and treatments for dementia and dementia-related diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.[2]

Have Texans voted on any similar amendments?

Texas voters approved a similar amendment to establish a state Cancer Prevention and Research Institute in 2007, with 61.4% of voters supporting the amendment. The institute was tasked with making grants to research the cause, develop cures, and find prevention protocols for cancer.

Arguments for this amendment

The amendment received endorsements from AARP Texas, Alzheimer’s Association, Texas Assisted Living Association, Texas Medical Association, Baylor Scott & White Health, Houston Methodist Hospital, and Texas Children’s Hospital during the legislative process. The amendment also received unanimous support from voting Democrats and 79.8% from voting Republicans during the referral process. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick(R) said, "I created DPRIT and made it a top priority for this legislative session after visiting with many Texans suffering from Dementia, along with their families. ... Texas will become the premier destination for Dementia prevention and research and Texans will have access to the best Dementia care in the world, right here at home. I am proud of the legislature's investment into this endeavor, and I know Texas families will benefit for generations to come."[3][4]

State Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D-141): "I don't know [any one] in this House who doesn't have a family member or a friend or a neighbor … impacted by dementia or Alzheimer's. This Constitutional Amendment gives us the funding to do the research so that we can give those persons who are impacted with these dreadful diseases a better quality of life."

Texas Policy Research and Texas Right to Know registered in opposition to the amendment. Texas Policy Research said in a statement, "While dementia research is an important issue and affects a large number of Texans and their families, this legislation creates yet another bloated bureaucracy, mirroring the failed Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)—which was embroiled in scandal and mismanagement almost from the start. Instead of learning from past mistakes, lawmakers are doubling down on a proven formula for government waste, inefficiency, and cronyism. ... For all the talk of fiscal conservatism, Texas lawmakers continue to grow government at an alarming rate. Instead of exercising discipline and restraint, they are pushing yet another taxpayer-funded bureaucracy with unlimited spending power and little oversight."[5]

Supporters

Officials

- State Sen. Joan Huffman (R)
- State Rep. Tom Craddick (R)
- State Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D)
- Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (R)

Corporations

- Baylor Scott & White Health
- Houston Methodist Hospital
- Texas Children's Hospital
- Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute
- Texas Medical Center

Organizations

- AARP Texas
- Alzheimer's Association
- Texas Assisted Living Association
- Texas Association of Business
- Texas Association of Health Plans
- Texas Medical Association
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Opponents

Officials

- State Rep. Brian E. Harrison (R)

Organizations

- Texas Policy Research
- Texas Right to Know

Arguments Against

- State Rep. Brian Harrison (R-10): "What good could be done in the private sector with the $3 billion instead of the government taking it, handing it to bureaucrats to spend as bureaucrats see fit? This is corporate welfare on steroids."
- Texas Policy Research: "While dementia research is an important issue and affects a large number of Texans and their families, this legislation creates yet another bloated bureaucracy, mirroring the failed Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)—which was embroiled in scandal and mismanagement almost from the start. Instead of learning from past mistakes, lawmakers are doubling down on a proven formula for government waste, inefficiency, and cronyism. ... For all the talk of fiscal conservatism, Texas lawmakers continue to grow government at an alarming rate. Instead of exercising discipline and restraint, they are pushing yet another taxpayer-funded bureaucracy with unlimited spending power and little oversight."
- Texas Policy Research: "While well-intentioned, this amendment expands the scope and permanence of government by embedding medical research funding into the Constitution. It bypasses the appropriations process, undermines limited government, and risks crowding out private innovation in healthcare without clear fiscal safeguards or performance accountability."

Background

Texas Senate Bill 5 (2025)

Senate Bill 5 (SB 5) is the enabling legislation passed during the 2025 legislative session. It would take effect if the amendment passes in November. SB 5 would establish the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) in the Health and Safety Code until its expiration on September 1, 2035. It would establish an oversight committee of nine members with three members each appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House. The appointments must include one person who is a physician or scientist with experience working with dementia-related diseases and persons affected by dementia-related diseases. SB 5 would require oversight members to also represent the cultural and geographical diversity of the state. The oversight committee would also be responsible for setting the priorities for each grant program. SB5 would also authorize the hiring of a chief executive officer for DPRIT and its employees.[7]

SB 5 passed in the Senate by a vote of 29-2 on March 5, 2025. The House passed an amended version on April 24, 2025, by a vote of 121-23, with six not voting or absent. The Senate concurred with an amended version on May 12 by a vote of 31-0.[7]

Democratic Support

100.0%

Republican Support

79.8%

Proposition 16 - SJR 37

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

The amendment would add noncitizens to the list of persons excluded from voting in the state found in Section 1 of Article 6 of the Texas Constitution. The list currently includes persons under the age of 18, those determined by a court to be mentally incompetent, and convicted felons subject to any exceptions by the state legislature.[2]

- **Pros:** Proposition 16 affirms individual liberty and limited government by clearly tying voting rights to citizenship and civic responsibility. It acts as a constitutional safeguard with minimal fiscal impact, reinforcing electoral integrity and state sovereignty. This Joint Resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that makes it crystal clear that if you are not a United States citizen, you're not allowed to vote in Texas.
- **Cons:** Adding the citizenship requirement to the state constitution would make changing the requirement more difficult in the future. Instead of passing a law to change the requirement, it would require a two-thirds vote in the legislature and voter approval of another constitutional amendment. Currently, under state law, voters must attest to being a citizen when registering to vote. It is a second-degree felony for a noncitizen to vote in the state under the law.[3]

Supporters

- Gov Abbott ("This Joint Resolution proposes a constitutional amendment that makes it crystal clear that if you are not a United States citizen, you're not allowed to vote in Texas.")
- the Republican Party of Texas,
- Americans for Citizens Voting,
- Texas Policy Research
- Texas Public Policy Foundation

Opponents

- Democratic Party of Texas
- Libertarian Party of Texas
- ACLU of Texas
- Common Cause of Texas

- Texas Civil Rights Project

For detailed information, see https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_16,_Citizenship_Voting_Requirement_Amendment_(2025)