

NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION ★ NOV. 4, 2025

Capital Funding for Technical Colleges ★ Denial of Bail ★ Water Fund ★ Various Tax Exemptions
★ Wealth Tax Ban ★ Securities Taxes Ban ★ Death Tax Ban ★ Capital Gains Taxes Ban ★ Commission on
Judicial Conduct ★ Dementia Prevention and Research ★ Parental Rights ★ Citizenship Voting

EARLY VOTING: Oct. 20–Oct. 31 ★ ELECTION DAY: November 4. Polls open 7 am to 7 pm

★ THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

The current version of the Texas Constitution was written in 1876 and has been amended over 500 times. Why so many amendments? Our Constitution limits the types of changes state lawmakers can make to laws. In order to change the Texas Constitution, the proposed amendments must pass both houses of the Legislature by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, and THEN be approved by a majority of Texas voters.

Unlike many other states, the Texas Constitution cannot be amended by citizen-led ballot initiatives, referendums, or petitions. Voting on amendments gives you a direct voice in our state government.

★ ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of South Central Texas. The League never supports or opposes candidates or political parties at any level of government.

★ VOTE411

The online, interactive version of the *Voters Guide* is at VOTE411.org. By entering your address, you can see the material covered here, check to see if your voter registration is up to date and accurate, and find your polling place.



★ VIDEOS ABOUT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Visit VOTE411.org and the League of Women Voters of Texas website at LWVTexas.org to watch short videos presented by young adults that break down each proposed constitutional amendment into clear explanations with pros and cons.

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

★ SIGN UP FOR VOTING REMINDERS!

To get voting reminders on your phone, text VOTERINFO to 512-595-3755.



★ SUPPORT THE VOTERS GUIDE

Help us fund the cost of this valuable resource for South Central Texas voters by making a secure donation online at lwvsouthcentraltx.org or by mailing the payment to the League of Women Voters of South Central Texas, PO Box 78, Hallettsville, TX 77964.



★ VOTERS GUIDE CONTENTS

Be a Texas Voter! 2	Helpful Contacts & Websites 14
Voter ID—What to take to the Polls 2	<i>Voters Guide</i> Policy 14
When & Where to Vote 3	About the League and the Voters Guide 15
Proposed Amendments to the Texas Constitution 5	<i>Voters Guide</i> Sponsors and Supporters 15
Local Propositions 13	Join the League 15
	<i>Support the Voters Guide</i> 16



BE A TEXAS VOTER!

Whichever way you choose to vote, be sure you are registered by checking at **VoteTexas.gov**! You must be registered before you can vote! Then vote in one of the following ways.

VOTE BY MAIL

- You can vote by mail if you are:
 - 65 years or older
 - Sick or disabled
 - Out of the county during early voting and on Election Day
 - Expecting to give birth within 3 weeks before or after Election Day
 - In jail, but otherwise eligible to vote.
- To vote by mail in Texas, you must apply every year! Go to **lwtexas.org/votembymail** for a vote-by-mail application and easy-to-understand instructions on voting by mail.
- If you decide to vote in person instead:
 - Take your mail ballot to your polling place during early voting or on Election Day to vote a regular ballot.
 - If you lose or forget your mail ballot, you can vote using a provisional ballot.
- Track your ballot at **VoteTexas.gov**! Note: If there is an error in your mail-in application or ballot, your county election office is required to notify you and instruct you how to fix it by mail, in person or via the online tracker.

VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

- You may vote early at any voting location in your county.
- Find polling places on your county election website or at **VOTE411.org**.
- If you have a disability, you may request to move ahead of other voters in line.
- If in line before the poll closing time, you must be allowed to cast a ballot.

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

- In some counties, you can vote at any polling place. In other counties, you can vote only at your precinct.
- Find polling places on your county election website or at **VOTE411.org**.
- If you have a disability, you may request to move ahead of other voters in line.
- If in line before the poll closing time, you must be allowed to cast a ballot.

VOTE IN PERSON USING CURBSIDE VOTING

- If you are physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring your health, you may park at the curbside voting parking space and call the number that is posted to ask that an election officer bring a ballot to the car. However, you must sign a form stating that you are physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring your health.
- After you mark your ballot, give it to the election officer or hand it to a companion to deposit in the ballot box for you.

VOTE EVEN IF YOU ARE A SUSPENDED VOTER

You can still vote if your voter registration is in suspense as long as you are registered in your county! "Suspense" means that your county voter registrar needs to confirm your voting address.

VOTE A LIMITED BALLOT

If you have moved to a new county and have not registered in that county by the registration deadline, you may be eligible to vote a limited ballot in your new county. A limited ballot is one that allows you to vote on candidates and measures that are on the ballot for both your former county and your new county, such as statewide and national races. Voting a limited ballot is only available during early voting at your county's main early voting polling place.



VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

You may use one of seven forms of photo ID, listed below.

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
- US Military Identification card containing your photograph
- US Citizenship Certificate containing your photograph
- US Passport (book or card)

Note:

- IDs may have expired up to four years.
- Persons 70 years or older may use an expired ID, regardless of expiration date.
- ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.
- The name on the photo ID should match the name on the list of registered voters or be "substantially similar". If your name doesn't match exactly, you can still vote but will need to sign a form stating you are the person on the list of registered voters.

If you are registered but do not have a photo ID and cannot reasonably obtain one, you may sign a form (described below) and present the original or a copy of one of the following documents with your name and address to vote a regular ballot:

- Texas voter registration card
- Certified birth certificate
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Any other government document such as an out of state driver's license or expired Texas driver's license.

The form to be filled out by registered voters without a photo ID is a "Voter's Declaration of Reasonable Impediment or Difficulty." You must mark on the form one of the following reasons for not providing a photo ID:

- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain an acceptable form of photo ID
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- Lost or stolen identification
- Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received.

VOTER HARASSMENT

- Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type.
- Poll watchers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues.
- If you are harassed, call or text Election Protection at 866-687-8683!

5202 © League of Women Voters of Texas | lwtexas.org

No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization from the League of Women Voters of South Central Texas. For permission to duplicate the Voters guide, please call us at 361-772-3228.

When & Where to Vote

Colorado County

Rebecka LaCourse, Election Administrator
Phone: 979-732-6860
<https://www.co.colorado.tx.us/page/colorado.elections>

EARLY VOTING

Monday, 10/20 - Saturday, 10/25, 7 am to 7 pm
Sunday, 10/26, 10:00 am to 4 pm
Monday, 10/27 - Friday, 10/31, 7 am to 7 pm

Cast your early vote at ANY of these locations:

Election Center (Main)
1117 Travis St, Columbus

Weimar City Hall (Branch)
106 E. Main St, Weimar

EL Community Center (Branch)
100 N. Walnut, Eagle Lake

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, 11/4, 7 am to 7 pm
You must vote at your assigned location on election day

Precincts 101, 102 & 103
Rice CISD Administration Office
1094 Raider Drive, Altair

Precincts 201 & 202
Weimar City Hall
106 E. Main, Weimar

Precincts 302, 303, 304 & 305
Colorado County Election Center
1117 Travis St., Columbus

Precincts 401 & 402
Eagle Lake Community Center
100 N. Walnut, Eagle Lake

DeWitt County

Election Administrator: Deidra McCollum
Phone: 361-275-0859
<https://www.co.dewitt.tx.us/page/dewitt.Elections>

EARLY VOTING

Monday, 10/20 - Friday, 10/24, 8 am to 5 pm
Monday, 10/27 - Wednesday, 10/29, 8 am to 5 pm
Thursday, 10/30 - Friday, 10/31, 7 am to 7 pm

Cast your early vote at this ONE location:

Elections Administration Office
115 N. Gonzales St., Suite A, Cuero

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, 11/4, 7 am to 7 pm
You may vote at ANY of the following locations on election day

Cuero Regional Hospital
Education Classroom
2550 N. Esplanade, Cuero

Harry O. Gibson Center
712 Forest St., Yoakum

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
234 N. Gohmert St., Yorktown

St. John Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville

Fayette County

Donna Macik, Elections Administrator
(979) 968-6563
<https://www.co.fayette.tx.us/page/fayette.Elections>

EARLY VOTING

Monday, 10/20 - Friday, 10/24, 8 am to 5 pm
Monday, 10/27 - Wednesday, 10/29, 8 am to 5 pm
Thursday, 10/30 - Friday, 10/31, 7 am to 7 pm

Cast your early vote at this ONE location:

Fayette County Elections Office
275 Ellinger Rd, La Grange
The early voting room is located at the back of the building.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, 11/4, 7 am to 7 pm
You must vote at your assigned location on election day

Precinct 101- La Grange North
La Grange City Hall Council Chambers
155 E. Colorado St., La Grange

Precinct 110 - 110 Warda
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 FM 1482, Warda

Precinct 112 - Plum
St Peter & Paul Parish Church Hall
136 Plum Church Rd, West Point

Precinct 201 - La Grange East
La Grange Church of Christ
646 E Hwy 71 Business, La Grange

Precinct 204 - Fayetteville
Fayette Community Center
202 West Main, Fayetteville

Precinct 207 - Roundtop
Round Top American Legion Hall
1503 North SH 237, Round Top

Precinct 301 - La Grange West
St Paul's Lutheran Church Education Bldg
427 S. Washington, La Grange

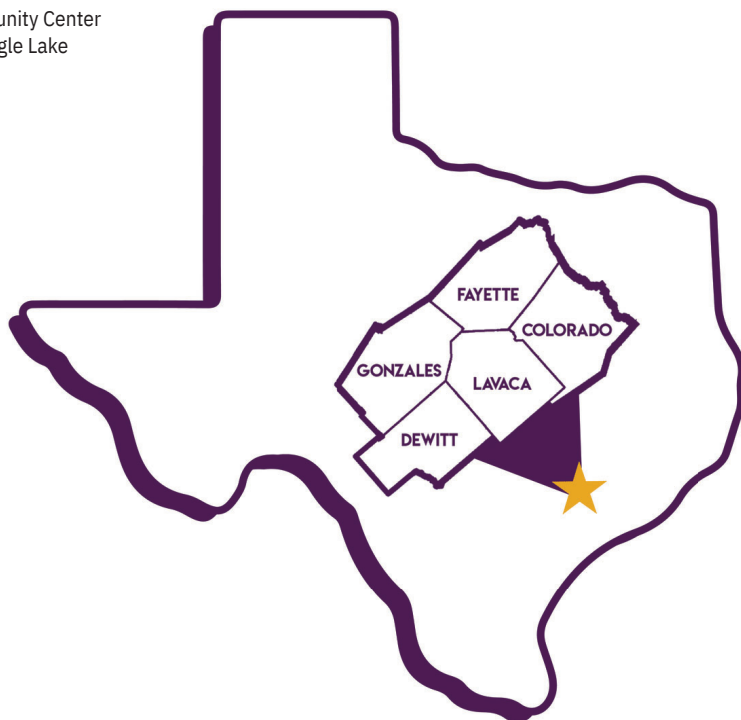
Precinct 315 - Cistern
St Cyril & Methodius Parish
113 Manchester, Cistern

Precinct 316 - Flatonia
Flatonia Civic Center
208 E North Main, Flatonia

Precinct 422 - Ammannsville
Ammannsville KJT Hall
7904 Mensik Rd, Schulenburg

Precinct 423 - Holman
Holman Parish Hall
9937 FM155, La Grange

Precinct 425 - Schulenburg
Schulenburg Public Library
310 Simpson St, Schulenburg



When & Where to Vote

Gonzales County

Gwen Schaefer, Elections Administrator
Phone: 830-519-4054
<https://www.co.gonzales.tx.us/page/gonzales.elections.admin>

EARLY VOTING

Monday, 10/20 - Friday, 10/24, 8 am to 6 pm
Monday, 10/27 - Wednesday, 10/29, 8 am to 6 pm
Thursday, 10/30 - Friday, 10/31, 7 am to 7 pm

Cast your early vote at ANY of these locations:

Randle-Rather Building
427 St. George St., Gonzales

Nixon City Hall
302 E. Central, Nixon

Waelder City Hall
300 Hwy 90 W, Waedler

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, 11/4, 7 am to 7 pm
You must vote at your assigned location on election day

Precincts 1, 14 & 15
Randle-Rather Building
427 St. George St., Gonzales

Precincts 2 & 11
Emmanuel Fellowship & School
820 St Joseph, Gonzales

Precincts 3, 5, 7 & 8
Gonzales City Hall
820 St. Joseph, Gonzales

Precincts 4/6, 10 & 13
Nixon City Hall
302 E. Central, Nixon

Precinct 9
Waelder City Hall
300 Hwy 90 W, Waedler

Precinct 12
Riverside Community Center
200 St. Lawrence

Lavaca County

Tenia Hudson, Elections Administrator
Phone: (361) 798-3594 phone
<https://www.co.lavaca.tx.us/page/Elections>

EARLY VOTING

Monday, 10/20 - Friday, 10/24, 8 am to 5 pm
Monday, 10/27 - Wednesday, 10/29, 8 am to 5 pm
Thursday, 10/30 - Friday, 10/31, 7 am to 7 pm

Cast your early vote at this ONE location:
Lavaca County Courthouse Annex
421 N. Texana, Hallettsville

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, 11/4, 7 am to 7 pm
You must vote at your assigned location on election day

Precinct 101
Lavaca County Courthouse
109 N. La Grange St., Hallettsville

Precinct 102
Senior Citizens Center
326 South La Grange, Hallettsville

Precinct 208
Moravia Parish Hall
11175 FM 957, Schulenburg

Precinct 309
Shiner Baptist Church
120 West 15th, Shiner

Precinct 311
Sweet Home Community Center
348 County Road 391, Sweet Home

Precinct 416
Hope Community Hall
122 CR 413A, Yoakum

Precinct 119
Baptist Church, Vienna
2767 CR 125, Hallettsville

Precinct 223
Moulton Community Center
102 Veterans Drive, Moulton

Precinct 329
Hoffie & Lank Public Library
Public Cultural Center
115 E Walters/Second St., Shiner

Precinct 430
Yoakum Methodist Church
1026 E. Gonzales, Yoakum

Precinct 231
Lavaca County Courthouse Annex
412 N. Texana, Hallettsville

A friendly reminder about polling place rules:

- No wireless devices
- No firearms
- No apparel or a similar communicative device relating to a candidate, measure, or political party, regardless of whether they are on the ballot or not.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

PROPOSITION 1

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

The Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System was established in 1965 to provide technical vocational education. It currently has 11 colleges across the state and offers two-year degrees and certificates in technical and vocational areas. 11,436 students attended Texas State Technical Colleges in 2023-2024.

If this proposed amendment were passed, it would use \$52 million to create a permanent fund to support the TSTC. Earnings from this fund will be used for capital projects such as buying land, buildings and equipment to support the educational programs offered by these colleges.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Provides a reliable source of funding for Texas State Technical Colleges.
- This fund would support a skilled workforce which is needed by Texas businesses and industry.
- A healthy technical college system helps Texans who desire a career in these fields.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- This money could be used to fund community colleges across Texas which already provide two-year degrees and certificates and serve as many as 700,000 students per year.
- Businesses should pay for their own job training and certifications.
- Money for the permanent fund should be returned to the taxpayers.

PROPOSITION 2

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

★ EXPLANATION

When a capital asset (an investment such as stocks, bonds, and real estate) increases in value, the increase is considered a capital gain. Realized capital gains are the profits made when the investment is sold. Unrealized capital gains are the potential profit that could be made if that investment was sold at its then current market value, even though it is not sold.

Texas does not currently tax either realized capital gains or unrealized capital gains, and the recent Legislature did not propose any such tax.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- The proposed amendment would help maintain Texas' reputation as a business friendly and tax friendly state.
- Taxing capital gains reduces incentives for savings and investments, and lowers economic growth.
- Putting this ban on capital gains taxes in the constitution would provide certainty for financial institutions interested in expanding in Texas.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- In the future, the Legislature would not be able to tax capital gains even if there were a budget deficit and these revenues were needed.
- This proposition is unnecessary because a capital gains tax is not being considered by the legislature.
- Not taxing capital gains shifts the tax burden from people with wealth or assets to those without wealth who are more impacted by sales taxes.

PROPOSITION 3

"The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."

★ EXPLANATION

Currently, denying bail typically requires a full trial, which makes it very rare. Therefore, if a defendant has the money to post bond, they must be released even if there is evidence the person may commit future violent crimes.

This proposed amendment would expand the options available to officials setting bail, including the option to deny bail to ensure the safety of the community. This would apply to individuals accused of murder and similar violent offenses.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Prevents high risk individuals from committing additional crimes while out on bail.
- By limiting the denial of bail to only the most serious offenses, it is assured that only those who pose the greatest risk are denied bail.
- There would be safeguards to protect defendants' rights, such as the right to be represented by counsel at bail denial hearings, the right to appeal, and provisions to protect a right to a speedy trial.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Judges currently have the discretion to set high bail amounts for individuals considered high risk, which can prevent their release.
- Denying bail to certain defendants could result in overcrowding of jails, requiring more taxpayer funding for additional jail staff.
- Being denied bail increases the costs for defendants and undermines the presumption of innocence.

PROPOSITION 4

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

The Texas Water Fund is a special fund created in 2023 and administered by the Texas Water Development Board to assist in financing water projects in Texas. This proposition would provide that in each fiscal year, the first \$1 billion of sales tax revenue in excess of \$46.5 billion would be allocated to the Texas Water Fund. This funding would continue through 2047, and would be used to address future water needs in Texas. The amount could be adjusted by the legislature with a two-thirds vote.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- The funds would be used to upgrade aging water infrastructure as well as for new water supply projects. This would address the shortfall between water demand and available water supply, and improve the safety of the water supply.
- Increasing Texas' water supply is critical to continued economic growth and to meet the needs of farmers in Texas.
- Provides reliable funding for long-term water supply and infrastructure projects.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- New water supply projects, such as seawater desalination and the reuse of produced water, could pose environmental risks if adequate safeguards are not put in place.
- This proposed amendment transfers oversight of the monies from the legislature to the governor-appointed Texas Water Development Board.
- Water conservation is a critical component of the strategy to meet future water needs in Texas, and is not addressed by this plan.



PROPOSITION 5

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

Under current law, animal feed is typically exempt from taxation at each location or transaction during its life cycle, from the field where it's harvested to the purchase of the feed by a farmer or rancher, *except* for when the feed is sitting in a store as inventory.

This proposed amendment seeks to address this inconsistency by amending the Texas Constitution to authorize the Texas State Legislature to exempt animal feed held by an owner for retail sale from personal property taxes.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Removing this tax would help lower prices for farmers and ranchers, who are already dealing with rising operational expenses.
- Animal feed is part of our food chain, of which other parts are exempt from property taxes.
- Due to the seasonal needs of the agricultural business, warehouses are fully stocked when property taxes are calculated. This results in higher taxes on sellers that are passed onto the consumers.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Inventory of other businesses is taxed as personal property since they are used to produce income. This proposition would treat those businesses unfairly.
- Exemptions for one group of taxpayers can unfairly shift the tax burden to other taxpayers.
- Inventory is constantly changing so the tax break cannot be easily measured.



PROPOSITION 6

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

Proposition 6 would amend the Texas Constitution by not allowing the state to tax securities transactions. Securities transactions are the buying and selling of financial assets such as stocks and bonds. Currently, no state levies taxes on securities transactions.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Many people rely on investments like 401(k)s and IRAs to save for retirement. A tax on securities transactions could reduce their profits and make it harder to save money.
- Adding a tax on buying and selling investments could increase costs, discourage trading, and reduce the value of people's investments, which might hurt the Texas economy.
- Making this ban part of the Constitution would give financial companies more certainty, help Texas attract more investment businesses, and create jobs.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- If this ban is added to the Constitution, the state would lose a tool it might need to deal with budget problems in the future.
- Not being able to tax financial transactions might mean the state has to rely more on sales taxes to raise money later on, which puts more of a tax burden on lower-income people.
- This amendment is not needed, since no one in the state government is actually trying to create this kind of tax right now.



PROPOSITION 7

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

This proposition would allow the Legislature to provide a property tax exemption for spouses of veterans who died from a condition or disease related to their service. This proposed amendment fixes a gap with respect to veterans who, while they do not qualify as fully disabled, died due to a condition or disease related to their service. These exemptions could be transferred to a subsequent property for an equal amount, but would apply only to a surviving spouse who had not remarried since the veteran's death.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Expanding the current property tax exemption for this group ensures fair treatment for these veterans and their families.
- While this would apply to a small population of qualifying surviving spouses and have minimal financial impact to the state, the exemption would benefit military communities.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Expanding property tax exemptions could reduce tax revenues for school districts and local taxing authorities, especially near communities with large populations of veteran families who could potentially qualify for the exemption.
- Exemptions for some property owners can shift the tax burden to other homeowners, making it harder for new buyers to afford homes.



PROPOSITION 8

"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

If passed, this amendment would prohibit the state of Texas from imposing a tax on the estate of a deceased person, commonly referred to as a "death tax". The state would still be able to impose or change real estate title and motor vehicle transfer taxes, or normal property taxes.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Avoids double taxation since inherited assets have often been taxed previously during the deceased person's lifetime.
- Would limit the impact on family-owned businesses, where heirs may struggle to pay the tax burden without liquidating the business.
- Inheritance taxes are complex. They cost time and money for the government to administer and for individuals to comply.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Inheritance taxes can generate revenue for the government to fund public services and reduce budget deficits.
- May reduce excessive wealth accumulation, potentially contributing to a more balanced distribution of wealth.
- Encourages individuals to save and invest more during their lifetime by not relying on expected inheritance.



PROPOSITION 9

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

Local taxing authorities, such as cities, counties, hospital districts, school districts and local college districts, tax personal property held or used for the production of income. This is a source of income used by these entities to pay for the services they provide to residents.

Business personal property that is held or used for the production of income includes inventory, computers, office furniture, manufacturing equipment, vehicles, machinery, and supplies. This does not include real estate. This tax is applied whether such personal property is owned or leased.

Currently \$2,500 of business personal property is exempt from ad valorem taxation by local taxing entities. This proposed amendment would increase that exemption to \$125,000 and would simplify the reporting requirements.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Raising the exemption to \$125,000 would ease the tax burden on small businesses, helping them keep more of their money to invest and grow.
- This would simplify tax reporting for small businesses with less than \$125,000 of personal property.
- The Legislature could use part of the state's general revenue to make up for any funding loss to school districts, ensuring they still receive adequate support.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- The Legislature did not provide additional monies to cities, counties, hospital districts, and college districts. To make up for the loss of revenue, these other local taxing entities may have to raise taxes or cut services.
- The Legislature may not be able to make up for the loss of funds to school districts should the economy slow and cause a budget deficit.
- This proposed amendment favors businesses at the expense of local residential taxpayers and taxing authorities.



PROPOSITION 10

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

If passed, this proposition would allow the legislature to pass a law that would exempt a home that has been destroyed by fire from property taxes for a period of time (to be determined by the legislature).

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- There is currently no process for tax assessors to recalculate a homeowner's tax bill if property is destroyed by a fire after the date of appraisal. The legislation allowed under this proposition would set forth such a process.
- This proposition would provide relief to homeowners whose property was appraised before a fire destroyed their home and substantially reduced its value.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- In order to obtain this exemption, the property must be completely destroyed. It does not grant relief to homeowners whose property was significantly damaged.
- The benefits of this tax break do not flow to owners of property destroyed by disasters other than fires, unless it is in a governor-declared disaster area.



PROPOSITION 11

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

This proposed amendment would authorize the state legislature to increase the property tax homestead exemption for persons who are age 65 or older or who have disabilities from the current \$10,000 to \$60,000. This amount is in addition to the regular homestead exemption.

In addition, the legislature plans to appropriate funds to reimburse impacted school districts. The additional tax exemption would take effect for the tax year that began January 1, 2025.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- This proposed increase in property tax exemption for the elderly and disabled helps to protect individuals on a fixed income to continue to own a home.
- The positive impact of this proposition will be widespread, expecting to reduce taxes for more than 2 million homeowners.
- The amendment allows the legislature to appropriate funds to reimburse public school districts so they do not experience a loss in funding.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Additional tax cuts reduce the money available for public services such as schools, healthcare, and infrastructure.
- An economic downturn could significantly change the state's financial position. The state should not count on its current budget surplus to make permanent spending commitments.
- Texas should consider limits to property tax payments based on a household's ability to pay. Not all senior adults or persons with disabilities are low income.



PROPOSITION 12

"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

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) is a Texas state agency that investigates judicial misconduct and disability.

This proposed amendment addresses who selects the members in the following ways:

- The number of appointees by the governor Increases from five to seven;
The number of appointees by the Texas Bar decreases from two to zero; and
The number of appointees by the Supreme Court will remain at six.
- All the above will be subject to the advice and consent of the Texas Senate.
- The minimum age of appointees will increase from 30 to 35.
- All seven judges who make up the Review Tribunal (responsible for reviewing the actions of the SCJC), will be appointed by the Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice. Currently the Review Tribunal judges are selected by various judges of the Texas Courts of Appeals.

This proposition would also make changes necessary to implement various reforms of Texas courts and to increase the base pay of district and other judges.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- By allowing the governor two more members rather than allowing the Texas Bar to appoint members, the public may have more influence in considering complaints against judges since the governor is elected.
- The judicial reforms passed related to this amendment could eliminate the backlog of complaints against judges by establishing timelines for investigation and decisions as well as increasing the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the judicial branch.
- Judges' base salaries could be adjusted under the new legislation without tying legislators' pensions to judicial salaries.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Giving the Governor power to appoint a majority of the members (7 of 13) of the SCJC concentrates too much power in the executive branch. While judges are independently elected by the people, this constitutional amendment could allow the Governor to influence how judges are disciplined if they disagree with him.
- The strengthened accountability measures that would be allowed may be an overreach by the legislative branch over the judicial branch.
- If passed, the costs to taxpayers of judicial salaries and new staff hired to support the work of the SCJC would increase.

PROPOSITION 13

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

A homestead exemption is the amount of the appraised value of a primary residence that is not subject to taxes by a local school district. Property taxes are typically calculated using the appraised value minus the exemption amount, thereby lowering a homeowner's overall taxes.

If passed, this amendment would increase the current homestead tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000. The law related to this proposed amendment requires that the state reimburse school districts for revenues lost due to this higher exemption amount.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Reducing property taxes may help low-income families to stay in their homes.
- The 2025 legislature has enacted \$8.5 billion in funding for school districts to help reduce reliance on property taxes for school financing.
- Without an increase in the homestead exemption, higher property values could increase a homeowners' tax bill even if tax rates do not change.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Shifting away from property taxes to fund public schools could result in higher sales taxes, higher taxes on businesses, or underfunding of public schools.
- Property tax reductions give no relief to renters, many of whom are struggling with high rents.
- Even with the \$8.5 billion in funding allocated to public schools by the legislature, Texas' public schools are underfunded. This situation could get worse should the Texas economy slow.

PROPOSITION 14

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

This amendment proposes establishing a Dementia Prevention Research Institute (DPRIT). The goal of DPRIT is to accelerate research that leads to breakthroughs in the prevention and treatment of dementia and related disorders.

DPRIT would be created with an initial \$3 billion investment that is anticipated to last at least 10 years. Up to \$300 million could be spent each year on research grants, facilities and operations. The fund will consist of money from the Legislature, investment income, grants, and gifts. Safeguards would be in place to ensure the grant money is awarded based on merit and is used properly.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- The need for more proven dementia prevention strategies and treatments is urgent, due to the state's aging population. More than 400,000 Texans suffer from dementia, expected to climb to 500,000+ by 2030. Dementia costs Texas families about \$3.9 billion a year and is not as well researched as other chronic diseases.
- DPRIT will accelerate innovation, expedite research, and attract top talent to the state.
- Texas could become a national leader in dementia research, with commercial potential that would benefit society.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Agency leaders will be appointed by politicians which could lead to distribution of money based on favoritism rather than scientific expertise.
- Rather than creating a new government agency/bureaucracy, the money should be returned to the citizens of Texas.
- Medical research should be left to the private sector and the free market.



PROPOSITION 15

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

★ EXPLANATION

Parents have constitutional rights to make decisions for their children based on federal case laws. Because laws can change over time, including the rights of parents, the Texas Constitution would permanently establish the right of parents to raise and educate their children.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- This proposition would clearly affirm the primary authority of parents over their children and would limit the power of the government to make decisions for children.
- This proposition could establish that parents have the right to decide what values and ideas are taught to children in public schools.
- Children are best raised and educated by parents who know each child's needs.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- If approved, this amendment could disrupt public school education due to parents trying to control curriculum and rules for all children based on their own beliefs and ideas.
- The rights of parents are already established based on years of court decisions and numerous laws.
- Elevating the rights of parents to the constitutional level could prevent necessary intervention to protect children from abuse and neglect.



PROPOSITION 16

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

★ EXPLANATION

The Texas Constitution does not explicitly state that non-citizens cannot vote in state or local elections. However, to vote in state and local elections you must be registered to vote and to register you must be a citizen.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- Those in favor of this proposition are concerned that some states allow non-citizens to vote in local elections. This amendment would prevent Texas counties and cities from allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections.
- Adding this amendment to the constitution would make it difficult to change in the future.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- This amendment is unnecessary because non-citizen voting is extremely rare and already illegal in Texas.
- Citizenship is already required for voter registration and is verified by state and local procedures.



PROPOSITION 17

"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."

★ EXPLANATION

Currently, Texas makes a one-time payment to property owners that voluntarily sign an easement contract to host the border wall. There is no tax exemption available to property owners for the assessed value of the property for border security infrastructure. The resolution would authorize the Legislature to define "border security infrastructure" and define additional eligibility requirements for the exemption. The resolution will only apply in counties along the Texas-Mexico border.

★ ARGUMENTS FOR

- This proposition would encourage private property owners to support border security efforts.
- The tax exemption would cover any potential increase in property value from border infrastructure constructed for the property owner.
- The proposed amendment does not reduce the appraised value of the existing property.

★ ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Exempting property value from the tax rolls would narrow the tax base and could shift the tax burden onto other property owners or reduce revenues for local public services.
- Border security infrastructure and exemption qualifications are not defined and therefore are subject to legislation interpretation.
- Militarization of the border may be encouraged by granting property tax relief for border wall infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSITIONS THAT MAY BE ON YOUR BALLOT

FAYETTEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT- PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate for maintenance and operations of \$0.655 per \$100 taxable assessed valuation in Fayetteville Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of (-0.5%) percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional (-\$14,949).

HALLETTSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE. Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.907362 per \$100 valuation in Hallettsville Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 10.65 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$736,648.

MOULTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.86711 per \$100 valuation in Moulton Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 8.6122 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$616,621.86.

NIXON-SMILEY CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.07460 per \$100 valuation in Nixon-Smiley Consolidated Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 10.9742 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$1,717,457.78.

YOAKUM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSITION A:

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.04385 per \$100 valuation in the Yoakum Independent School District for the current year for salaries and instructional enhancements, a rate that will result in an increase of -10.5920 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional -\$1,296,271.



HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

League of Women Voters of South Central Texas
lwvsoutycentraltx.org

League of Women Voters of Texas
lwwtexas.org

Texas Secretary of State
VoteTexas.gov

Your County Election Websites:

Colorado: <https://www.co.colorado.tx.us/page/colorado.elections>
DeWitt: <https://www.co.dewitt.tx.us/page/dewitt.Elections>
Fayette: <https://www.co.fayette.tx.us/page/fayette.Elections>
Gonzales: <https://www.co.gonzales.tx.us/page/gonzales.elections.admin>
Lavaca: <https://www.co.lavaca.tx.us/page/Elections>

Election Protection
866OURVOTE.org

Voter Hotlines!

- English: 866-OUR- VOTE or 866-687-8683
- Spanish: 888- Ve-Y-Vota or 888-839-8682
- Asian: 888-API-VOTE or 888-274-8683
- Arabic: 844-YALLA-US or 844-925-5297
- Disability Rights TX: 888-796-VOTE or 888-796-8683

Remember to take your photo ID with you when you go to your polling location to vote.



VOTERS GUIDE POLICY

To create this Constitutional Amendment *Voters Guide*, each ballot proposition is researched and written by League volunteers, subject to review by a committee, including the League of Women Voters of Texas President and Director of Voter Education. We strive to:

- Provide fair and balanced coverage of the proposed amendments by reviewing enabling legislation, using a variety of resources and reaching out to authors and/or sponsors, supporters and opponents.
- Use understandable and unbiased language.





About the League of Women Voters and This Voters Guide

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For over 100 years, the League's mission has been to support active and informed citizen participation in government. The League believes that voting is a vital part of Making Democracy Work.

The League of Women Voters of South Central Texas publishes the Voters Guide to help each voter cast an informed vote. This Voters Guide contains information about the voting process and the propositions and candidates who will appear on the ballots in our South Central Texas area.

No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization of the League of Women Voters of South Central Texas.

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.



Join the League!

We invite you to become part of our nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. Membership is open to everyone in our area, age 16 and older, regardless of gender or political affiliation.

Our flexible membership structure ensures accessibility for all community members, with a minimum annual membership of \$20 and a recommended rate of \$75.

Together, we can make our voices heard and strengthen our democracy. Join online at lwvsouthcentraltx.org or mail your membership contribution to PO Box 78, Hallettsville, TX 77964.



LWV of South Central Texas Board & Leadership Team

Janis Richardson (Lavaca County) - Founder & Co-President
Helen Niesner (Fayette County) - Co-President & Women Making History
Cindy Meredith (Lavaca County) - Treasurer & VOTE411 Coordinator
Susan Weber (DeWitt County) - Secretary
Jaci Elliott (Lavaca County) - Membership & Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator
Belinda Pustka (Lavaca County) - Development/Lavaca County Liaison
Karen Bookout (Fayette County) - Fayette County Liaison
Marilyn Vandever (DeWitt County) - DeWitt County Liaison
Catherine Burns (Fayette County) - Voters Guide Coordinator

VOTERS GUIDE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Voters Guides are funded by the League of Women Voters of South Central Texas, a 501(c)(3) corporation that is supported by contributions and grants.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Second Chance Emporium in La Grange for their generous grant support, and to The Fayette County Record staff for their expert assistance with layout and printing. The League of Women Voters of South Central Texas also thanks the League of Women Voters of Texas for providing essential information about the 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution in this election.

We deeply appreciate everyone who provided funding support through donations to make this Voters Guide possible, and we invite you to join your fellow South Central Texas voters in supporting this vital resource.

Special recognition goes to our dedicated members whose personal donations and volunteer time make our work possible.

League of Women Voters of South Central Texas
PO Box 78, Hallettsville, TX 77964
Phone: 361-772-3228
Email: contactus@lwvsouthcentraltx.org
Website: lwvsouthcentraltx.org

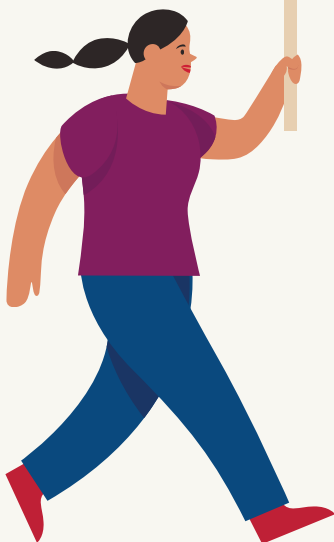


Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

THE LEAGUE IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE THIS
VOTERS GUIDE FREE OF CHARGE

SUPPORT THE VOTERS GUIDE WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

Your
VOTE
is Your
VOICE



**Please join other voters in
supporting the Voters Guide.**

Make your tax-deductible donation to
LWV South Central Texas.

ONLINE

www.lwvsouthcentraltx.org

MAIL your check to:

PO Box 78, Hallettsville, TX 77964

