



NOVEMBER 2025 TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS EXPLAINED



In Texas, a Constitutional Amendment Election is a process where citizens vote on proposed changes to the Texas Constitution. These amendments are introduced by the Texas Legislature during regular or special sessions and are then placed on the ballot for voter consideration.

Each proposed amendment addresses specific issues, such as taxation, property rights, government functions, and other legal issues. Voters have the power to either approve or reject each measure. Once it is approved by the voters, the amendment is permanently added to the Texas Constitution.

PROPOSITION 1: (SJR 59)

Establish Special Funds for State Technical College System

SUMMARY: Would create two special funds to help Texas technical colleges build or improve buildings and train more technical workers for in-demand jobs

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Builds skilled workforce and supports the state economy
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Sets aside money that could be used elsewhere

PROPOSITION 2: (SJR 18)

Prohibit Capital Gains Tax on Individuals, Estates, and Trusts

SUMMARY: Would ban the Texas government from creating a new tax on money people make from selling stocks, property, or other investments (even if those go up in value but don't get sold yet)

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Protects savings and investments from being taxed unfairly
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May limit state government's option to tax wealthy investors

PROPOSITION 3: (SJR 5)

Denial of Bail for Certain Violent or Sexual Offenses Punishable as a Felony

SUMMARY: Would deny bail to people accused of certain violent or sexual felony offenses

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Improves public safety by keeping people accused of serious violent crimes from being released before trial
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Could increase jail overcrowding and related costs for counties by keeping people in jail for long periods before trial even if they haven't been convicted

NOTES

[illegible]

PROPOSITION 4: (HJR 7)

Allocate Portion of Sales Tax Revenue to Water Fund

SUMMARY: Would allow extra money from sales tax revenue to be put aside to take care of state water problems

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Saves for future water needs without raising taxes
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May limit flexibility in using extra funds generated, reduces future tax relief opportunities

PROPOSITION 5: (HJR 99)

Property Tax Exemption on Retail Animal Feed

SUMMARY: Would mean business owners who sell animal feed (hay, grain, pet food, etc.) do not pay property taxes on the feed they sell

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Helps small businesses and feed stores by lowering their costs
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May reduce a source for local tax revenue

PROPOSITION 6: (HJR 4)

Prohibit Taxes on Certain Securities Transactions

SUMMARY: Would ban the state from creating a tax on buying or selling stocks, bonds, or similar investments

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Protects investors and keeps Texas attractive for finance
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May remove future option to tax wealthy investors

NOTES

[illegible]

PROPOSITION 7: (HJR 133)

Establish Homestead Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Veterans Killed by a Service-Connected Disease

SUMMARY: Would allow the spouse of a veteran who died from a service-related illness to get a property tax break on their home

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Honors military families and helps spouses stay in homes
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May reduce tax revenue and could lead to similar demands for exemptions

PROPOSITION 8: (HJR 2)

Prohibit Estate Taxes and New Taxes on Estate Transfers, Inheritances, and Gifts

SUMMARY: Would ban the Texas Legislature from taxing a deceased person's property or money before it's passed on to their family or next of kin

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Prevents taxing property again after death
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May remove a potential revenue source from large estates

PROPOSITION 9: (HJR 1)

Authorize Tax Exemption for Tangible Property Used for Income Production

SUMMARY: Would allow small business owners to avoid paying property taxes on the first \$125,000 of business equipment

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Helps small businesses save money
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Could reduce local tax revenue, may lean to benefit businesses with expensive equipment

NOTES

[illegible]

PROPOSITION 10: (SJR 84)

Homestead Exemption for Improvements Made to Residence Destroyed by Fire

SUMMARY: Would give temporary property tax relief to people who rebuild or repair their homes after they were destroyed by a fire

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Helps families recover financially
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May reduce local revenue temporarily

PROPOSITION 11: (SJR 85)

Increase Homestead Tax Exemption for Elderly and Disabled

SUMMARY: Would let elderly and disabled Texans save more money on property taxes by increasing tax exemption from \$10k to \$60k

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Helps Texans on fixed incomes
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Could reduce school funding unless replaced by state funds

PROPOSITION 12: (SJR 27)

Change Membership and Authority of State Commission on Judicial Conduct

SUMMARY: Would entirely change who serves on the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct, create a temporary review panel to double check decisions made, and give state lawmakers more control over how judge complaints are handled

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Adds checks and balances and legislative oversight
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May risk politicizing judicial discipline and reducing court independence

NOTES

[illegible]

PROPOSITION 13: (SJR 2)

Increase Homestead Property Tax Exemption

SUMMARY: Would increase the amount of a person's home value that is exempt from property taxes from \$100,000 to \$140,000

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Lowers property taxes
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Could reduce funds for local services unless replaced by state funds

PROPOSITION 14: (SJR 3)

Establish Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

SUMMARY: Would create a state “Dementia Prevention and Research Institute” with \$3 billion pulled from the state general fund

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Dedicated funding ensures long-term program stability and prevents research programs from being cut during budget shortfalls
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Research funding should come from federal sources or private organizations rather than a permanent state fund

PROPOSITION 15: (SJR 34)

Parent Rights

SUMMARY: Would amend the Texas constitution to say 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”

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Protects parental authority
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Could limit intervention in cases of child abuse or neglect

NOTES

[illegible]

PROPOSITION 16: (SJR 37)

Citizenship Voting Requirement

SUMMARY: Would change the Texas constitution to say that only U.S. citizens can vote in Texas elections

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Clarifies voting eligibility
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** Unnecessary since non-citizens already can't vote, could discourage civic participation

PROPOSITION 17: (HJR 34)
Property Tax Exemption for Border Security Infrastructure

SUMMARY: Would allow the state to exempt land surrounding and construction built on the Texas-Mexico border from property taxes increases

- **SUPPORTERS SAY:** Lowers costs for border security projects
- **OPPONENTS SAY:** May reduce local revenue streams and benefits only certain areas

NOTES

[illegible]



The Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) is dedicated to providing high-quality, cost-effective educational services to school districts, educators, government and non-profit organizations in Harris County.

Through schools for students with profound special needs, Head Start early childhood education, school-based therapy services and afterschool programs, HCDE supports all area school districts in meeting the needs of uniquely challenged learners while saving them millions of dollars each year through shared services. The Department is an innovative leader of literacy and workforce development programming for adult learners across the county. HCDE also provides various other educational support services including professional development for educators, school safety programs, educator certification, records management, and a national purchasing cooperative.

HCDE impacts an average of 150,000 students and educators each year. Using fees for service, grants, and the purchasing cooperative, HCDE turns one dollar of property taxes into five dollars of services.

HCDE is separate and distinct from other agencies of Harris County. The Department's primary service area covers 1,788 square miles but also provides support to school districts, education service centers and other governmental agencies across Texas and the nation.

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