

Your Guide to Texas Constitutional Amendments on the November 4 Ballot

This November, Texans will vote on a series of constitutional amendments that could shape our state's economy, government accountability, and individual freedom for years to come. The Huffines Liberty Foundation has carefully reviewed each measure to help citizens cut through the noise and make informed choices. To be adopted into the Texas Constitution, every amendment must win approval from a majority of voters.

Proposition 1: Technical College Infrastructure Funds

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Creates two separate funds for the Texas State Technical College System, one to finance facilities and land, and the other for workforce training. They would be launched with money from state revenue and managed outside the normal budget process.

Cost: \$850 million

Proposition 2: Ban on Capital Gains Taxes

Ballot Language: “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust.”

Summary: Prohibits Texas from ever adopting a state tax on capital gains, whether realized or unrealized. Texas doesn't currently tax such income, so this measure functions as a permanent safeguard.

Proposition 3: Denial of Bail

Ballot Language: “The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.”

Summary: Authorizes judges to deny bail to defendants facing certain major felonies—including murder and human trafficking—if prosecutors prove release would create a public risk or likelihood of escape.

Proposition 4: Diverts Sales Tax Revenue to Water Infrastructure Projects

Ballot Language: “The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue de-

rived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.”

Summary: Redirects up to \$1 billion annually from existing sales tax receipts into a new Texas Water Fund to support infrastructure projects. The allocation would occur automatically each year until 2035 unless extended by lawmakers.

Cost: \$1 billion per year.

Proposition 5: Property Tax Exemption for Retail Animal Feed

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Permits the Legislature to exempt from property taxes any animal feed held for resale by retailers. The amendment doesn’t require the exemption but authorizes lawmakers to enact one in the future.

Proposition 6: Prohibition on Securities Taxes

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.”

Summary: Bars the state from creating new taxes on securities transactions or from levying occupation taxes on brokers and exchanges. It would prevent any future financial-market transaction taxes at the state level.

Proposition 7: Homestead Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Veterans

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Allows the Legislature to exempt the homestead of a surviving spouse if a veteran died from a condition presumed to be service-related under federal law. The exemption could carry forward if the spouse later moved to another homestead and remained unmarried.

Proposition 8: Ban on Estate, Inheritance, and Gift Taxes

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Permanently prohibits Texas from enacting estate, inheritance, or gift taxes. Like the capital gains amendment, it locks current policy into the Constitution to prevent future reintroduction.

Proposition 9: Property Tax Exemption for Business Property

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Enables the Legislature to exempt up to \$250,000 of income-producing personal property—such as equipment and tools—from local property taxation, offering relief particularly for small businesses.

Proposition 10: Property Tax Exemption for Fire Damage

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Authorizes lawmakers to provide temporary property tax exemptions on homestead improvements that are completely destroyed by fire. The exemption would cover only the value of the destroyed structure, not the land.

Proposition 11: Homestead Exemption for Over 65 & Disabled

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Raises the additional school property tax exemption for elderly or disabled homeowners from \$10,000 to \$60,000. The state would replace the lost revenue for school districts.

Proposition 12: State Commission on Judicial Conduct

Ballot Language: “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."

Summary: Restructures and enlarges the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, adding more public representation and stronger powers to issue sanctions. It also allows suspension of judges who are indicted for certain crimes.

Proposition 13: Increased Homestead Exemption

Ballot Language: "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."

Summary: Raises the school district homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000, lowering taxable value for homeowners. The state would reimburse school districts for the revenue reduction.

Proposition 14: Dementia Research Institute

Ballot Language: "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."

Summary: Creates a Dementia Prevention and Research Institute, funded with \$3 billion from general revenue plus up to \$300 million per year. The fund would be outside the state's normal spending cap and dedicated to research on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and related illnesses.

Cost: \$3 billion, plus up to \$300 million annually.

Proposition 15: Parental Rights

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

Summary: Affirms in the state constitution that parents are the primary decision-makers in raising their children. The government could interfere only if it demonstrates a compelling interest pursued in the least restrictive way.

Proposition 16: Citizenship Requirement for Voting

Ballot Language: “The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.”

Summary: Explicitly states in the constitution that only U.S. citizens may vote in Texas elections, reinforcing what is already established in statute.

Proposition 17: Tax Relief for Border Security Improvements

Ballot Language: “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.”

Summary: Allows the Legislature to exempt from taxation the added value of property in border counties when owners install border security infrastructure or improvements.



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