

★ NOVEMBER 4, 2025 BALLOT: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ★

Proposition 1: Establishing higher education funding in restricted use funds

SJR 59, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Establishes the Permanent Technical Institution Fund and the Available Workforce Education Fund as special funds in the state treasury to support the Texas Technical College System.

Supporters Say: The amendment would provide essential funding for Texas State Technical College to expand programs and facilities, address local workforce shortages, improve access to technical education, and strengthen the state's economy, especially since TSTC lacks other major funding sources and has struggled to fully develop new campuses.

Opponents Say: It would unnecessarily increase government spending and create permanent funding outside the regular budget process, limiting future legislatures' control over funding levels.

Proposition 2: Prohibiting income tax

SJR 18, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Bans taxes on realized or unrealized capital gains for individuals, families, estates, or trusts, while allowing property taxes and sales/use taxes.

Supporters Say: It would protect Texas' pro-business environment by explicitly banning capital gains taxes, preventing policies that could discourage investment, slow growth, cause capital flight, and expand government funding.

Opponents Say: It would unnecessarily limit future legislatures' flexibility, remove a potential revenue source, and risk reducing tax collections, potentially allowing some businesses to avoid paying franchise taxes.

Proposition 3: Denying bail for certain felonies

SJR 5, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Denies bail for certain violent or sexual offenses punishable as a felony.

Supporters Say: It would allow judges to deny bail in the most serious felony cases—such as murder, aggravated sexual assault, and human trafficking—by requiring prosecutors to meet strict evidentiary standards to show that release would endanger public safety or risk flight, aligning with federal practices, protecting defendants' rights to counsel and appeal, and addressing cases where dangerous offenders on bond have committed new crimes.

Opponents Say: It would expand pretrial detention for people not yet convicted, burden defendants, and weaken the presumption of innocence without ensuring greater public safety. They argue it could worsen racial disparities, overcrowd jails, raise costs, delay trials, and allow old nonviolent offenses to be used against defendants, while judges already have tools to restrict release.

Proposition 4: Reallocating sales tax revenue towards the State Water Fund

HJR 7, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Requires the Comptroller, for 20 years, to deposit \$1 billion annually from state sales and use tax revenue into the Texas Water Fund when collections exceed \$46.5 billion, with restrictions on use, a separate account requirement, legislative appropriation for spending, and fixed allocation rules for the first 10 years (changeable only during a disaster).

Supporters Say: It would create a sustainable, dedicated funding source to address Texas' growing water infrastructure needs, protect water security, and support population and economic growth. They argue investing now would prevent shortages, attract business, create jobs, and ensure long-term stability amid rising costs and uncertain federal funding.

Opponents Say: It would not provide enough funding to meet the state's long-term water needs or clearly prioritize new water supply development.

Proposition 5: Establishing tax exemptions for animal feed

HJR 99, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Establishes a property tax exemption on animal feed held by the owner of the property for retail sale.

Supporters Say: Exempting animal feed held by retailers from property tax would lower retailer costs, prevent seasonal tax spikes, and make feed more affordable for Texas farmers and ranchers.

Opponents Say: It would give feed sellers an unfair tax break since most other inventory is still subject to property tax.

Proposition 6: Prohibiting business taxes on certain securities transactions

HJR 4, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Prohibits the enactment of laws that impose occupation or transaction taxes on SEC- or CFTC-regulated securities market operators, such as stock exchanges and brokers, while preserving existing state tax authority, to support potential establishment of national stock exchanges in Texas.

Supporters Say: Banning a financial transaction tax would protect Texas' business-friendly climate, encourage investment, and safeguard retirement savings. They argue such taxes raise costs, reduce market efficiency, and hurt economic growth, while Texas has funded services without imposing them.

Opponents Say: It limits future legislatures' ability to make tax policy, removes a potential revenue source during downturns, keeps reliance on property taxes that burden working-class Texans, primarily benefits the wealthy, worsens the state's regressive tax system, and signals that working families are not the priority.

Proposition 7: Establishing property tax exemption for widows or widowers of a veteran

HJR 133, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Establishes a property tax homestead 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 condition or disease.

Supporters Say: It ensures all surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-related conditions receive the same property tax exemption, correcting exclusions caused by the PACT Act. They add it honors veterans' service, applies to a narrow group, and would have minimal fiscal impact.

Opponents Say: Expanding the exemption to spouses of deceased veterans could shift a greater tax burden onto other taxpayers, especially in areas with large veteran populations.

Proposition 8: Prohibiting death tax on the transfer of inheritance

HJR 2, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Prohibits the enactment of laws that impose death taxes on a decedent's property or transfer of estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift.

Supporters Say: Banning a death tax would ensure heirs keep inherited property, prevent burdensome tax avoidance measures, and stop the government from taxing the same assets multiple times.

Opponents Say: Prohibiting a death tax that does not exist is unnecessary, could limit future legislatures' options, and should not be addressed through a constitutional amendment, as amendments should be reserved for the most critical issues affecting the state.

Proposition 9: Establishing tax exemption for property used for income production

HJR 1, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Establishes a tax exemption of \$125,000 of the market value of personal tangible property used for income production.

Supporters Say: Raising the business personal property tax exemption would provide relief for small businesses, encourage growth and investment in Texas, reduce administrative burdens, and have only a minor impact on tax revenue, with economic benefits outweighing losses.

Opponents Say: Increasing the exemption would shrink local tax rolls, potentially forcing higher rates that shift the burden to homeowners, and reduce state revenue by requiring the state to cover school district losses.

★ ELECTION DAY – NOVEMBER 4 ★

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Early voting begins on Monday, October 20, 2025, and ends Friday, October 31, 2025. For more information on voting and the proposed amendments, please visit the Texas Secretary of State's website at www.votetexas.gov.

For more information, condensed analyses, and additional comments in Support or Opposition of the proposed Constitutional Amendments, visit TLC.TEXAS.GOV



Proposition 10: Providing a temporary tax exemption for improvements made to a house destroyed by a fire

SJR 84, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Provides a temporary homestead exemption for improvements made to residences destroyed by fire.

Supporters Say: It would let property appraisals be adjusted after a home is destroyed by fire, providing immediate financial relief to affected homeowners.

Opponents Say: No opposition.

Proposition 11: Increasing property tax exemption for elderly and disabled property owners

SJR 85, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Increases the property tax exemption from \$10,000 to \$60,000 of the market value for homesteads owned by elderly or disabled individuals.

Supporters Say: Raising the residence homestead exemption for elderly and disabled Texans would improve housing affordability, help them remain in their homes, and provide clear, visible tax relief without reducing school district funding.

Opponents Say: The tax cut is unnecessary given recent reductions, could reduce funds for public services, and relies on a surplus that may not last. They note it excludes renters, is not a precise way to target low-income individuals, and creates a recurring state obligation that could strain future budgets.

Proposition 12: Changing the composition of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct

SJR 27, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Changes the composition of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, providing for a temporary tribunal review of the Commission's recommendations, and changing the authority governing judicial misconduct.

Supporters Say: It would reform the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to improve transparency, accountability, and fairness by adding public representation, limiting private sanctions, and enabling swifter, more effective action against judicial misconduct.

Opponents Say: Giving the governor more SCJC appointments than the Texas Supreme Court could increase politicization, and that most commissioners should be judges to ensure proper evaluation of judicial conduct.

Proposition 13: Increasing the homestead property tax exemption

SJR 2, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Increases the property tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 of the market value of a homestead.

Supporters Say: Raising the school district homestead exemption would give homeowners significant, broad-based tax relief, help offset inflation and rising local rates, and support elderly Texans on fixed incomes. They add it could boost the housing market, aid first-time buyers, and lower rents, while the state would replace any lost school district revenue.

Opponents Say: It would cut revenue for public services, exclude renters and commercial property owners, and risk shifting the tax burden. The state should invest surplus funds in services, future school funding could be at risk, and lasting relief requires limits on local spending and tax hikes.

Proposition 14: Establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

SJR 3, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Establishes the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas with \$3 billion from the state general fund.

Supporters Say: Creating the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas would invest in urgent research on preventing and treating dementia,

attract top talent, create jobs, and improve quality of life. Texas has high rates of Alzheimer's and limited neurological care, and the institute could bring economic and health benefits similar to the state's cancer research institute, using funding from the current budget surplus.

Opponents Say: It creates an open-ended financial risk outside the proper scope of government, with other priorities more deserving of public funds. Private industry and universities can address dementia research without state involvement, and a new bureaucracy modeled after CPRIT could face even greater accountability, efficiency, and favoritism problems.

Proposition 15: Affirming a parent's right to make decisions for their child

SJR 34, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Provides that parents have the right "to exercise care, custody, and control of their child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing."

Supporters Say: Adding parental rights to the Texas Constitution would give parents a clear, permanent legal foundation, make them easier to defend in court, and provide clarity to avoid costly litigation, without changing existing rights.

Opponents Say: It fails to address children's rights and could allow the government to condition parental rights on whether it deems parental responsibilities have been fulfilled.

Proposition 16: Clarifying that a voter must be a US citizen

SJR 37, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Clarifies that "persons who are not citizens of the United States" cannot vote.

Supporters Say: Adding a citizenship requirement to the Texas Constitution would safeguard voting rights, improve voter confidence, and provide clear enforcement guidance. It would align with existing law, protect against trends allowing noncitizen voting elsewhere, and uphold the right to vote as a fundamental liberty.

Opponents Say: It is unnecessary since laws already limit voting to U.S. citizens and noncitizen voting is rare. It could cause confusion or discourage participation among eligible voters, contribute to anti-immigrant rhetoric, and set a precedent for using constitutional amendments for symbolic purposes rather than essential needs.

Proposition 17: Providing a property tax exemption for the construction of border infrastructure

HJR 34, 89th Regular Session

Summary: Authorizes the state legislature to provide a property tax exemption for the construction of border infrastructure on property located in a county that borders Mexico.

Supporters Say: It would prevent higher property taxes for landowners who host border security infrastructure, encouraging voluntary participation without financial penalty. The exemption would apply only to the added value from the infrastructure in border counties and would not affect the property's existing appraised value.

Opponents Say: The state should not use tax exemptions to encourage more border security infrastructure on private land. The exemption would narrow the tax base, potentially shift the burden to other property owners, and could force local governments to raise tax rates, making broad-based tax relief a better approach.



SENATOR NATHAN JOHNSON

DISTRICT 16

ROOM 4E.2 • P.O. BOX 12068 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0116 • District16.Johnson@senate.texas.gov

DISTRICT OFFICE: 12222 MERIT DRIVE • SUITE 1010 • DALLAS, TEXAS 75251
(972) 701-0349

JOHNSON.SENATE.TEXAS.GOV