



WE THE PEOPLE

WYLIE ★ AND ★ MURPHY

Texas Constitutional Amendments on November 2023 Ballot

Proposition #1

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>HJR 126 "The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."</p>	<p>According to the TLO fiscal analysis, this amendment has no fiscal implications other than cost of publication.</p> <p>The Author's statement of intent for this amendment states: <i>"Farmers and ranchers who engage in production agriculture within municipal boundaries are being subjected to broad over regulation by municipal ordinances that prohibit and greatly restrict normal practices of agricultural operations, such as the raising and keeping of livestock, the production of hay, and the cultivation of certain row crops. H.J.R. 126 seeks to address this issue and empower landowners in the state by constitutionally protecting their right to engage in certain generally accepted agricultural practices on their own property."</i></p> <p>The amendment does not prevent the legislature or authorized state agencies from regulating these activities for specific purposes in the future.</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: NEUTRAL</p>	

Proposition #2

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>SJR 64 "The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."</p>	<p>This amendment has no fiscal implications to the state other than the cost of publication. However, it does have fiscal implications for cities and counties who adopt the exemption.</p> <p>This amendment allows cities and counties to exempt appraisal values of childcare facilities from property taxes. Exempting certain types of businesses from taxes puts a greater burden on the remaining taxpayers. Exemptions like this have governments picking winners and losers. Government needs to stay out of the way!</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST</p>	



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Proposition #3

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>HJR 132 "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."</p>	<p>According to the TLO fiscal analysis, this amendment has no fiscal implications other than cost of publication</p> <p>This amendment will prevent the legislature from imposing wealth tax on individuals or families (like California has done).</p> <p>Texans are already taxed at every level of earning and spending, and a wealth tax would be a tax on success. But this is another one of those things that has me asking "why do we need a constitutional amendment for this?"</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: FOR</p>	

Proposition #4

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>HJR 2 from the second special session "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."</p>	<p>According to the TLO fiscal analysis, this amendment has no fiscal implications other than cost of publication. However, it does have fiscal implications for school boards.</p> <p>This is the one from 2nd special session that is called "The Biggest Tax Relief Bill in Texas History". (it isn't!). It contains 4 parts: (1) temporary limit on appraisal value of non-homesteaded properties; (2) increase homestead exemptions for school taxes to \$100,000; (3) exempt certain appropriations to pay for tax relief from the constitutional growth limitation; and (4) authorizes the legislature to provide for a 4-year term of office for a member of the board of certain appraisal districts.</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: FOR</p>	



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Proposition #5

Ballot Wording	What it Means
HJR 3 "The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."	<p>This amendment will cost \$412 million the first year (taken from the rainy-day fund), and then about \$120 million per year after that.</p> <p><i>This proposition is one of several that establish a "fund" for some particular purpose, and keeps the spending off budget. To keep from breaking the spending limit, they've hidden that spending in these Constitutional Amendments, so they can tell voters they didn't bust the spending limit.</i></p>
VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST	

Proposition #6

Ballot Wording	What it Means
SJR 75 "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."	<p>This amendment will cost taxpayers \$1 Billion.</p> <p>This is another one of the "fund" amendments that became an amendment so they wouldn't have to show spending in the budget.</p>
VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST	

Proposition #7

Ballot Wording	What it Means
SJR 93 "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."	<p>This amendment will cost taxpayers \$5 Billion.</p> <p>See Proposition 5 above. This fund would incentivize construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities. It provides loans and grants to electric generating companies. We already subsidize renewable and traditional electric generation with about \$6 Billion per year.</p>
VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST	



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Proposition #8

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>HJR 125 "The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."</p>	<p>This amendment will cost taxpayers \$1.5 Billion.</p> <p>See Proposition 5 above. Another "fund" amendment, but this one is flat out corporate welfare. Why should tax payers subsidize phone companies to expand service so the phone companies can turn around and make more money off the expanded service customers? Besides, Elon Musk is building satellites as fast as you can say "twitter is now X", that will cover the rural areas, so phone company internet is soon going to be obsolete. We lobbied against this legislation during the session as crony capitalism and government interference</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST</p>	

Proposition #9

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>HJR 2, regular session "The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."</p>	<p>This amendment will cost taxpayers \$5 Billion</p> <p>Provides a cost-of-living adjustment to the teachers who are receiving retirement benefits.</p> <p>Everyone likes teachers! It's hard to say no to helping them cope with inflation since they have not had a raise in several years. But it will cost the state billions. So you decide. Just know that if you vote against this amendment, it means that you hate teachers.</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: NEUTRAL</p>	



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Proposition #10

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>SJR 87 "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."</p>	<p>This amendment will cost taxpayers \$29 million in the first 2 years, then approximately \$40 million annually.</p> <p>Like proposition #2, this amendment grants property tax exemptions to a certain industry – medical supply equipment.</p> <p>Exempting certain types of businesses from taxes puts a greater burden on the remaining taxpayers. Exemptions like this have governments picking winners and losers.</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST</p>	

Proposition #11

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>SJR 32 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."</p>	<p>According to the TLO fiscal analysis, this amendment has no fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of publication. It potentially could have a financial impact on the citizens of El Paso County in the form of higher property taxes to support bonds.</p> <p>How did this end up as a constitutional amendment? It feels like a local issue. But in 2003, the constitution was amended, giving conservation & reclamation districts in certain counties the ability to issue bonds for parks and recreation. El Paso was not included, so this amendment adds El Paso County to the counties enumerated in the legislation.</p> <p>We generally oppose all bonds, and this amendment would provide additional capacity for El Paso County to increase taxes to fund parks and recreation facilities with new bonds. Texans are taxed enough already. Even in El Paso County!</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST</p>	



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Proposition #12

Wording Ballot	What it Means
<p>HJR 134 "The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."</p>	<p>According to the TLO fiscal analysis, this amendment has no fiscal impact for the State. Galveston County anticipates savings if the amendment passes.</p> <p>This amendment would abolish the position of County Treasurer in Galveston County, which was requested by the current County Treasurer of Galveston County in the last campaign. In order for the amendment to pass, it needs not only a majority vote of the whole State, but also a majority vote in Galveston County.</p> <p>The current Treasurer campaigned on a promise to eliminate his position, which prompted this legislative action. Since one less government position means less government, it's probably a good thing. So, my position is NEUTRAL, leaning towards FOR. (If I lived in Galveston County, this would be a total FOR)</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: NEUTRAL</p>	

Proposition #13

Ballot Wording	What it Means
<p>HJR 107 "The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."</p>	<p>Indeterminate, since we cannot know how many judges would elect to serve longer.</p> <p>This amendment raises the current mandatory retirement age for State Justices and Judges from 75 to 79.</p> <p>While it's nice to take advantage of the collective wisdom of the older judges, there is the risk of aging issues affecting the judicial system. The State could benefit from new, younger candidates, so I'll leave this one as NEUTRAL (because I can't make up my mind! You decide.)</p>
<p>VOTER RECOMMENDATION: UNSURE</p>	



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Proposition #14

Ballot Wording	What it Means
SJR 74 "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."	This amendment will cost taxpayers \$1 Billion Another "fund" amendment so I'll refer you to "fund" amendment comments above.
VOTER RECOMMENDATION: AGAINST	