

ANALYSIS OF 14 TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS
NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION

To start off, I would like to encourage you to do your own research on these amendments. We have to become educated constituents of our government. Do your own research and come to your own conclusions. Here's some guidelines on how I have been able to effectively research constitutional amendments in Texas:

1. **Read the bill the ballot item is based on.** At least read the whole proposition not just the 'title' on the ballot.
2. **See who is supporting and who is opposing the measure.** What legislators wrote the bills this Proposed Constitutional Amendment is based on? What other bills did they author or sponsor during session? This tells you if they are a Democrat who has dramatically different values than you do, or if they are a "RINO - Republican In Name Only" or if they align with your conservative values & ideals.
3. **Most critically, see who is funding the measures.** A great example is the text message I received two days ago encouraging me to Support Propositions 6, 7 and 8. This text message was sponsored by Texans for Opportunity who I'm not familiar with. As I began to look at the people on their board I did not get any red flags but I dug further into where their contributions were coming from and I found that Texans for Opportunity received **\$250,000** from Sands Hotel and Casino of Las Vegas and **\$25,000** from Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR). You remember in May that research showed TLR was a major player in funding the Impeachment attempt of Paxton. That alone may give you reservations about supporting Proposition Number 6, 7 and 8.
4. **Think about the philosophy behind what you are reading.** Does it promote Liberty and Capitalism or does it take taxpayer money to further government control and give certain specific businesses an advantage because that is a principle of Socialism.
5. **Also, what are key phrases in the text?** If it talks about 'animal rights' could that be part of the Green New Deal where animals will eventually have more rights than humans?
6. **If you are still not sure seek out experts.** Even after 4 sessions - (8 years) of working on issues in the legislature I didn't feel equipped to give advice to other people, so I interviewed experts, watched videos, and read articles from people on both sides of the issues.
7. **Watch what you're being fed because their PR is dangerous to your health.** The other side is masterful at doing things like naming a tax increase the Prosperity for Americans Act. It sounds good But Stop and Consider- is taking money from your pocket a positive thing for you? It might be for a certain Special Interest group but not for 'you or Americans'.

MY POSITION RECOMMENDATIONS:

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
1	"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management"	"AGAINST"

POSITION RATIONALE:

I am sure that my position on this amendment comes as quite a surprise and is the opposite of what you had expected. I would ask that you please read my explanation fully and come to your own conclusion. In my research on this proposition, I have, at times, felt really conflicted. As I was doing my research, I continued having second thoughts about supporting this amendment, yet I still did not feel that I knew enough to recommend you vote in opposition to the opinions of such prominent and trusted entities like the farming & ranching industry associations, our own [District 28 State Senator Charles Perry](#), and our [Agriculture Commissioner, Sid Miller](#). So, in order to resolve my conflicts, I dug deeper and followed the same advice that I have given you above about researching for yourself. The following is my comprehensive research and it has convinced me to vote against Proposition 1.

RIGHT FROM THE START, I AM SUGGESTING THAT YOU STRONGLY CONSIDER VOTING AGAINST THIS PROPOSITION OR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. **Most of the farming and ranching industry associations are in favor of it!** It seems counterintuitive because if the NCBA ([National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#)) is in favor of Proposition 1 you would assume they would be on the side of the small farmer and rancher but they are not.. Read on...
2. **The proposition is being pushed by the [Texas Farm Bureau](#).** I was told that under current law, if the home I live in is on my farm or my homeowner's insurance policy covers the entire property. In contrast to that, if Proposition 1 passes, then I will be required to buy a specific insurance policy for my farm or ranch separate from my homeowner's insurance policy (this fact is "conveniently" beneficial to Texas Farm Bureau that sells just such insurance). Let me be clear, I heard that from only one source, and I haven't independently confirmed that fact. What I do know is that according to a **2017 Academic Report**, 88% of [S&P 500 companies](#) are owned by [BlackRock](#), [Vanguard](#), and [State Street](#), and that includes the [Texas Farm Bureau](#). This means these three companies have significant influence over the business decisions and strategies of the companies they have majority ownership in, which may in turn affect the level of competition and consumer welfare in the market. These are the same financial firms that loan money to countries based on their [E.S.G. Scores](#) (Environmental Social Governance Score) which take into account how much emphasis a company places on environmental

issues, social justice concerns, and corporate governance. Understand that Texas Farm Bureau is one of the main proponents of Proposition 1.

3. **The “protected rights” in this proposition will not limit the legislature’s ability to use Eminent Domain to take your private property.**
4. **The amendment has [Biden 2030 Agenda](#) language built into it**, that is, [Biden’s 2030 agenda](#), which is for the government [take over 30% of private property and agricultural land by the year 2030](#). This was confirmed at the Stop 30 x 30 Summit.
5. **The Oklahoma State Legislature defeated a bill with nearly the same wording a few years ago**, and after educating the public on the dangers of government overreach this amendment could cause and the potential dangers to individual farmers and ranchers, they defeated the measure by 60+%.
6. **[RCALF USA](#) head Shad Sullivan states that “Proposition 1 protects antitrust violators from being prosecuted** and AFB (American Farm Bureau) and TFB (Texas Farm Bureau) are all for this. I was called a misinformation spreader by a Farm Bureau representative, a NCBA ([National Cattlemen’s Beef Association](#)) representative, a TSCRA ([Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association](#)) representative, and a TCFA ([Texas Cattle Feeders Association](#)) representative. They are all using the small farmers & ranchers to get everything they want. These organizations are the front men spreading the propaganda.” Now consider that due to consolidation in the beef industry, there are now [4 meat packing companies in the US that control 85% of the market](#). Can you say ‘monopoly’? Are you beginning to understand how this will benefit ‘Big Ag’ but can dramatically hurt the individual farmers and ranchers. Last year we estimate that 14,700 individuals sold their farms and ranches and the number is expected to be higher this year.
7. **Lastly, this proposition states that the amendment gives the legislature the ability to step in and “protect public health and safety.”** Unfortunately we all remember what happened [last time government stepped in to protect out health and safety!](#) Five years ago we might have read that and had no idea how a phrase that sounded like it was an innocuous protection could ultimately cause so much damage to every aspect of our lives. We need to see these other phrases that give government the right to intervene for the dangers they are!
The resolution states that government has the right to intervene:
 - to protect “public health and safety”
 - to prevent “danger to animal health or crop production”
 - to “preserve or conserve natural resources”

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
2	<p>“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>“AGAINST”</p>
<p>POSITION RATIONALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a tax exemption for childcare facilities. • There is no way to determine what the actual cost of this measure will be to taxpayers, as it will depend on how much of an exemption the municipality offers to the facilities, but it will be anywhere from 50 to 100% of their tax bill. • The end result is that this benefit is targeted to be for government subsidized facilities. If you read the text of the bill you will find that this tax break applies to only government-funded childcare facilities that follow the government rules and standards, so not ALL childcare facilities will qualify. • This results in lost revenue to cities and counties that will be made up by taxpayers and it also extends the time government has to indoctrinate your children. 		
Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
3	<p>"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>“FOR”</p>
<p>POSITION RATIONALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 3 prohibits the imposition of an individual wealth tax, including a tax on the difference between your assets and liabilities of an individual or family. • The Texas Constitution in Article 1, Section 8 can require, in certain circumstances, the taxing of tangible and intangible assets. This means for example things like your stock holdings and your bank accounts. • Passing this proposition would prohibit the Texas legislature from ever passing laws that would tax your net worth. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
4	<p>"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>"FOR"</p>
<p>POSITION RATIONALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 4 authorizes the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property, other than our residence homestead for tax ad valorem tax purposes • The cost for this is \$12 Billion but the money will come from the budget surplus (that means your money the government hasn't spent will come back to you!) • Propositions 4 also stipulates that the taxable value on your home cannot increase more than 20% in the next three years. • I would prefer this measure to be a permanent measure but this is a start. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
5	"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."	"AGAINST"
<p>POSITION RATIONALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 5 creates a University Research Fund. • Considering what you know about when the government creates an entity like a government agency or a fund....once they are created, they never go away! • Several of these propositions will create a fund. Once the government creates these, they will be for all practical purposes, permanent. • The cost of this fund is \$208.4 Million. This will reduce the amount of money for property tax relief by \$2.4 Million less money to go back in your pocket. • What we know is that university research already lacks transparency. This proposal will give more money to certain businesses and university researchers. This is the government requiring you to support certain big businesses and woke Texas universities. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
6	"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."	"AGAINST"
POSITION RATIONALE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preposition 6 creates the Texas Water Fund. • The Cost to you will be \$1 Billion! • This might sound like a good idea because everybody is concerned about Texas having a large enough water supply, but consider the idea behind this. It will give money to special interest groups, and will be less money going into your pocket. • It also circumvents the Texas Constitutional spending limit. The legislature has a limit they can spend each session and they're close to the cap now so theses Propositions are a great work around. They just do a compulsory grab out of your pocket and transfer your wealth to a few choice special interests. • The result is expanding government control over the Texas water supply and market. What is that philosophy called? I believe it's called socialism when our money is given to special interest groups like the Sands Hotel and Casino Las Vegas! They're nobody I want to support with my money, and I should have choice not to give them my money. 		
Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
7	"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."	"AGAINST"
POSITION RATIONALE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 7 is the Texas electric loan program which will cost you \$5 billion. • This will provide subsidies to electric generators to compensate them for the harm from renewable energy subsidies. • So this is the government using your money to remedy a problem they created. • Legislators were the ones that decided renewable energy was a good idea, so to encourage it they provided subsidies to both wind and solar companies. • These subsidies hurt the electric generators, and during "Snow-mageddon," our legislators found out just how much we need traditionally-generated electricity more than that generated by wind and solar. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
8	"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."	"AGAINST"
POSITION RATIONALE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 8 creates a broadband infrastructure fund. • It would cost taxpayers \$1.5 Billion out of their pockets. • This is not necessary, because capitalism has already provided the solution. Space X, and soon Amazon are putting satellites all over the skies of Texas that will provide superior internet connectivity to all of rural Texas. • Consider what you have here: private companies using private money to do business- that's called CAPITALISM which is we want! • The purpose of Prop 8 is to take one \$1.5 Billion out of your pocket and give it to government selected companies to expand the size and reach of government. We call that socialism. 		
Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
9	"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."	"NEUTRAL"
POSITION RATIONALE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 9 provides a Cost Of Living Adjustment or COLA to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). • Note that not every retired teacher will receive this money. • The cost of this proposition is \$3.35 Billion dollars. • This is one proposition I'm registering as neutral on because it's hard to say that I don't want to vote to give retired teachers money. After all, we all are where we are in life thanks to the good teachers that we've had. • I was also a classroom teacher for 10 years myself, but from a liberty perspective, I will register a neutral opinion and just say that you, as an individual taxpayer, should decide if this is where you want billions of your dollars to go. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
10	"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."	"AGAINST"
<p>POSITION RATIONALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 10 gives a tax exemption for medical and bio-medical companies. • The cost for 2025 will be \$79 million, the cost for 2026 increases to \$91 million and it continues to increase Every Year in the future! • The purpose of this proposition is to encourage investment in medical and bio-medical manufacturing. The problem with this is property tax owners are left to make up for lost revenue to Texas public school districts. • Texas tax payers continue to have money grabbed out of their pockets and given to businesses they are not voluntarily supporting. • We already know that the government shouldn't require taxpayer money to go to private businesses. I suggest you push back against the government taking your money and spending it in a way that is counter to your values. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
11	"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."	"AGAINST"
<p>POSITION RATIONALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 11 allows the legislature to permit Conservation and Reclamation districts in El Paso County. • The legislature will give El Paso County the permission to issue bonds to fund development and maintenance of their parks and recreation facilities. • The money will be taken from districts that are wholly or partly located in El Paso County. • If you consider the principle behind this, it is a transfer of wealth. • I would argue that El Paso needs to concentrate on other services besides their public parks right now, given the flood of illegals coming across the border. • It is important to note that this proposition, written and supported by Democrats, was put in front of the voters November 8, 2011, but it was rejected by the citizens. So now this legislature is trying to come back and take taxpayer money to do something the citizens don't want. That is called government overreach. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
12	"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."	"FOR"
<p>POSITION RATIONALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 12 would eliminate the office of county treasurer in Galveston county. • This would not cost the taxpayers but actually save them money. • As I did research on this proposition the city of Galveston already has several financial officers that can do the job of the treasurer. • The current treasurer ran on a platform of eliminating his office. • This position is supported by both the mayor and the members of the City Council. • I also spoke with a few people from Galveston county and they also support this measure. • From a liberty standpoint, Republicans are always for less government, so if there is no need for this office in Galveston it should be eliminated. • Now you may ask why does this involve us? The reason we have to vote on this is that Section 44 of the Texas Constitution establishes that every county in Texas will have the office of County Treasurer, and that they will be elected for a term of four years and have an office space in the county seat. So, abolishing this office requires a change to the Texas Constitution and the state-wide citizen approval to do it. 		

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
13	"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."	"AGAINST"

POSITION RATIONALE:

- Proposition 13 would increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges from 75 to 79.
- This would apply to the appellate, district and criminal court levels.
- I also found the phrase "or they reach an earlier age of 70 years".
- In talking to some people across the state I was told by an elected official that the judge in their district would be too old to run again next cycle, so that judge went to a legislator to ask them make a change in the law. When I looked at who sponsored this bill, it was not even a legislator in their area, but rather a Democrat from the border.
- The principle to consider is that it is not wise to change the Texas constitution or go to the effort and expense of an amendment for the desires of a single individual person.

Proposition Number	BALLOT DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDED POSTION
14	"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."	"AGAINST"

POSITION RATIONALE:

- Proposition 14 creates the Centennial Park Conservations Fund.
- This fund is for the creation and improvement of state parks.
- The cost to taxpayers is **\$1 Billion**.
- This is a transfer of wealth from the tax payers to certain special interest groups. If certain clubs and woke companies want to support public parks, then they should privately contribute money instead of asking the government to take it from your pocket.
- There is an extremely important idea behind this legislation you need to understand called the "2030 Land Grab." The Biden administration's goal is to take 30% of agricultural land, private property and recreational property and put it under government control by the year 2030.
- They want to return the land to "Original Use". Their definition of "Original Use" is no recreation, no buildings, no domestic animals and no people- absolutely nothing. This means the special interest groups will profit in the short term until the government completely takes control of the land.

