



November 7, 2023 Constitutional Amendments Explainer

Voting for these amendments authorizes \$13.8 billion in new spending for the next two years! You have the power to cut government. Just do it!		
Proposition Description	Vote	Explainer Summary
1) "Right" to Farm	Against	This is a special interest lobby bill cloaked as "for the little guy," but with broad language that will protect Big Agriculture/Big Producers and end up harming small farmers. Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance (FARFA) opposes this amendment.
2) Child Care Business Carveout: Authorizes Cities & Counties to offer property tax exemptions	Against	Corporate Welfare: continues to remove property taxes for some, which will raise yours. Cost to taxpayers is unknown.
3) No Wealth Taxes	For	Prohibits the passage of wealth taxes pushed by liberty-killing Marxists and politicians who cannot get enough of other people's money.
4) Property Tax "Buydown"	Against	Breaks constitutional "spending caps." Same temporary relief for residential homeowners that we've seen for 30 years! It will push up tax rates, shift taxes to businesses to create higher consumer prices, and makes abolishment of property taxes even more remote.
5) Creates TX University Fund: Pushes more tax dollars to WOKE Academia, costing \$208 million every two years	Against	Breaks constitutional "spending caps." Vague. Bureaucratic. Takes millions from the Rainy Day Fund in violation of the fund's intended purpose. <i>Universities should use the billions they are sitting on in endowments!</i>
6) Creates yet another TX Water Fund: Pushes \$1 Billion more tax dollars to water projects	Against	Breaks constitutional "spending caps." Grows gov't by installing another bureaucratic agency to gain more control over water; duplicates other water funds. <i>This is a socialist-style program and smells like part of Biden's 30x30 plan to permanently "protect" 30% of US land and water by 2030.</i>
7) Creates the Texas Energy Fund: Pushes \$5 Billion more tax dollars to Electric Utilities	Against	Breaks constitutional "spending caps." Picks winners and losers. Tries to remedy one problem - subsidies for wind and solar that harm grid reliability - by adding more subsidies for natural gas electricity generators. We have NO confidence this will secure the grid!
8) Creates the Texas Broadband Fund: Pushes \$1.5 Billion more tax dollars to Telecom Utilities	Against	Breaks constitutional "spending caps." TX has previously allocated \$600 million for broadband purposes, and the state is slated to receive billions of dollars from the federal program for these purposes. Creating a costly new broadband fund with state taxpayer dollars is excessive and fiscally irresponsible. Uses technology that is rapidly becoming obsolete; subsidizes rural telephone companies.
9) Pushes \$5 Billion more tax dollars to the "Teacher" Retirement System (TRS), which covers FAR more than classroom teachers!	Neutral: not our job!	Going 20 years without a cost-of-living adjustment is tough on lots of folks, no doubt. Originally created only for teachers and public school administrators, TRS now provides service and disability benefits for all employees of public schools, educational service centers, charter schools, community and junior colleges, universities, and medical schools. State Gov't has over-promised and under-delivered! The Pension Review Board 6/23 report says TRS is underfunded by \$52 billion . TRS is underfunded due to expanded coverage beyond its original intent, defined benefits, and a free-spending bureaucracy. This temporary stopgap "cost of living" raise does not fix the <i>structural problem</i> of TRS and breaks the constitutional "spending cap." If benefits and funding are not changed, future taxpayers will be burdened with paying the under-funded retirement promises. <i>This is a prime example of sloppy, short-sighted governance.</i>
10) Medical Inventory carve-out from property taxes will cost \$43 Million	Against	Lobbyist bill! Subsidizes medical product manufacturers. Corporate welfare like this lowers taxes for these businesses and shoves the tax burden onto other property owners.
11) El Paso Park Bond Debt	Against	NO to any more DEBT! Not a statewide issue. Instead of taking care of this locally, El Paso local officials "hired" the Texas Legislature to rob citizens via this constitutional amendment.
12) Abolish Galveston County Elected Treasurer	Against	A stand-alone office of county treasurer headed by a person directly elected by county voters provides essential checks and balances in the operation of county government. Moving this responsibility to county staff <i>puts accountability out of reach of the voters!</i> We have far too many unelected bureaucrats as it is!
13) Raises mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges from 75 to 79	Against	There's plenty of visible evidence in Washington, DC to prove this is not a good idea!
14) Creates the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund with a price tag of \$1 Billion	Against	Breaks the constitutional "spending caps." Grows gov't and smells like the Biden 30x30 program that aims to "conserve" 30% of US land and water by moving it from private ownership to government by 2030.
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