

BCTDW's Voter Guide | Nov. 4, 2025

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Welcome to the **November 2025 Voter Guide** from Bell County Texas Democratic Women (BCTDW)! Below, find our recommendations on the 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution, plus election dates and resources.

Elections matter. Vote! ❤️

Questions? Reach out to bellcountytdw@gmail.com.

Printable Quick Voter Guide

PROP 1: YES // Fund the Texas State Technical College system.
PROP 2: NO // Ban capital gains tax (ultra-rich wishlist item).
PROP 3: NO POSITION // Let judges deny bail.
PROP 4: YES // \$1B / year for the Texas Water Fund.
PROP 5: YES // Animal feed tax exemption.
PROP 6: NO // Ban securities tax (ultra-rich wishlist item).
PROP 7: YES // Extend tax exemptions to deceased veterans' spouses.
PROP 8: NO // Ban gift and estate taxes (ultra-rich wishlist item).
PROP 9: NO // Increase business equipment tax exemption.
PROP 10: NO POSITION // Cut taxes on homes destroyed by fire.
PROP 11: NO POSITION // Cut school tax for the elderly & disabled.
PROP 12: NO // Allow the governor to politicize judicial review.
PROP 13: NO POSITION // Decrease school taxes for all homeowners.
PROP 14: NO POSITION // Fund a public dementia research institute.
PROP 15: NO // Attack schools and LGBTQ kids via "parental rights".
PROP 16: NO // Racist fearmongering about non-citizen voting.
PROP 17: NO // Reward land owners who build border infrastructure.

Printable Quick Guide

You CANNOT use mobile devices inside polling locations, so you're going to want to write down or print out your slate of choices before heading in to vote. [Here's a printable version of ours.](#)

Our recommendations (and why!)

This election, Texans are voting on 17 amendments to the Texas Constitution. It's a lot! But we can wrap our heads around it together.

As an organization, BCTDW membership voted on whether to recommend a **YES** or a **NO** for each proposition.

In a few cases, we felt that strong Democratic arguments could be made both for and against. In those instances, we've marked them as "**NO POSITION**," and included both arguments to help you decide.

This guide is just one part of a healthy voter research diet. We encourage you to conduct your own investigation into the issues and vote according to your individual principles!

Recommendations at a glance

 [Find the printable version of this guide summary here](#) 

PROP 1: YES // Fund the Texas State Technical College system. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 2: NO // Ban capital gains tax (ultra-rich wishlist item). [Learn more.](#)

PROP 3: No position // Let judges deny bail in certain cases. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 4: YES // \$1B / year for the Texas Water Fund. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 5: YES // Animal feed tax exemption. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 6: NO // Ban securities tax (ultra-rich wishlist item). [Learn more.](#)

PROP 7: YES // Extend tax exemptions to deceased veterans' spouses.
[Learn more.](#)

PROP 8: NO // Ban gift and estate taxes (ultra-rich wishlist item). [Learn more.](#)

PROP 9: NO // Increase business equipment tax exemption. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 10: No position // Cut taxes on homes destroyed by fire. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 11: No position // Cut school tax for the elderly & disabled. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 12: NO // Allow the governor to politicize judicial review. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 13: No position // Decrease school taxes for all homeowners. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 14: No position // Fund a public dementia research institute. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 15: NO // Attack schools and LGBTQ kids via “parental rights.” [Learn more.](#)

PROP 16: NO // Racist fearmongering about non-citizen voting. [Learn more.](#)

PROP 17: NO // Reward land owners who build border infrastructure. [Learn more.](#)



[Find the printable version of this guide summary here](#)



PROP 1: YES

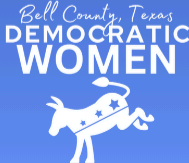
Permanent Technical Institution Infrastructure Fund &
Available Workforce Education Fund ([SJR 59](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

 **YES on PROP 1**

Prop 1 funds the Texas State Technical College system to help working-class Texans train for good jobs.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE SUPPORT PROP 1

 **ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4**
Heads up, Texans! We're voting on 17 constitutional amendments this year. Check out our guide to get up to speed.

Plain language: If passed, will use special funds in the state treasury to create an endowment of \$850 million outside the general revenue funds.

Reasoning:

- Investment income will be used by TSTC to make capital improvements.
- TSTC does not have access to the Public University Fund (PUF) that other schools access for this purpose.

- Expansion will help address skilled-worker shortages and improve the economy in parts of Texas with rapid growth.

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 1 (SJR 59):** "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."
 - **Proposición 1 (SJR 59):** "La enmienda constitucional que dispone la creación del fondo de infraestructura de instituciones técnicas permanentes y el fondo de educación de la fuerza laboral disponible para apoyar las necesidades de capital de los programas educativos ofrecidos por el Sistema de Colegios Técnicos del Estado de Texas".
-

PROP 2: NO

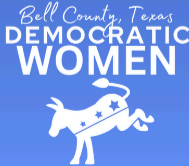
Capital Gains Tax Prohibition ([SJR 18](#))

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⊗ NO on PROP 2

**Prop 2 prevents Texas from
EVER having a capital gains tax
(a way we could ask the ultra-
rich to pay their fair share!).**

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE OPPOSE PROP 2

 **Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
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constitutional amendments this year.
Check out our guide to get up to speed.

Plain language: If passed, will prohibit Texas from ever enacting a capital gains tax on realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust.

Reasoning:

- Primarily benefits the wealthy and could widen inequality
- Limits future policy flexibility — particularly in areas like education funding and infrastructure

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 2 (SJR 18):** "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."
 - **Proposición 2 (SJR 18):** "La enmienda constitucional que prohíbe la imposición de un impuesto sobre las ganancias de capital realizadas o no realizadas de un individuo, familia, patrimonio o fideicomiso."
-

PROP 3: NO POSITION

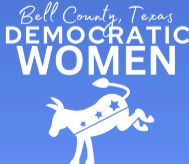
Denial of Bail Under Certain Circumstances ([SJR 5](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

PROP 3:
It's complicated!

Prop 3 gives judges the power to deny bail for certain crimes.

TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REASONS YOU MIGHT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE PROP 3

 **Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

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Plain language: If passed, will authorize judges to deny bail to individuals charged with a list of serious felonies, such as murder, aggravated assault, and human trafficking, if the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that release would endanger the public or risk flight. A judge or magistrate who denies bail would be required to issue a written order laying out their findings of fact and explaining why the denial of bail is necessary.

Reasons to support:

- Prevents high-risk offenders from committing additional crimes while awaiting trial
- Gives judges the tools to make informed decisions about pretrial detention
- House amendments took meaningful steps to protect due process and prevent abuse ([The Bail Project](#))

Reasons to Oppose:

- Could exacerbate racial disparities in the state's criminal justice system
- Could lead to longer pretrial detentions for individuals who have not been convicted of a crime
 - High pretrial incarceration rates have been shown to be associated with increased recidivism and poorer long-term outcomes for defendants
- Risks overreach, erodes due process, and expands the scope of government authority without adequate safeguards ([Texas Policy Research](#))

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 3 (SJR 5):** "The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."
 - **Proposición 3 (SJR 5):** "La enmienda constitucional que requiere la denegación de la libertad bajo fianza bajo ciertas circunstancias a personas acusadas de ciertos delitos punibles como delitos graves".
-

PROP 4: YES

Texas Water Fund ([HJR 7](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

 **YES on PROP 4**

Prop 4 gives \$1 billion per year to the Texas Water Fund. Texas needs to move quickly to adapt to climate change.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE SUPPORT PROP 4

**Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
Heads up, Texans! We're voting on 17 constitutional amendments this year. Check out our guide to get up to speed.

Plain language: If passed, creates 10 years of funding for the Texas Water Fund which was established in 2023. After the state collects \$48 billion in revenue from taxes under the Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax Act in a given fiscal year, the next \$1 billion would be put into the Texas Water Fund.

Reasoning:

- Would help address the deficit in funding for Texas' pressing water needs by providing predictable funding

- Funding model is consistent with other models of infrastructure funding
- TWDB retains primary discretion to target funding based on shifting needs
- It's not enough funding, but if they are willing to give some funding we should take it.

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 4 (HJR 7):** "The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue."
 - **Proposición 4 (HJR 7):** "La enmienda constitucional para dedicar una parte de los ingresos derivados de los impuestos estatales sobre las ventas y el uso al fondo de agua de Texas y para disponer la asignación y el uso de esos ingresos".
-

PROP 5: Yes

Property Tax Exemption for Animal Feed Held for Resale ([HJR 99](#))

Plain language: If passed, will exempt animal feed from taxation while sitting in storage as inventory.

Reasoning:

- Would reduce animal feed costs for retailers, which could make animal feed more affordable for consumers
- Benefits small farms and ranches, helps local agriculture

- This tax is currently calculated at a time when stored inventory is highest.

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 5 (HJR 99):** "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."
 - **Proposición 5 (HJR 99):** "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a eximir del impuesto ad valorem los bienes personales tangibles consistentes en alimento para animales que posea el propietario de la propiedad para su venta al por menor".
-

PROP 6: NO

Prohibition on taxes on securities transactions ([HJR 4](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

⊗ NO on PROP 6

Prop 6 prevents Texas from ever taxing securities trades. Like Prop 2, this would line the pockets of the ultra-rich.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE OPPOSE PROP 6

**Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4

Heads up, Texans! We're voting on 17 constitutional amendments this year. Check out our guide to get up to speed.

Plain language: If passed, will prohibit Texas from ever taxing securities trades or imposing new fees on financial market operators.

Reasoning:

- Primarily benefits the wealthy and could widen inequality
- Limits future policy flexibility
- Doesn't include a sunset provision or limits on certain high-value or high-frequency transactions

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 6 (HJR 4):** "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."
 - **Proposición 6 (HJR 4):** "La enmienda constitucional que prohíbe a la legislatura promulgar una ley que imponga un impuesto ocupacional a ciertas entidades que realicen transacciones que transmitan valores o que imponga un impuesto sobre ciertas transacciones de valores".
-

PROP 7: YES

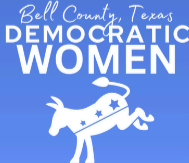
Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of a Veteran
([HJR 133](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

 **YES on PROP 7**

Prop 7 extends veteran tax breaks to the surviving spouses of certain veterans after their deaths.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE SUPPORT PROP 7

 **ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4**
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Plain language: If passed, will provide property tax relief for the surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-related conditions. This relief would end should the surviving spouse remarry.

Reasoning:

- Passed both chambers with broad bipartisan support

- Corrects a discrepancy related to the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, a 2022 federal law that expanded health benefits for veterans with toxic exposures and included presumptive service-connected conditions for such veterans

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 7 (HJR 133):** "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."
 - **Proposición 7 (HJR 133):** "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a establecer una exención del impuesto ad valorem de la totalidad o parte del valor de mercado de la residencia familiar del cónyuge sobreviviente de un veterano que falleció como resultado de una condición o enfermedad que se presume, según la ley federal, que estuvo relacionada con el servicio."
-

PROP 8: NO

Death Tax Prohibition ([HJR 2](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

⊗ NO on PROP 8

Prop 8 prevents Texas from ever creating estate or gift taxes. Another handout to millionaires and billionaires.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE OPPOSE PROP 9

**Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
Heads up, Texans! We're voting on 17 constitutional amendments this year. Check out our guide to get up to speed.

Plain language: If passed, will prohibit Texas from ever imposing estate, inheritance, or gift taxes.

Reasoning:

- A death tax doesn't currently exist in Texas and has not been proposed
- Primarily benefits the wealthy and could widen inequality
- Limits future policy flexibility

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 8 (HJR 2):** "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."
 - **Proposición 8 (HJR 2):** "La enmienda constitucional para prohibir a la legislatura imponer impuestos a la muerte aplicables a la propiedad de un difunto o a la transferencia de un patrimonio, herencia, legado, sucesión o donación".
-

PROP 9: NO

Property Tax Exemption for Personal Property Used to Produce Income ([HJR 1](#))

Plain Language: If passed, will exempt up to \$250,000 worth of business equipment or tools from property taxes.

Reasoning:

- Could negatively impact the state's revenue base, leaving less money for schools and communities, while providing another tax break for wealthy operators

- Presented as a pro-small business move, but corporations and large agribusiness are likely to find and exploit loopholes
 - May have short-term benefits for small businesses, but ultimately will result in big businesses putting mom & pop shops under

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 9 (HJR 1):** "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."
 - **Proposición 9 (HJR 1):** "La enmienda constitucional para autorizar a la legislatura a eximir del impuesto ad valorem una parte del valor de mercado de la propiedad personal tangible que una persona posee y que se mantiene o utiliza para la producción de ingresos."
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PROP 10: NO POSITION

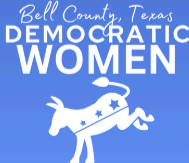
Temporary Property Tax Exemption Relating to Homestead Residences Destroyed by Fire ([SJR 84](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

**PROP 10:
It's complicated!**

Prop 10 decreases property taxes for homes destroyed fire.

TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REASONS YOU MIGHT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE PROP 10

 **Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
Heads up, Texans! We're voting on 17 constitutional amendments this year. Check out our guide to get up to speed.

Plain language: If passed, will allow homeowners to temporarily avoid property taxes on a house that's been destroyed by fire. Applies to home only, not the land.

Reasons to support:

- Relief for homeowners who have experienced a tragic loss

- Currently no process exists to account for major changes in the property's value after the property is assessed on January 1 of each year
- Not all homeowners have adequate insurance

Reasons to oppose:

- May be of limited value, due to other insurance and disaster provisions homeowners have in place
- Property tax exemptions have a negative impact on local tax base
- Property tax exemptions are used to distract people from the many reasons housing costs are out of control - a bandaid, not a solution
- Shifts burden to other tax payers, provides no benefit to renters or business owners

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 10 (SJR 84):** "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."
 - **Proposición 10 (SJR 84):** "La enmienda constitucional para autorizar a la legislatura a establecer una exención temporal del impuesto ad valorem sobre el valor tasado de una mejora a una vivienda familiar que sea completamente destruida por un incendio."
-

PROP 11: NO POSITION

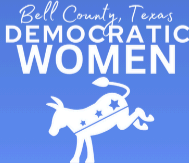
Increase in Property Tax Exemption for Elderly/Disabled Homestead Owners ([SJR 85](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

**PROP 11:
It's complicated!**

**Prop 11 decreases school taxes
for elderly and disabled Texans.**

**TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REASONS
YOU MIGHT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE PROP 11**

 **Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
**Heads up, Texans! We're voting on 17
constitutional amendments this year.
Check out our guide to get up to speed.**

Plain language: If passed, will increase the school property tax exemption for disabled and elderly Texans from \$10,000 to \$60,000. Would retroactively apply to 2025 taxes.

Reasons to support:

- Increases housing affordability for individuals on fixed income with higher medical costs

- Contributes to the stability of communities
- School districts would not experience a reduction in funding because SB 23, the enabling legislation for Proposition 11, provides additional state revenue to Texas school districts to account for any related losses

Reasons to oppose:

- Property tax exemptions are used to distract people from the many reasons housing costs are out of control - a bandaid, not a solution
- Could reduce what is available for public services such as school funding, healthcare, and infrastructure needs
 - State supplement relies on the budget surplus, which isn't guaranteed to continue
- Shifts burden to other tax payers, provides no benefit to renters or businesses

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 11 (SJR 85):** "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."
 - **Proposición 11 (SJR 85):** "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a aumentar el monto de la exención del impuesto ad valorem por parte de un distrito escolar sobre el valor de mercado de la residencia familiar de una persona mayor o discapacitada".
-

PROP 12: NO

Revising the State Commission on Judicial Conduct and review tribunals ([SJR 27](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

⊗ NO on PROP 12

Prop 12 politicizes the judicial discipline process by allowing the governor to appoint more members to review tribunals.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE OPPOSE PROP 12

**Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

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Plain language: If passed, will expand and restructure the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, granting new powers and altering the disciplinary process. 13 members would consist of 6 judges and 7 citizens appointed by the Governor. Removes requirement to include lower court judges.

Reasoning:

- Looks good on paper, but risks politicizing judicial discipline and undermining effective oversight in practice
- Increases the Governor's influence over the SCJC
- Could be weaponized against progressive judges and used to shield the powerful

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 12 (SJR 27):** "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."
 - **Proposición 12 (SJR 27):** "La enmienda constitucional relativa a la membresía de la Comisión Estatal de Conducta Judicial, la membresía del tribunal para revisar las recomendaciones de la comisión y la autoridad de la comisión, el tribunal y la Corte Suprema de Texas para sancionar de manera más efectiva a los jueces y magistrados por mala conducta judicial".
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PROP 13: NO POSITION

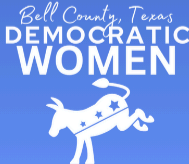
Increase School District Property Tax Exemption ([SJR 2](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

PROP 13:
It's complicated!

**Prop 13 decreases school taxes
for all Texas homeowners.**

**TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REASONS
YOU MIGHT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE PROP 13**

 **Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
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Plain language: If passed, will increase the school homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000. Would retroactively apply to 2025 taxes.

Reasons to support:

- Meaningful, broadbase property tax relief for all homeowners, including those on fixed income and first-time buyers.
- The state would make up the difference using general revenue under state aid formulas provided in current law and the enabling legislation, SB 4.

Reasons to oppose:

- Property tax exemptions are used to distract people from the many reasons housing costs are out of control - a bandaid, not a solution
- Could reduce the revenue available for school funding if state revenue goes down
- May incentivize homeowners to vote for higher local tax rates or bonds
- Shifts burden to other tax payers, provides no benefit to renters or businesses

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 13 (SJR 2):** "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."
 - **Proposición 13 (SJR 2):** "La enmienda constitucional para aumentar el monto de la exención de impuestos ad valorem para las viviendas familiares de un distrito escolar de \$100,000 a \$140,000".
-

PROP 14: NO POSITION

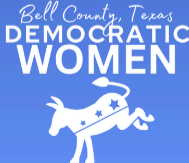
Establishment of Dementia Prevention & Research Institute of Texas ([SJR 3](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

**PROP 14:
It's complicated!**

Prop 14 funds a dementia and Alzheimer's research institute.

**TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REASONS
YOU MIGHT SUPPORT OR OPPOSE PROP 14**

 **Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
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Plain Language: If passed, will create a publicly funded research institute for dementia, Alzheimer's, and related diseases, with \$3 billion in dedicated funding.

Reasons to support:

- Would make Texas a leader in addressing these kinds of disorders, attract top research talent to the state, and create high-quality jobs

- Dementia is a leading cause of death in the U.S., while Texas ranks high among other states in Alzheimer's cases and deaths.
- Could help relieve caregiving costs
- Many of the nonprofits and universities that might take on this research instead of the state are severely underfunded and under attack by the current administration

Reasons to oppose:

- Would create an open-ended, long-term financial commitment for taxpayers by funding efforts outside the proper scope of government.
- Should be addressed by private industry, nonprofits, and universities.
- Modeled after Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), which some say lacks accountability.

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 14 (SJR 3):** "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."
 - **Proposición 14 (SJR 3):** "La enmienda constitucional que dispone el establecimiento del Instituto de Prevención e Investigación de la Demencia de Texas, estableciendo el Fondo de Prevención e Investigación de la Demencia para proporcionar fondos para la investigación, prevención y tratamiento de la demencia, la enfermedad de Alzheimer, la enfermedad de Parkinson y trastornos relacionados en este estado, y transfiriendo a ese fondo \$3 mil millones de los ingresos generales del estado."
-

PROP 15: NO

Affirming Parents as Primary Decision Makers for Their Children ([SJR 34](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

⊗ NO on PROP 15

Prop 15 adds “parental rights” wording to the TX Constitution in order to attack public schools, ban books, and hurt LGBTQ kids.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE OPPOSE PROP 15

**Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
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Plain language: If passed, will codify “parental rights” in the Texas Constitution.

Reasoning:

- No language to ensure that children’s rights and best interests are protected
- Easily manipulated to fit political agendas (education, transgender health care, abortion/birth control access, LGBTQ issues, religious training, etc)

- Wording is vague
 - Doesn't address children's rights to basic healthcare or mental health support, as well as having their psychological, emotional, and social needs met
 - Could allow parental rights to be stripped should the state decide they have failed to meet their duty

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 15 (SJR 34):** "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."
 - **Proposición 15 (SJR 34):** "La enmienda constitucional que afirma que los padres son los principales tomadores de decisiones para sus hijos".
-

PROP 16: NO

Clarifying Voters Must be US Citizens ([SJR 37](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

⊗ NO on PROP 16

Prop 16 is a redundant law to bar non-citizens from voting. We already have one. The real purpose here is to stoke fears.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE OPPOSE PROP 16

**Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

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Plain language: If passed, will “clarify” that only US citizens are allowed to vote in Texas elections. This is already the law and this amendment changes nothing.

Reasoning:

- State and federal laws already clearly prohibit non-citizens from voting.
- Codifies xenophobic language into the Texas Constitution
- Scapegoats immigrants and stokes imaginary and unsubstantiated voter fraud fearmongering.

- Could hinder voting among historically marginalized communities

Language you'll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 16 (SJR 37):** "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."
 - **Proposición 16 (SJR 37):** "La enmienda constitucional que aclara que un votante debe ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos".
-

PROP 17: NO

Property Tax Exemption for Properties in Counties Impacted by Border Security Infrastructure ([HJR 34](#))

YOUR BCTDW VOTER GUIDE IS HERE!

⊗ NO on PROP 17

Prop 17 creates tax exemptions to reward building “border security” on private land, like walls, fences and surveillance.

TAP TO LEARN WHY WE OPPOSE PROP 17

**Bell County, Texas
DEMOCRATIC
WOMEN**

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4
Heads up, Texans! We’re voting on 17 constitutional amendments this year. Check out our guide to get up to speed.

Plain language: If passed, will exempt landowners in border counties from property taxes on property value increases that stem from “border security” infrastructure (i.e., fencing, walls, surveillance, and militarized improvements).

NOTE: *This proposition does NOT apply to Bell County property.*

Reasoning:

- Could result in revenue reductions for local governments by removing property value from the tax rolls
- This is an attempt to incentivize Gov. Abbott’s “Operation Lone Star” security theater through tax breaks’

Language you’ll see on your ballot:

- **Proposition 17 (HJR 34):** "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."
 - **Proposición 17 (HJR 34):** "Enmienda constitucional para autorizar a la legislatura a establecer una exención del impuesto ad valorem sobre el monto del valor de mercado de los bienes inmuebles ubicados en un condado que limita con los Estados Unidos Mexicanos que surja de la instalación o construcción en la propiedad de infraestructura de seguridad fronteriza y mejoras relacionadas."
-

Learn more

Primary resources

[House Research Organization’s Focus Report](#)

Background on each proposition and an in-depth look at what supporters and critics say

[Texas LegiScan](#)

Legislative database, including which legislators sponsored each bill

[Texas 2025 Constitutional Amendments Ballot Guide And Vote Recommendations](#)

Proposition analysis by Lone Star Left

Additional resources

[Constitutional Amendments for Nov. 2025 Ballot](#)

Info shared by Texas Rep. Nicole Collier, including her voting record

[Bell County Votes](#)

Video summaries of some propositions provided by a local organization

[Texas 2025 Ballot Measures](#)

Ballotpedia

[Breaking down the ballot: Nov. 4 election to amend Texas Constitution](#)

New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

[Nov. 2025 Voter Guide](#)

League of Women Voters of Texas

General voter information

Registration

The deadline to register (or change your address) for the Nov. 4, 2025 election is Oct. 6. [Check your registration status here.](#)

Not registered in time? Don't miss the next election!

[Find instructions here](#), or let us help. Bell County Texas Democratic Women has many members who are certified VDRs (Volunteer Deputy Registrars). [Contact us](#) if you need help registering, or if you'd like us to set up a registration table at one of your events.

Voting locations, dates, and times

Early voting: Oct. 20 – 31, 2025 ([locations & times](#))

Election day: Nov. 4, 2025 ([locations & times](#))

Voting by mail

The last day to apply for [ballot by mail](#) (application must be received, not just postmarked) is Oct. 24, 2025. Ballots by mail must be returned (received by mail or brought to a voting site) by 7pm on Nov. 4.

Sample ballots

First, figure out what precinct you're registered in. This information will be on your voter registration card, or [look it up here](#).

Then, check out [YOUR specific ballot on the Bell County Elections site](#).

Links

More questions about where, when, or how to vote? Find answers here:

- [Vote411.com](#)
- [Bell County Office of Elections Administration](#)
- [Texas Secretary of State](#)

Stay in the know

We extend a huge thank you to Solange Hommel for drafting the reasoning behind each of BCTDW's ballot proposition recommendations.

If you're not already following it, subscribe to her newsletter, [L&J Texas Lege Watch](#), to stay up to date on what's happening in the Texas Legislature, what it means for Texans, and how you can get involved to shape the future.

Join us!

Bell County Texas Democratic Women is active and growing. We are a passionate group of women and men whose mission is to promote the increased political activity and influence of Democratic women in Texas by supporting candidates, fostering community engagement, and advocating for policies that reflect our values.

Our [next meetings](#) are **Saturday, Oct. 18** and **Saturday, Nov. 15**. [Learn more and join us!](#)