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# Ballot Breakdown

— Understanding the Propositions —

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Dara Gaines, PhD Candidate  
Texas State Propositions 2021

# In Today's Session We Will....

- Get familiar with the eight propositions listed on the ballot
- Clarify what each proposition means
- Clarify what a vote **For** or **Against** means for each proposition
- Get familiar with other tools and resources that you can use to learn more about the issues on the ballot and in the future.

# What is a Proposition?

- A proposition on your Texas ballot is a proposed change to the state constitution.
- The propositions you see were voted on by the Texas State Legislature.
- If a ballot measure receives enough votes in the legislature, the measure is proposed to Texans who vote “For” or “Against” the changes.

# Propositions

What to expect on the ballot in  
November

- Fundraising
  - Infrastructure
  - Religion
  - State Judiciary
  - Nursing Home Care
  - Taxes
  - Veterans
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# Proposition 1- Rodeo Fundraising

**What it says:** *“The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women’s Professional Rodeo Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo venues.”*

**What it means:** This amendment would authorize professional sports team charitable organizations to conduct raffles at rodeo venues. The measure would amend section 47 of Article 3 of the state constitution.

**For:** supports amending the state constitution to (i) authorize professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct raffles at rodeo venues and (ii) include professional association-sanctioned rodeos in the definition of professional sports team.

**Against:** opposes amending the state constitution, thus continuing to prohibit charitable raffles at rodeo venues.

# Proposition 2 - Infrastructure Bonds

**What it says:** *“The constitutional amendment authorizing a county to finance the development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county.”*

**What it means:** The amendment would authorize a county to issue bonds to fund infrastructure and transportation projects in undeveloped and blighted areas. It would also prohibit counties that issue bonds for such purposes from pledging more than 65% of the increase in ad valorem tax revenues to repay the bonds.

**For:** supports amending the state constitution to:

- authorize counties to issue bonds to fund transportation and infrastructure projects in underdeveloped areas;
- prohibit counties from allocating more than 65% of property tax revenue increases annually to repay the bonds; and
- prohibit counties from using the funds from the issuance of the bonds to build a toll road.

**Against:** opposes amending the state constitution, thereby maintaining that only cities and towns may issue bonds to fund transportation and infrastructure projects in underdeveloped areas.

# Proposition 3 - Prohibiting Religious Services

**What it says:** *“The constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations.”*

**What it means:** Proposition 3 would amend Article 1 of the Texas constitution by adding a new section to prohibit the state or any political subdivision from enacting a law, rule, order, or proclamation that limits religious services or organizations.

Arguments against this amendment cite COVID as one valid reason to suspend religious services, approving this proposition would prevent authorities from banning this type of events even during a worldwide pandemic.

**For:** supports amending the state constitution to prohibit the state or any political subdivision from enacting a law, rule, order, or proclamation that limits religious services or organizations.

**Against:** opposes amending the state constitution

# Proposition 4 - Eligibility Requirements

**What it says:** *“The constitutional amendment changing the eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge.”*

**What it means:** The amendment would change the eligibility requirements for the following judicial offices: a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge.

**For:** supports making the following changes to eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge:

- requires candidates to be residents of Texas as well as citizens of the United States;
- requires 10 years of experience in Texas as a practicing lawyer or judge of a state or county court for candidates of the supreme court, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, or a court of appeals;
- requires 8 years of experience in Texas as a practicing lawyer or judge of a state or county court for candidates of a district court;
- disqualifies candidates if their license to practice law was revoked or suspended during experience requirement; and
- applies these requirements to individuals elected or appointed to a term beginning after January 1, 2025.

**Against:** opposes this amendment to make changes to the eligibility requirements



# Proposition 5 - State Commission on Judicial Conduct

**What it says:** *“The constitutional amendment providing additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct with respect to candidates for judicial office.”*

**What it means:** Proposition five authorizes the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct to accept and investigate complaints and reports against candidates running for state judicial office.

**For:** supports adding a section to the state constitution that authorizes the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to investigate and discipline candidates seeking state judicial office in the same manner as judicial officeholders.

**Against:** opposes adding a section to the state constitution that authorizes the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to investigate and discipline candidates seeking state judicial office in the same manner as judicial officeholders.

# Proposition 6- Right to Designated Essential Caregiver

**What it says:** *“The constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation.”*

**What it means:** The amendment would allow residents of nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, or state-supported living centers to designate an essential caregiver that may not be prohibited from visiting the resident, even during a pandemic.

**For:** supports amending the state constitution to establish a right for residents of nursing or assisted living facilities to designate an essential caregiver, who cannot be prohibited from in-person visitation.

**Against:** opposes amending the state constitution to establish a right for residents of nursing or assisted living facilities to designate an essential caregiver, who cannot be prohibited from in-person visitation.

# Proposition 7 - Homestead Tax Limit for Surviving Spouses

**What it says:** *“The constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a person who is disabled to receive a limitation on the school district ad valorem taxes on the spouse’s residence homestead if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the person’s death.”*

**What it means:** Currently, disabled individuals may apply for a \$10,000 homestead tax exemption and a limit on school district property taxes, proposition 7 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow the legislature to extend a homestead tax limit for surviving spouses of disabled individuals as long as the spouse is over 55 years old and resides at the home.

**For:** supports amending the state constitution to allow the surviving spouse of a disabled individual to maintain a homestead property tax limit if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the death and remains at the homestead.

**Against:** opposes amending the state constitution to allow the surviving spouse of a disabled individual to maintain a homestead property tax limit if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the death and remains at the homestead.

# Proposition 8- Homestead Tax Exemption

**What it says:** *“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 member of the armed services of the United States who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.”*

**What it means:** Similar to proposition 7, this measure would amend the Texas Constitution to authorize a total residence homestead property tax exemption for a surviving spouse of a member of the armed services “who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.”

Currently, the constitution grants the exemption to the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services “who is killed in action.” The amended version would also include service members who were fatally injured during military training or other military duty

**For:** supports amending the state constitution to allow the legislature to provide a homestead property tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a military member "killed or fatally injured in the line of duty."

**Against:** opposes amending the state constitution, thereby maintaining the existing language that authorizes a tax exemption for the spouse of a military member "killed in action."

# Resources

- 1) Pat McCoy - Bowie County Elections Administrator
  - a) (903) 628-6810
  - b) [pat.mccoy@txkusa.org](mailto:pat.mccoy@txkusa.org)
- 2) Bowie County Elections webpage:
  - a) <http://www.co.bowie.tx.us/page/bowie.Elections>
- 3) Ballotopedia - Texas 2021 Ballot Measures
  - a) [https://ballotpedia.org/Texas\\_2021\\_ballot\\_measures](https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_2021_ballot_measures)

# Thank You!

Dara Gaines

[daradgaines@gmail.com](mailto:daradgaines@gmail.com)