

***YOUR VOTE IS  
YOUR VOICE***

**Voter  
Guide  
2023**

Learn about the Brazos County ballot  
before you vote  
on November 7, 2023

- 14 Amendments to the Texas Constitution
- School Board, Bryan ISD
- School Board, College Station ISD

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**Proposition 7. Texas Energy Fund.**

"The amendment would establish the Texas Energy Fund in the Texas Constitution to fund the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities. The fund would be administered by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) of Texas, which would be authorized to provide loans and grants to advance the purposes of the fund. ... Money in the fund would consist of money appropriated by the state legislature; investment returns from the fund; and gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.... Money appropriated by the state legislature would be excluded from the state's appropriation limit." (Summary by Ballotpedia.org)

Support: ConocoPhillips, Koch Companies, BASF Corporation Employees PAC, Texas Association of Manufacturers, Texas Oil and Gas Association, Texas Pipeline Assn, and Valero Energy Corporation PAC.

Opposition: Oneok, Inc., Environment Texas, Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance, and Texas Consumer Association registered in opposition to the amendment.

The issue is whether voters want to create a fund (using mostly taxpayer money) to transfer money thru various mechanisms to existing private companies that are generating power primarily from fossil fuels. The opposition comes from organizations concerned with the environment and proponents of energy derived from alternatives to fossil fuels. There are also concerns that the program does not offer assistance to consumers, only to companies.

**Establishing  
special purpose  
funds**

**Proposition 8. Broadband Infrastructure**

"The amendment would establish in the Texas Constitution the Broadband Infrastructure Fund that would consist of money allocated by the state legislature, gifts and grants, and investment earnings of the fund to be used for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. Money appropriated by the state legislature to the fund would be excluded from the state's appropriation limit. The fund would be administered by the state comptroller. Money in the fund could be used in conjunction with federal funds or other state allocations for the purposes of the fund. The constitutional provision authorizing the fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by legislation. If the fund expires, money remaining in the fund would be transferred to the state general fund." (Summary by Ballotpedia.org)

Support: media companies including Texas Cable Association. The AARP also testified in favor. Texas2036.org supports.

Opposition: G.C. Porter, Texas for Liberty, concerns about privacy and media influence.

**Proposition 14. Centennial Parks Fund.**

No opposition.

**Proposition 6. Texas Water Fund.**

No opposition.

**Proposition 5. Rename State Univ.  
Research Fund and Establish Revenue  
Source.**

Changes name of National Research University Fund to the Texas University Fund. New revenue to the fund will come from interest earned on the rainy day fund and limited to \$100 million in fiscal 2024. The Univ. of Texas and Texas A&M systems would be excluded from receiving money from this fund [the funding from the Permanent University Fund which supports TAMU and UT would not be affected].

No opposition.

# Taxation

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## Proposition 3. Prohibit Taxes on Wealth or Net Worth.

The amendment would add language to the Texas Constitution to prohibit the state legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. As of 2023, no state had adopted a wealth tax. In 2019, Texans voted to prohibit the state legislature from adopting a state income tax.” (Summary by Ballotpedia.org).

Opposition: Texas chapter of American Federation of Teachers and Every Texan. The position of Every Texan is to “reject tighter, arbitrary state or local spending or revenue caps that weaken the ability of elected officials to meet the needs of their constituents and communities.”

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## Proposition 4. Property Tax & Education Funding.

The amendment would

- “increase the homestead tax exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000;
- authorize the state legislature to limit the annual appraisal increase on non-homestead real property;
- exclude appropriations made to increase state education funding from the state appropriations limit; and
- authorize the state legislature to provide 4-year terms for members of the governing body of an appraisal entity in counties with a population of 75,000 or more.” (Summary by Ballotpedia.org).

Support: Governor Greg Abbott, Natl. Federation of Independent Business, Tx Assoc of Builders, Texas Realtors.

Opposition: In the legislative deliberations, there was extensive debate on alternative measures to reduce property taxes. There is no announced opposition to this amendment.



## Proposition 2. Childcare Facilities Tax Exemption.

The amendment would authorize the state legislature to pass a law to exempt from ad valorem taxation all or part of the property used to operate a child-care facility.

Support: Sponsored by Sen. Royce West. Endorsed by Methodist Healthcare Ministries and Texas Restaurant Association.

Opposition: None

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## Proposition 10. Medical Equipment & Inventory Tax Exemption.

“The amendment would authorize the state legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property, including finished goods or goods used in the manufacturing process, possessed by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products. Covers goods used in manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products by a medical or biomedical manufacturer; or intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of a condition or disease or in medical or biomedical research.” This would include devices, therapeutics, pharmaceuticals, personal protective equipment, tools, implants, instruments, and apparatuses.

Support: Sen. Joan Huffman sponsored the bill. The Texas Medical Center, Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute, Greater Houston Partnership, and Biotechnology Innovation Organization supported the amendment when it was considered by the Senate Finance Committee.

Opposition: None

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# Miscellaneous Constitutional Amendments

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## Proposition 9. Cost-of-Living Adjustments for Teacher Retirement System

The amendment would authorize the legislature to provide for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for certain beneficiaries, who meet criteria provided by law, of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Allows the legislature to allocate money from the general fund to pay for the adjustment. (Ballotpedia.org)

Support: Texas AFL-CIO, Raise Your Hand Texas, Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of School Boards, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association, and Texas Retired Teachers Association

Opposition: None

## Proposition 1. Right to Farming.

“The amendment would establish a right to farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management on owned or leased personal property. The amendment states that the right does not preclude the state legislature from passing laws to regulate farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices to protect public health and safety, prevent danger to animals or crop production, or preserve the natural resources of the state. The amendment also states that it does not prevent the state legislature from acquiring property for public use including the development of natural resources. Texas passed a right-to-farm statute in 1981.” (Ballotpedia.org)

Support: Tx Commissioner of Agriculture Sid Miller, several farm groups including American Farm Bureau. Opposition: Humane Society and Farm & Ranch Freedom Alliance. There were no opposing votes in the House vote.

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