Adam Huggins’ Analysis of the proposed 2025 Texas Constitutional Amendments

Instructions: Don’t get caught up in the language of the proposition. Read some analysis such as the following, or any others you find, and make a cheat sheet that you are allowed to carry with you to tell you how to vote. YOU MAY NOT CARRY CAMPAIGN MATERIALS INTO THE POLLING PLACE. The proposition numbers are the same for everyone, so you can make a list such as, “P1: FOR, P2: Against, etc.” I plan on marking a sample ballot to carry with me. The sample ballot is not considered campaign material. Also, by carrying your own “cheat sheet” you’ll get through the voting process faster and speed up the waiting lines!

Proposition 1: AGAINST

This amendment creates a permanent fund for govt run education. We know government has a problem with frequent overreach, and there may come a time when the state decides to do something with TSTC that is unacceptable. Voting this amendment down keeps control of TSTC’s budget in the Texas Legislature where it will be examined and adjusted every biennium as necessary.

Proposition 2: AGAINST

This amendment is poorly written, if not completely unnecessary. The issue lies in the games legislators play with definitions. Capital gains are a form of income tax, which is already outlawed by the Texas Constitution. Whether this amendment passes our legislature has habits of creating work arounds and I believe if they found themselves needing to produce more revenue, they would do just that.

Also, every time we pass a law or amend the constitution, government grows. I want to see government downsized for more individual liberty. If our society was a more moral society, we could deal with a great deal more individual liberty.

Proposition 3: AGAINST

Imagine that you find yourself by pure coincidence in a place where police think you may have killed someone, but you and everyone close to you know you didn’t do it. This amendment says a judge sets bail based on the likelihood you won’t show up for court. It’s possible the prosecutor establishes a false scenario and convinces the judge you are a flight risk. When they lock you away without a conviction, you will have great difficulty working with a defense attorney to get your name cleared. This could be a bad situation and I firmly believe it will be abused at some point, and in that situation, it is only resolvable thru the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, which currently has its own problems that depend on another proposition on this ballot passing for better accountability of judges around the state.

Also, this amendment creates much more work by the judiciary in a world where the courts are already overwhelmed with caseload.

Now, here’s the twist. This amendment came about because of an illegal alien who was released on bail after committing a violent crime and then killed a young girl. I’m not sure on the legality, but shouldn’t a judge automatically be able to set bail as high as they want to prevent this guy from going free again? Again, we need judicial accountability for this situation (see Proposition 12.)

Proposition 4: AGAINST

This amendment takes some of the state sales and use tax and ultimately gives it to the Texas Water Development Board which WILL NOT remove Marvin Nichols Reservoir from its state water plan. With more money in their pocket will they begin to see things our way with regard to our water resources? 99.9% unlikely. AGAINST this amendment.

Proposition 5: AGAINST

Sure, we don’t want to pay taxes on Animal feed that sits on store shelves, but this isn’t a public tax. It’s a property tax paid by the store owner. Passage of this amendment means your commissioners will eventually raise your property tax rate and the appraisal district will likely increase your appraisal even higher.

As if this idea isn’t already bad enough, this idea does not require a constitutional amendment. Think again, “BIG GOVERNMENT!” More amendments grow government. This idea simply needs a bill passed exempting feed from property tax rather than a full constitutional amendment.

Proposition 6: AGAINST

This amendment creates a carve-out and shifts the cost of government more to the individual taxpayer. I question who funded the campaign to get legislators to pass the resolutions so we’d have this proposition. What legislators might benefit from this amendment which already benefits a select portion of the workforce?

Proposition 7: FOR

This amendment gives FOR to surviving spouse of a veteran. Who could be against that. We show our veterans appreciation for what they went through in order to spread freedom around the world. I suspect this amendment to benefit a very small part of the population because it requires proof the veteran died from service-connected condition. And we know how the government works, right?

Proposition 8: FOR

The government should not benefit when someone dies. This is ban on death taxes. This amendment limits government power by reducing its funding sources. The concern is how the government will create fees or surcharges to get around it. Imagine having to pay a fee to die!?

Proposition 9: AGAINST

This amendment would create more carve-outs for business owners. The shift in the property tax burden will fall on you, the ordinary citizen via increased rates or appraisals.

Proposition 10: Neutral

If passed, this amendment shifts some amount of property tax burden to you’re the ordinary property tax payer. On the other hand, if a property is damaged, it shouldn’t carry the same appraisal value so the taxes should be reduced. But could that be done with a simple bill to create a temporary appraisal reduction from the appraisal district? Is this amendment really necessary? One other aspect is having to get the eligibility approved by our government bureaucracies.

Proposition 11: Neutral

I FOR the elderly being exempt from property taxes, but that means I’ll have to carry their burden. This amendment is property tax relief for one class of citizens. Why don’t we just ban property taxes outright??? That act would take care of several of these amendments!

Proposition 12: FOR

A lot of folks don’t realize it, but we have judges in the state of Texas that are out of control. All judges in Texas (except federal courts) are elected. Just like our elected legislators we need a way to hold them accountable throughout their term so that they can’t string together a long line of abuses only to get re-elected by an electorate who knows nothing about them. This accountability includes a change in how membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct is put together. It takes power from the Governor and shares it with the Texas Supreme Court which is an improvement. In addition, it will add power to the Commission to discipline judges where currently, they go without any accountability.

Proposition 13: FOR

Have no doubt, when we pass this homestead exemption, the appraisal districts will increase our appraisal values to maintain or increase current funding levels. (take some time to look up “property tax fraud.”) However, until we get property taxes banned, this is the easiest way to reduce our property taxes. We have to take advantage of “the offer” from our legislature.

Proposition 14: AGAINST

There are already universities studying dementia with government money. We don’t need to create a permanent fund for it. I can see Big Pharm getting its hands on that money, and once it’s a permanent fund, the legislature couldn’t regain control of it easily. This amendment also increases government by opening the door for another “oversight” organization that will only require MORE funding.

Proposition 15: AGAINST

Both, the US Supreme Court and the Texas Supreme Court have already affirmed the point of this amendment. While it appears to be a common-sense idea, the problem lies in the language. This amendment creates a constitutional DUTY for parents which it refers to as “responsibility” to nurture and protect their children, which is already a common-sense thing. Very simply put, the problem is that the amendment opens the trap door for government entities such as schools to accuse parents of not fulfilling that responsibility and taking their children from them. So, what was supposed to be a common-sense RIGHT, became justification for parents to lose their rights. This move is straight out of the United Nations which is moving to destroy the idea of “family.” Vote not on this amendment!

Proposition 16: Neutral

This amendment prevents non-US citizens from voting in Texas elections. Here’s the problem. Some non-citizens live in Texas legally. They pay taxes. They are good neighbors. But because they aren’t US citizens should we keep them from voting in the government they operate under? On the other hand, perhaps they need some incentive to become citizens? Do we want people living among us who have not pledged loyalty to the United States?? I’ll leave this one to you!

Proposition 17: AGAINST

This amendment creates an exemption for a relatively few property owners. The problem is with how border security is defined, and that definition can be changed with a regular bill in legislature—it means one thing today, but next year, after this amendment has passed it could be redefined into something you didn’t want. Under the right conditions, Texans may feel coerced into hosting government surveillance in order to get the exemption (which puts more tax burden on other property owners!)