

**PROP. 1, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - YES**

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 100 percent or totally disabled veteran.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** YES vote because currently a surviving spouse can inherit existing property tax freezes for the elderly and disabled, so this law will remain consistent with current constitutional provisions.

**PROP. 2, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - NO**

The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$6 billion at any time outstanding.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because it will expand the state's debt by \$6 billion at a time when the state is near its constitutional debt limit and concerns abound over increasing public debt. Furthermore, the Legislature and voters should periodically vote to approve additional bonding authority instead of allowing the TWDB the ability to re-issue additional bonds without a vote of approval.

**PROP. 3, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT- NO**

The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance educational loans to students.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because it would increase the state's debt obligation and increase government debt during a weak economy. Furthermore, higher education is not a necessity; students should take out loans from private banks that can assess a student's risk more accurately than the Higher Education Coordinating Board. For college to become more affordable, the legislature should control costs and administration instead of issuing additional state debt to pay for a student's education.

**PROP. 4, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT –NO**

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area and to pledge for repayment of the bonds or notes increases in ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area. The amendment does not provide authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** No vote because it increases the possibility for land to be appraised at a higher value. Even if the tax rate were to remain the same, a higher appraised value would result in a greater tax burden on owners of property in the area and will not address the true problems with state transportation funding.

**PROP. 5, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - NO**

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of a sinking fund.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because it would make spending easier for local governments without fiscal accountability.

**PROP. 6, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - NO**

The constitutional amendment clarifying references to the permanent school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund to provide additional funding for public education, and providing for an increase in the market value of the permanent school fund for the purpose of allowing increased distributions from the available school fund.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because diverting the revenue that otherwise would go into the fund and become part of that corpus and making it available for use would be tantamount to liquidating a permanent asset to satisfy a short-term need and would defeat the purpose of the investment fund. In addition, this amendment is unnecessary because the State Board of Education can act quickly to transfer the proceeds to the Available School Fund. Additionally, it is inappropriate to artificially inflate the market value of these properties, even if it is a temporary measure.

**PROP. 7, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – NO**

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because it would provide an opportunity for further taxing authority in El Paso County, a property-poor county. In this current economic climate, government leaders should be focused on sustaining the local economy and generating revenue rather than on creating additional debt.

**PROP. 8, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - NO**

The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because the separate water-stewardship valuation is superfluous because landowners already practice voluntary water conservation.

**PROP. 9, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - NO**

The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because it is unclear whether the proposed amendment will be sufficient to allow a person who completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision and who is pardoned to subsequently obtain an expunction of criminal history record information because statutory law governing expunction does not allow expunction based on a pardon following successful completion of a term of deferred adjudication community supervision. The record of the individual's arrest and community supervision should remain public information. It is risky at any time to restrict access to this type of information.

**PROP. 10, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - NO**

The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office.

**Heritage Alliance recommendation:** NO vote because instead of amending the time limit, the requirement to resign to run should be repealed because no other elected officials are required to do so and the county and district officials should have this same benefit.