

TAB VOTER GUIDE: NOVEMBER 2017 BALLOT

Amendments to the Texas Constitution that were passed during the Regular Session require voter approval in order to become effective as law. During the upcoming November 7 election, there will be seven constitutional amendments on the ballot.

Proposition 1

(House Joint Resolution 21)

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution.”

WHAT IT MEANS: It would authorize property tax exemptions for certain partially disabled veterans or their surviving spouse whose homes were donated to them by charity for less than market value. **TAB’s Government Relations Committee Voted to Support HJR 21.**

Proposition 2

(Senate Joint Resolution 60)

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT: “The constitutional amendment to establish a lower amount for expenses that can be charged to a borrower and removing certain financing expense limitations for a

home equity loan, establishing certain authorized lenders to make a home equity loan, changing certain options for the refinancing for home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads.”

WHAT IT MEANS: This would ease restrictions on borrowing against home equity in Texas. **TAB’s Government Relations Committee Voted to Support SJR 60.**

Proposition 3

(Senate Joint Resolution 34)

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT: “The constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate after the expiration of the person’s term of office.”

WHAT IT MEANS: Unsalaries appointees whose terms have ended but who have not been replaced would serve only until the next legislative session has ended.

Proposition 4

(Senate Joint Resolution 6)

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the Legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.”

WHAT IT MEANS: This would require courts to notify the state attorney general of any constitutional challenges to state laws.

Proposition 5

(House Joint Resolution 100)

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT: “The constitutional amendment on professional sports teams’ charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles.”

WHAT IT MEANS: It would expand the definition of a “professional sports team,” giving more team-connected foundations the ability to hold charitable raffles.

Proposition 6

(Senate Joint Resolution 1)

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.”

WHAT IT MEANS: This would give property tax exemptions to surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty.

Proposition 7

(House Joint Resolution 37)

WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT: “The constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.”

WHAT IT MEANS: It would allow banks and other financial institutions to conduct promotional activities, such as raffles, to encourage savings. ■

For more information on what will be on the ballot and where to vote, visit VoteTexas.gov