



# TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

## Representative Cecil Bell, Jr.

District 3

Friends of House District 3,

This newsletter provides you with information on the upcoming Texas Constitutional Amendment Election. Early voting begins Monday, October 21 and continues through Friday, November 1. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. If you are registered to vote in Montgomery County, [please click here](#) ([www.mctx.org/election](http://www.mctx.org/election)) for your polling location and sample ballot. If you are registered to vote in Waller County, [please click here](#) ([www.wallercountyelections.com](http://www.wallercountyelections.com)).

Proposition	Explanation	Arguments
1. "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 in action."	Exempts property tax for the surviving spouse of a service member killed in action. The exemption can be transferred to a new homestead. The exemption ends upon remarriage.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> This exemption would provide valuable relief to surviving spouses during a difficult time, freeing up needed money that could be used elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> School districts would receive less revenue from property taxes, which could result in local governments increasing property taxes for others.</p>
2. "The constitutional amendment eliminating an obsolete requirement for a State Medical Education Board and a State Medical Education Fund, neither of which is operational."	Repeals the obsolete State Medical Education Board.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> The Board has not been operational in more than 20 years.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> There is no known opposition to the amendment.</p>
3. "The constitutional amendment to authorize a political subdivision of this state to extend the number of days that aircraft parts that are exempt from ad valorem taxation due to their location in this state for a temporary period may be located in this state for purposes of qualifying for the tax exemption."	Extends the exemption from inventory taxes for aircraft parts.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> The Texas aviation industry insists the 175-day required turn-around for aircraft parts is too short and is a deterrent to aviation business in the state. Texas is one of the few states that taxes this type of inventory.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> Granting an extension may reduce tax revenues for local governments, at an undeterminable cost.</p>
4. "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"	Exempts property tax for a partially disabled veteran.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> This avoids an unintended consequence of foreclosure when a charity gives a home to a disabled veteran who cannot afford to pay the property taxes on the donated home due to an inability to work at full capacity.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> School districts would receive less revenue from property taxes, which could result in local governments increasing property taxes for others.</p>



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to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization.”		
5. “The constitutional amendment to authorize the making of a reverse mortgage loan for the purchase of homestead property and to amend lender disclosures and other requirements in connection with a reverse mortgage loan.”	Authorizes advances under a reverse mortgage.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> Authorizing seniors to use a reverse mortgage for purchasing a home allows them to could sell one property and purchase another in a single transaction, reduces costs and allowing for downsizing or moving to a more desirable location.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> There is no known opposition to the amendment.</p>
6. “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas to assist in the financing of priority projects in the state water plan to ensure the availability of adequate water resources.”	Funds the state water plan.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> The ongoing drought and the state’s rapidly growing population has highlighted the possibility of critical water shortages in the coming years. Responding to the drought as an emergency is an appropriate use of the Rainy Day Fund.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> The rainy day fund should not be used to build or fund water projects.</p>
7. “The constitutional amendment authorizing a homerule municipality to provide in its charter the procedure to fill a vacancy on its governing body for which the unexpired term is 12 months or less.”	Fills a vacancy on a home-rule city council.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> Because cities are currently required to fill these vacancies within 120 days, this proposition saves taxpayers money by allowing for appointments rather than elections.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> Allowing city officials to fill vacancies could make the process more vulnerable to corruption.</p>
8. “The constitutional amendment repealing Section 7, Article IX, Texas Constitution, which relates to the creation of a hospital district in Hidalgo County.”	Repeals a hospital district in Hidalgo County.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> Hidalgo County is the largest county in Texas without a hospital district, due to existing limitations to be removed by the adoption of this proposition.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> There is no known opposition to the amendment.</p>
9. “The constitutional amendment relating to expanding the types of sanctions that may be assessed against a judge or justice following a formal proceeding instituted by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.”	Expands the sanctions imposed by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.	<p><b>Arguments For</b> This will lead to greater public accountability for judges and justices by expanding sanctions, removing a disincentive to the conduct of open proceedings, and better serves the commission in the administration of justice.</p> <p><b>Arguments Against</b> There is no known opposition to the amendment.</p>