



September 22, 2021

Dear Friends,

The third called Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislature started this week and the Texas Senate has begun working on important business after the second Special Session successfully concluded earlier this month.

The Governor's agenda for the Special Session includes the following items:

- Congressional, legislative, and State Board of Education redistricting;
- Legislation to protect girls' sports by basing participation on a student's sex at birth;
- Legislation regarding whether the state can mandate an individual receive a COVID-19 vaccine and what exemptions should apply;
- State appropriations related to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021;
- Legislation preventing the unlawful restraint of a dog;
- Legislation to reduce property taxes.

I am committed to "**Listen, Learn, and Lead**" and the goal of this newsletter is to keep you informed while also providing an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with me. As always, contact me if I can assist you in any way.

2021 Constitutional Amendment Election

On **November 2, 2021**, there will be a **statewide election to adopt amendments to the state constitution**. Each legislative session, the legislature considers joint-resolutions that propose amendments to the Texas Constitution. For the constitution to be amended, the legislature must pass each joint-resolution by a 2/3 supermajority vote. After the legislative session, the joint-resolutions that the legislature chooses to adopt are reported to the Texas Secretary of State to determine the ballot order by a random draw. The majority of voters of Texas, in a general election, must pass the ballot propositions for the constitutional amendment to become law.

This November, the Constitutional Amendment election will include eight propositions:

1. **Proposition 1 (HJR 143):** "The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women 's Professional Rodeo Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo venues."
2. **Proposition 2 (HJR 99):** "The constitutional amendment authorizing a county to finance the development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county."
3. **Proposition 3 (SJR 27) (Co-Authored by Senator Paxton):** "The constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations."
4. **Proposition 4 (SJR 47):** "The constitutional amendment changing the eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the

court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge."

5. **Proposition 5 (HJR 165):** "The constitutional amendment providing additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct with respect to candidates for judicial office."
6. **Proposition 6 (SJR 19):** "The constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation."
7. **Proposition 7 (HJR 125):** "The constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a person who is disabled to receive a limitation on the school district ad valorem taxes on the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the person's death."
8. **Proposition 8 (SJR 35)** (Joint-Authored by Senator Paxton): "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 or fatally injured in the line of duty."

Additional information on the constitutional amendments is available at the [Texas Legislative Council](#) website.

Monday, October 4, 2021, is the deadline to register to vote for the November 2, 2021 general election. You may check your voter registration and find more information on the voter registration process at the [Secretary of State's website](#).

Senate Redistricting Committee Hearings this Weekend

The **Texas Senate Select Committee on Redistricting** has posted **two committee hearings** for [September 24](#) and [September 25](#) to consider the composition of State Senate districts (Senate Bill 4) and the composition of State Board of Education districts (Senate Bill 7).

To submit **electronic testimony** to the Senate Redistricting Committee, you may click on the submission portal [here](#).

The committee hearings may be viewed online through [Senate Media](#). The links for the hearings will be live starting approximately 10 minutes before the committee hearing is scheduled to begin.

The maps reflected in the filed versions of the legislation can be found on the Texas Legislative Council [District Viewer](#) application.

The Texas Legislative Council has additional analysis regarding the redistricting process [here](#).

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