

League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308-0034 ~ www.lwvwichitafalls.org ~ 940-692-8498



Voters Guide

General Election, Wichita County

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

The League of Women Voters invited each candidate to respond to several questions for this Voters Guide. Local candidates' unedited answers begin on page 2.

This VOTERS GUIDE is published and funded by the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls (LWV-WF), through donations from League members, Citizens of Wichita Falls, and Residents of the Wichita Falls area. The LWV-WF is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of Texas and the League of Women Voters of the U.S., and is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to promote political responsibility through active informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League DOES NOT support nor oppose any political party, candidate, or proposition. This VOTERS GUIDE is designed to convey factual information to help prepare citizens to cast informed votes. Responses to the questionnaire are printed only for races contested in this election. Candidates' replies are printed without editing or verification. To conserve space, replies have word limits.

WHERE TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7

Locations are in Wichita Falls unless otherwise noted.

Fowler Elementary
5100 Ridgcrest Dr.

MSU Hardin Admin. Bldg.
3410 Taft Blvd.

TX Hwy. Dept.
1601 Southwest Pkwy.

John Tower Elementary
5200 Hooper Dr.

Commissioner Pct. 2 Bldg.
102 W. College, Burkburnett

Wichita County Courthouse, Rm. 130
900 7th St.

Iowa Park Tax Substation
400 N. Wall, Iowa Park

First Assembly of God
3101 McNiel

Crockett Elementary
3015 Ave. I

Commissioner Pct. 4 Bldg.
2023 SH 25 N, Electra

****Please note that with the adoption of voting centers for this election, any registered voter will be permitted to vote at any voting location, regardless of precinct.****

WHERE TO VOTE EARLY

Wichita County Courthouse, Rm. 139
900 7th St., Wichita Falls

Wichita County Tax Office Substation
400 N Wall St., Iowa Park

Commissioner 2 Bldg.
102 W College, Burkburnett

Oct. 23 - Oct. 27	(8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
Oct. 28	(7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)
Oct. 29	(Noon - 5 p.m.)
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	(7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)

Sikes Senter Mall & Home Depot

Oct. 23 - Oct. 27	(10 a.m. - 7 p.m.)
Oct. 28	(9 a.m. - 9 p.m.)
Oct. 29	(Noon - 5 p.m.)
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	(9 a.m. - 9 p.m.)

Commissioner 4 Bldg.
2023 SH 25 N, Electra

Oct. 23 - Oct. 27	(8 a.m. - Noon)
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	(1 p.m. - 5 p.m.)
*CLOSED Oct. 29 & 30	

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

October 27 is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail. Absentee ballots returned by mail must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 7.

To view this Voters Guide online, visit
www.lwvwichitafalls.org

► COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE, CITY OF WICHITA FALLS

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

QUESTION 1: What are your qualifications for office (including your occupation, education, training and experience)? (100 words) limit.

QUESTION 2: What do you feel are the top two (2) issues facing Wichita Falls and what do you see as appropriate action for the city to take? (200 words)

QUESTION 3: In an austere funding environment, what criteria are most important in evaluating competing funding needs? (100 words)

BOBBY WHITELEY

QUESTION 1: I am a native Wichitan, born and raised. I am a small business owner. Managing and understanding a budget, making payroll in good times and bad is an excellent lesson I have learned as I look at the duties of a City Council member as it relates to our budget process. I am a graduate of Rider High School. I have held a master electrician license since 2002. I worked for Wichita Falls Fire Dept. for 28+ years. I am also currently the First District Vice President of the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters. I have been trained extensively

QUESTION 2: (1) I feel that the one of the main priorities of Municipal Government is to provide core services (water, sewer, electricity, streets, public safety) to our Citizens. This needs to be done in an excellent and reliable level and to manage a budget well enough to fix, repair, or upgrade as needed.
(2) Work force. Our City needs to focus on how to bring economic growth, but at the same time keep our high school and college graduates here to

maintain the work force that would be needed. The new WFISD career center is a major step in giving our young adults a chance to learn skilled trades. I can personally attest to the lack of qualified skilled personnel from our younger citizens in the construction trades. We need to retain and train our younger generation as they will be our future leaders and their energy is contagious. We need that.

QUESTION 3: Infrastructure, like water, roads, and drainage are crucial to maintain our City today and tomorrow. Hopefully we can expand our community tax base to lower the tax burden on existing population. Federal and State partnerships are vital keys to maintain our streets. My experience as a lifelong resident of Wichita Falls brings insight to our aging infrastructure. Being able to care for and expand for the future is a delicate balance. My combination of being career Fire Fighter and small business owner has given me a firsthand view of our aging buildings and infrastructure. I feel that my knowledge is

PENNY MILLER

QUESTION 1: I have a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and a Master’s in Management. I spent 21 years in the US Air Force as a personnel officer before “retiring” in Wichita Falls. I started my company, My HR Department (formerly Venture HRO LLC), in 2007, providing HR services and consulting to small businesses. A graduate of Leadership Wichita Falls, I have served on several nonprofit boards. I have participated on city Boards and Commissions, which has given me insight into many of the issues which face the city. I currently serve on the Civil Service Commission and the Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee.

QUESTION 2: Economic development is vital. We need steady growth to increase the tax base. The city has made strides in improving collaboration among the many entities who must work together to make that happen, but we can’t stop moving forward. The City Council needs to look at providing the right environment for business to thrive and to encourage small businesses to start and to grow. The economic engine is run by small businesses—we need to focus on retention and growth of businesses we have, as well as encourage new businesses to start. Yes, a big new business would be nice, but enticing such businesses is a long-term proposition—we can do a lot right here, right now.

To facilitate economic growth, we need to: (1) improve quality of life through projects like Lake Wichita, downtown development, school improvements, and completion of our Circle Trail; (2) involve all segments of our community in the growth and success of Wichita Falls; (3) continue to nurture our relationship with Sheppard AFB; and (4) begin to fix and upgrade our infrastructure. Obviously, these all require a coalition of the city, county, private businesses, citizens, and schools.

QUESTION 3: Roads are always an issue. Generally, the city does well maintaining the main thoroughfares, but there are parts of town where roads are not as well maintained, although the city is quick to fill potholes when notified.

We still have parts of the city where flooding is a problem. The city has undertaken several projects in the past and we are in better shape than we were, but we aren’t there yet.

These and other infrastructure improvements are big ticket items, and won’t be done overnight. But we cannot ignore them.

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CHARLES BARR

QUESTION 1: I HAVE LIVED IN THE CITY OF WICHITA FALLS FOR MY ENTIRE 74 YEARS. I WAS ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM 1967 TO 1972 AND HAVE BEEN A HOMEBUILDER IN WICHITA FALLS SINCE 1967. I SERVED 6 YEARS ON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND WAS ON THE WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION FOR 8 YEARS AND SERVED ON THE BUILDING BOARD FOR 6 YEARS. I HAVE HAD MY OWN BUSINESS IN WICHITA FALLS FOR 50 YEARS AND HAVE BUILT MANY HOMES AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES IN OUR HOME TOWN.

QUESTION 2: I FEEL THAT THE CITY OF WICHITA FALLS HAS AN ISSUE WITH BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND VOTER APATHY. I FEEL THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO COMPLAIN BUT NO ONE WANTS TO GET INVOLVED. WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO GET THEM TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH PARTICIPATION. WE HAVE A BOARD OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BUT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO HELP BRING SMALL BUSINESSES TO THE AREA TO HELP WITH THE ECONOMY OF OUR TOWN. WE ALSO NEED THE

CITY'S POPULATION TO CARE ABOUT THE ELECTED OFFICIALS AND TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN MAKING EDUCATED VOTES FOR THOSE CHOSEN TO RUN OUR CITY. PEOPLE NEED TO BECOME MOTIVATED AND EXCITED ABOUT OUR TOWN AND HOW IT COULD THRIVE AND NOT JUST BE A PLACE ON THE MAP. OUR PARKS DEPARTMENT HAS IMPROVED BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHER AREAS THAT COULD USE OUR DEDICATION FOR IMPROVEMENT.

QUESTION 3: THE CITY IS IN A PHASE OF SEWER AND WATER LINE REPLACEMENTS BUT OUR STREETS ARE IN BAD NEED OF REPAIRS AND WE ARE STILL HELD BACK BECAUSE OF MONEY RESTRAINTS. THEY ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE AS MANY OF THEM AS THEY CAN BUT THERE ARE WAYS THAT WE AS INDIVIDUALS CAN HELP BE INVOLVED IN THIS. THE CITIZENS CAN GO ONLINE AND REPORT AREAS IN NEED TO THE CITY OF WICHITA FALLS WEBSITE AND EACH OF US CAN HELP BE A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN YOU SEE A POTHOLE OR A WATER LINE LEAK YOU CAN

BRENDAN BELL

QUESTION 1: Born/raised in Wichita Falls, graduating from Wichita Falls High School (1999) and the University of Texas (2003), I've lived in Austin and Houston and have experienced growing and thriving cities with positive, progressive and creative identities, and I see no reason why Wichita Falls can't be one as well. Leading Schaaf & Clark Commercial/Domain Real Estate, I am pushing investment in our downtown and promoting our market to national retailers. No other candidate is doing more to promote our city. None will utilize the platform I've been given to bring excitement to our town.

QUESTION 2: Our greatest need is economic growth. We have vibrant, growing colleges with Midwestern State University and Vernon College and we need to embrace and promote innovative, affordable talent to employers for investment in Wichita Falls. Our city is primed and geographically staged for expansion - Keep our graduates in town,

incentivize risk, engage entrepreneurship.

Wichita Falls second greatest need if perspective. I've lived in "exciting" places and this can be one of them. I want our people to love where they are. This is your city - make it what you want, and if you leave, leave it better than when you arrived. If you aren't happy here you won't be happy in Austin, New York or Paris France. Build community, invest, and love your neighbor. Whether I have the title of City Councilor, I'm going to continue my work to build a place my kids will be proud to say they're from.

QUESTION 3: Our city leadership has engaged many options to employ initiatives to improve infrastructure with fiscal responsibility. I agree with the strategic plan in place.

What is the League of Women Voters?

OUR MISSION - The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and which seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



OUR FOCUS - Public policy issues. Members **join** the League because of a general or specific interest. People **support** the League because of the positions

on public policy for which we advocate, **OR** because we are non-partisan in our service to voters.

NON-PARTISANSHIP - The League never supports nor opposes a candidate or a political party. After thorough study and discussion of a public policy issue, we may come to a consensus either to support or oppose that issue.

YOU MAY CONTACT the League in Wichita Falls by phone at (940) 692-8498, or through the contact form on our website at www.lwvwichitafalls.org.

The LWV of Texas phone in Austin is (512) 472-1100. Their website is www.lwvtexas.org.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held at noon on the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of July and August), in the Luby's Cafeteria banquet area. Programs are presented on important issues of the day.

OUR MAIN SERVICE is to encourage the registration of voters, publish Voters Guides, and hold public education forums.

How You Can Help

This Voters Guide is paid for by voluntary contributions. Some of the contributions come from members, but some come from citizens like you, who want non-biased information about the people running for public office and the issues in front of you as a voter.

For some elections, we hold Candidate Forums.

We do not charge for Voters Guides or attendance at Forums.

Donate online at www.lwvwichitafalls.org or send checks to:

League of Women Voters Education Fund
P.O. Box 4034
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

How to use this Voters Guide

The law now permits voters to take aids, such as this Voters Guide, into the voting booth. You may feel free to do so, as it is a non-partisan reference to support the intelligent and informed exercise of a Constitutional right -- the right to vote.

Online Access

To access this Voters Guide online, visit www.lwvwichitafalls.org and click the Voters Guide Download button.

The League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls would like to thank everyone who has reached out to our organization this election season. Several community organizations were involved with voter registration drives, and the Wichita Falls Public Library offered voter registration and voter information at the front desk. We would also like to thank the City of Wichita Falls for providing the location for the LWV-sponsored Candidate Forum, and local television stations for covering the event.

AD VALOREM TAXATION • CHALLENGE TO THE CONSTITUTION • LIMITING SERVICE OF OFFICEHOLDERS
HOME EQUITY LOANS • CHARITABLE SPORTS FOUNDATIONS • PRIZES BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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the
VOTERS
GUIDE

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1212 Guadalupe # 107
Austin, TX 78701
or make a secure donation online at www.lwvtexas.org.

About This Voters Guide.....

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. For more than 90 years, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As an organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in Making Democracy Work. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Table of Contents

STATE OF TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.....2-7

REGISTERING TO VOTE.....4

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE.....6

BALLOT BY MAIL.....6

STUDENT VOTERS.....6

PROVISIONAL VOTING.....7

DONOR RECOGNITION.....8

VOTERS AFFECTED BY HARVEY.....8

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Voter Identification: What To Take To The Polls
TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW PHOTO ID

The seven forms of approved photo ID's are: (must not be expired more than 4 years)

- 1. Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS);
- 2. Texas personal identification card issued by DPS;
- 3. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
- 4. Texas handgun license issued by DPS;
- 5. United States military identification card containing the person's photograph;
- 6. United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph;
- 7. United States passport.

OPTIONS: voters who are on the official list of registered voters and who do not have any form of approved photo ID may complete and sign a "reasonable impediment declaration" and vote a regular ballot if they present a:

- Valid voter registration certificate (card)
- Certified birth certificate (original)
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current government check
- Current paycheck
- Any other government document with the individual's name and address (original).

ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

Your Voter Registration Certificate

VOTER REGISTRAR
800-687-8548 / 512-547-1990
2010 REDBUD BLVD., SUITE 102
MCKINNEY, TX 75069
www.collincountytx.gov

Secretary of State's Office
Elections Division
1-800-252-VOTE (8683)

2016 – 2017 Sample

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
(Certificado de Registro Electoral)
COLLIN COUNTY (condado de Collin)

VOID (VUID)	Gender (Sexo)	Valid from (Valido desde)
Year of Birth (Año de Nacimiento)	Prec. No. (Pct. Num.)	thru (hasta)

Name and Permanent Residence Address (Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)
Voter, John Q.
1234 Street
City Name, Tx 75024

Mark Choice
Voted in the
Votante ha elegido su preferencia política registrada en esta guía

CONGRESS (Congreso)	STATE SEN. (Sen. Estado)	STATE REP. (Rep. Estado)	COM	JP
CITY (Ciudad)	CITY DIST. (Ciudad dist.)	ISD (escuela)	ISD DIST. (escuela dist.)	SBOE

Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y dirección de correo)
John Q. Voter
1234 Street
City Name, Tx 75024

VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN HEREIN. NAME IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT. IF ASSE.
(El Votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al punto de recepción, si es necesario)

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► PROPOSITION 1 AD VALOREM TAXATION (HJR 21)

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

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.

EXPLANATION

The Texas Constitution, Art. 8, Sec. 1-b(1), allows the legislature to provide a partial homestead exemption for a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse equal to the percentage of the disability if the homestead was donated at no cost to the disabled veteran.

Proposition 1 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to entitle a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse to a partial homestead exemption even if the homestead was donated at some cost to the veteran. The enabling legislation, HB 150, allows partially disabled veterans to claim a property tax exemption if they paid 50 percent or less of the market value for the house donated to them by a charity.

Arguments For:

- Currently a partially disabled veteran who paid part of the cost of a donated home receives no property tax exemption. Proposition 1 would give the same property tax exemption to a partially disabled veteran who paid something toward the value of a donated home that is currently received by partially disabled veterans whose homes were donated in full.

Arguments Against:

- Proposition 1 would continue a pattern of giving exemptions to specific groups of people. Reducing the taxes on specific groups usually means other groups must absorb more of the tax burden.
- The legislature should focus its efforts on reducing the tax burden on everyone.

Amendments to the Texas Constitution Since 1876

The 1876 Texas Constitution, the fifth since statehood, had 289 sections organized into 17 articles. The original version of this 1876 constitution is viewable online on The University of Texas School of Law Tarlton Law Library website at <http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas1876>.

Over the years, 216 new sections have been added, while 66 of the original sections and 51 of the added sections have been removed, so that the Texas

Constitution today has 388 sections. For most of that time, the constitution has been updated at least biennially through amendments proposed by the legislature and approved by the Texas electorate.

No legislative rules or other restrictions limit the number of amendment proposals, provided each receives the required two-thirds vote in both the senate and the house.

Since 1876, the legislature has proposed 673 constitutional amendments, and 670 have gone before Texas voters. Of the amendments submitted to the voters so far, 491 have been approved by the electorate and 179 have been defeated. Three amendments never made it to the ballot for reasons that are historically obscure.

(Texas Legislative Council, 2016)

► PROPOSITION 2 HOME EQUITY LOANS (SJR 60)

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

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 of home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads.

EXPLANATION

Proposition 2 would amend Article 16, Section 50(a)(6) of the Texas Constitution that governs home equity loans—money borrowed against the value of a homestead by its owner using the property as a guarantee to repay the loan. This amendment proposes changes to the following terms:

Fee cap. Lower the maximum limit on fees that can be charged to borrowers from 3% to 2% of the loan principal and exclude the cost of appraisals, property surveys, title insurance premiums, title insurance, and title examination reports from calculation of the maximum limit on fees.

Refinancing. Allow a home equity loan to be refinanced as a non-home equity loan secured with a lien against the property if certain conditions are met. This is currently prohibited.

Home equity lines of credit. Repeal a provision that prevents additional advances on a home equity line of credit if the unpaid principal exceeds 50% of the fair market value of the homestead.

Agricultural homesteads. Allow a home equity loan for a homestead designated for agricultural use. This is currently prohibited.

Approved lenders. Expand the list of approved home equity lenders by adding subsidiaries of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions; and replace mortgage brokers with mortgage bankers and mortgage companies.

Arguments For:

- The proposed amendment will make home equity loans more accessible, lower costs for borrowers, and provide consumers more choice.
- Fee cap. Lenders will be able to make loans under \$100,000 more easily; the fee cap will not include fees by third parties, and consumers will still be protected against extreme fees from lenders.
- Refinancing. Allowing a home equity loan to be refinanced into a non-home equity loan within reasonable restrictions would increase consumer choice. The borrower could combine a home equity loan with another loan to have one payment or to get a lower interest rate.
- Home equity lines of credit. The change would allow the borrower to initially take out a smaller loan and pay less interest before borrowing more against the line of credit.
- Agricultural homesteads. Owners of large and small agricultural homesteads should have the same choice as other Texans to borrow against their property under the consumer protections of a home equity loan.

Arguments Against:

- The proposed amendment will raise costs for borrowers and remove several important consumer protections that have worked for borrowers and lenders.
- Fee cap. Adding the costs for appraisals, surveys, and title insurance and reports on top of a maximum fee limit of 2% of the loan principal would likely be higher than the current 3% cap on all fees.
- Refinancing. Home equity loans have important protections related to judicial foreclosure and protection against loss of non-home assets. A new home equity loan with the consumer protections is a better option than a non-home equity loan without those protections.
- Home equity lines of credit. Current limits require the borrower to budget carefully for projected expenses and their repayment.
- Agricultural homesteads. Home equity loans and lines of credit for agricultural properties are costlier than farm operating loans and lines of credit due to the added large costs for appraisals, surveys, and title insurance and reports.

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▶ PROPOSITION 3

LIMITING SERVICE OF OFFICEHOLDERS (SJR 60)

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

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.

EXPLANATION:

Proposition 3 would modify the holdover provisions for all unsalaried officers appointed by the governor such as appointees to volunteer boards and commissions. Current law, known as the “holdover” provision, allows all unsalaried appointees to continue to perform the duties of their office until a successor is duly qualified. “Holdovers” ensure continuation of functions but have been used to serve as extensions of terms of office.

This proposition makes it clear that if a term expires when the legislature is not in regular session, the officer will continue to serve only until the last day of the next regular session of the legislature. These unsalaried officials would not continue to serve in office past the expiration even if no successor has been appointed. If a new official is not appointed by the end of the session, then the office would become vacant.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

- This amendment would limit the amount of time a governor’s appointee can serve and would address concerns about some gubernatorial appointees being held over in their positions long after their terms have expired. Placing the limit at the end of a regular legislative session allows Senate confirmation hearings of appointees.
- Placing a limit on how long an appointee could continue serving in office would ensure that these unsalaried volunteer positions are rotated among qualified Texans.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- The Governor has many appointed positions to fill; the existing law allows flexibility for appointees to continue serving until qualified replacements are found.
- This amendment could result in many important appointed positions remaining vacant if a qualified replacement is not found within a certain time frame.

REGISTERING TO VOTE -

Be Ready for the 2018 Primary Elections.....

You must register to vote at least 30 days before the election date. The last day you can register to vote in the 2017 Constitutional Amendment Election is October 10, 2017.

Eligibility - You are eligible to register to vote if:

- You are a United States citizen;
- You are a resident of a Texas County;
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old;
- You are not a convicted felon, or, if convicted you have been pardoned or fully discharged your sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or probation; and
- You have not been declared by a court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

How to Register to Vote

- In person at the voter registration office in your county, or
- Fill out an application that can be mailed (or faxed with follow-up by mail) or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence.
- Application forms are available at many libraries, government offices and high schools.
- The application is available online at the Secretary of State’s voter information website, www.VoteTexas.gov. This website allows you to search to see if you are already registered.

After you apply, a voter registration certificate will be mailed to you within 30 days. This certificate includes your precinct for voting on Election Day as well as your congressional, state legislative, county, and local districts.

For how long is my registration effective?

- The registration will remain in effect until you move or change your name,
- A new certificate will be sent to you every two years without further application on your part.
- If you move, however, your registration certificate will not be forwarded to your new address.
- If you move within the same county or change your name, you must notify your county clerk or election administrator in writing or online of your new address or your new name as soon as possible. Then a new certificate will be mailed to you.
- If you move to another county, you must re-register by applying to the election office in your new county.

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► PROPOSITION 4 CHALLENGE TO THE CONSTITUTION (SJR 6)

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

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.

EXPLANATION:

Proposition 4 would require a court to notify the state attorney general when a party to litigation files a petition, motion, or other pleading challenging the constitutionality of a state statute. Courts must wait 45 days, after providing the notice, before entering a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.

In 2011, the state legislature passed a statute with a similar notice and waiting period, but in 2013, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that the law was unconstitutional. Proposition 4 is designed to provide a constitutional basis for the notice and waiting period to restore the 2013 law.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Proposition 4 ensures the state has an opportunity to defend the constitutionality of its laws.
- The proposed amendment would not alter the state’s separation of powers doctrine nor restrict the ability of courts to strike down laws as unconstitutional.
- This amendment would only provide the attorney general with notice so the attorney general could offer assistance to defend a state law. It would not change the authority of the attorney general’s office over criminal matters.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- The constitution should not be amended in a way that could undermine the state’s separation of powers doctrine. Each branch of the government should be able to exercise its powers without interference from another branch.
- The legislature should not establish procedures that delay a Texan’s right to pursue and receive relief from unconstitutional laws.
- Under current law, in criminal cases the state prosecuting attorney, not the attorney general, represents the state. This law could create confusion regarding the attorney general’s role in criminal cases.

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► PROPOSITION 5

CHARITABLE SPORTS FOUNDATIONS (HJR 100)

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment on professional sports team charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles.

EXPLANATION:

Proposition 5 would amend Article 3, Section 47(d-1) of the Texas Constitution, enabling certain professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles. Voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2016 to allow certain professional sports team charitable foundations that existed on January 1, 2016, to conduct charitable raffles at home games. It authorized the 10 Texas major league sports franchises that had charitable foundations on that date to conduct charitable raffles.

Proposition 5 and its enabling legislation, HB 3125, would expand the number of professional sports team charitable foundations that are eligible to hold charitable raffles at home sports games. This amendment proposes to:

- Remove the restriction that only charitable foundations existing on January 1, 2016 may conduct charitable raffles
- Define “professional sports teams” eligible to conduct charitable raffles to allow professional hockey, basketball, football, baseball, soccer, motorsports, and golf teams, including minor leagues as well as major leagues

ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Proposition 5, in expanding the number of eligible sports teams, allows more teams to capitalize on the large and supportive crowds at sporting events, which increases the amount of charitable funds to support their charitable programs.
- It would add minor league sports teams representing more rural and suburban communities, bringing charitable revenue to new and different parts of the state and uniting sports teams and their communities to assist disadvantaged Texans.
- The proposed amendment only expands the number of sports teams that could participate in charitable raffles; it would make no other change and would not remove safeguards that were established to protect against improperly conducted raffles.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- Current law, which applies only to the 10 Texas major league sports franchises, protects against the creation of entities solely to take advantage of charitable raffles.
- Proposition 5 could open the door to further expansion of charitable raffles conducted by the foundations of less well-established teams.
- The proposed amendment expands gambling in Texas by increasing the number of raffles that sports team foundations can conduct, which could lead to other groups requesting authority to offer such raffles.

i STUDENT VOTERS

Students may use either their parents’ address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered at both places. The general rule of thumb is that wherever students claim residency is the place where they should be registered to vote. Students who will be away from their address on Election Day and during early voting may request ballots by mail. Student IDs are not adequate photo IDs for voting and will not be accepted at the polls.

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

Early Voting: All registered voters may vote early by personal appearance at any early voting location in their county. Check with your local newspaper or the county clerk or election administrator for early voting times and locations. Early voting days for the November 7, 2017 Constitutional Amendment are October 23 – November 3, 2017.

Election Day Voting: On Election Day you must vote in your precinct of residence (unless your area is participating in countywide vote centers). Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling or going online with your county election administrator.

County elections addresses and fax numbers are available at www.VoteTexas.gov or at www.VOTE411.org. Voting places are also listed in most newspapers. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct site or offered a provisional ballot. You can vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in the precinct where you vote, your ballot will not be counted by Texas law. More information on provisional voting appears on the Texas Secretary of State website www.VoteTexas.gov.

Ballot-by-Mail Voting

Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote by mail (no longer called absentee voting).

You may request a ballot by mail if you

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting
- are sick or disabled
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- are confined to jail, but still eligible to vote.

You do not need a photo ID to vote by mail, but photo ID will be required of first time voters if a driver’s license or Social Security number was not included with the voter registration application.

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from www.VoteTexas.gov. The completed form must be received by mail or fax by October 27, 2017. Note: postmarks don’t count.

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 7, 2017. The ballot must be received, not just postmarked, by that date. If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the early voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)

► PROPOSITION 6 AD VALOREM TAXATION (SJR 1)

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

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 first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

EXPLANATION:

Proposition 6 would give property tax exemptions to surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty if the spouse has not remarried. If the surviving spouse moves to a new homestead, the spouse is entitled to an equivalent homestead exemption for real property taxation.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Families of fallen first responders, with their incomes reduced, should not have to bear the burden of losing their homes because of the price of property taxes.
- Surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty should be treated the same as surviving spouses of veterans killed in the line of duty.
- The fiscal impact on a single taxing district would be minimal.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- Regardless of how deserving the recipients, creating additional property tax exemptions may require local governments to place an additional tax burden on other taxpayers.
- School districts would receive less revenue from property taxes so the state may decide to cover this reduction by taking it from the General Revenue Fund, creating a cost to the state.

► PROPOSITION 7 PRIZES BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (HJR37)

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.

EXPLANATION:

The Texas Constitution, Art. 3, Sec. 47, prohibits lotteries and raffles with a few exceptions, such as bingo games and charitable raffles conducted by nonprofit or religious organizations. Proposition 7 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to authorize credit unions or other financial institutions to conduct promotional activities that can award a prize to one or more of the institution’s depositors selected by lot to encourage savings.

The enabling legislation for Proposition 7, HB 471, defines raffles legalized under this amendment as savings promotion raffles; the criteria for entering is a deposit of a specific amount into a savings account or savings program. Other terms of the savings account or program – fees, withdrawal limits, interest or dividends – must be commensurate with those of savings accounts or programs that are not subject to a savings promotion raffle.

ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Saving incentives are needed as more than one-third of Texas households lack a savings account and about half do not have a three-month emergency fund. States that have removed legal barriers to such raffles have seen a significant increase in consumer savings.
- Savings promotion raffles are not gambling as they require no form of payment, only a deposit into a savings account, and benefit the consumer even if the consumer does not win a prize. Depositors can withdraw their money at any time and therefore do not lose money as in other raffles.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Proposition 7 would permit one industry to do a raffle and would be the only non-charitable raffle allowed in the state. It is not equitable to allow only one industry to conduct raffles.
- This proposition could lead to other industries requesting permission to hold raffles and to more serious forms of gambling.

WHAT IS PROVISIONAL VOTING?

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides for provisional voting if a voter’s name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. If your name is not on the rolls of registered voters in your precinct, but you believe you are registered, the election judge will attempt to determine if you are registered somewhere in your county. If your registration cannot be found, you may cast a provisional vote by filling out an affidavit and a paper ballot. This ballot is kept separate from the regular ballots, and the case will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board. The ballot will be counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter in that precinct. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the tenth day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted and, if they were not counted, the reason why.

i Photo Id Requirements and Exceptions

See WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS on the front page for a list of accepted photo IDs. This section provides additional information about the photo ID requirements.

- The photo ID needs to be current or have expired no more than 4 years before voting (citizenship and naturalization certificates have no expiration date).
- The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card. If names don't match, a voter may be accepted if names are "substantially similar." If names match, addresses don't need to match.
- If the names don't match exactly, the voter can be accepted if names are substantially similar; poll workers will look at address, date of birth, and the photo. If names are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.
- Voters with a documented disability from Social Security or Veterans Affairs can apply for a voter registration certificate exempting them from the photo ID requirement.
- Voters without acceptable ID can obtain an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) from Texas DPS. Requirements for the EIC can be found at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>. There is no charge for the EIC but the necessary documentation may have a cost.
- Photo ID is not required to vote by mail. See Ballot-by-Mail Voting, p. 6.
- Voters who do not show an acceptable ID at the polls can vote a provisional ballot and have six days to show the required photo ID. See What Is Provisional Voting, p. 7.

Attention Voters Affected by Harvey:

- If you had one of the accepted photo IDs, but no longer have it, you may vote with one of the alternative forms of ID (see the list of What to Take to the Polls on the front page). You will **sign the affidavit and vote a regular ballot**.
- If you are temporarily staying in a county where you are not registered to vote, you may submit an application for ballot by mail to your county's election office. It must be received no later than October 27, 2017. **You will need to provide a mailing address that is outside of your home Texas county.** See Ballot-by-Mail Voting, p. 6.
- You may choose to register to vote in the county where you are now residing if you intend to stay in the new county. The deadline to register is October 10, 2017.
- You may vote a "limited ballot" during early voting in the county where you are currently residing. Limited ballot voting is only available at the main early voting location in the county. The limited ballot will include the constitutional amendment election. **Voting a limited ballot in the new county has the effect of registering the voter in the new county.**
- As a last resort, if you no longer have any form of acceptable ID, you may vote a provisional ballot. **You have six days to go to your county registrar's office and complete affidavit swearing to the natural disaster.** See What Is Provisional Voting, p. 7.

Check the League's website for other helpful information about elections, voting and issues: www.lwvtexas.org.



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Learn more about our 27 Local Leagues and how they help shape today's important issues by visiting the League's website at www.lwvtexas.org.

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