



**NOVEMBER 2019
CITY OF DENTON VOTERS
GUIDE**

Presented by TWU 2013.50 U.S. National Government Students

Voter Guide: City of Denton Bonds and Texas Propositions

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to learn about the ballot issues facing you in the election this November! We have done a lot of research on the ballot issues here in Denton, as well as the state propositions, and we encourage you to use this guide to learn more about your options. For each bond or proposition, we have offered an explanation of the issue, as well as an argument in favor and an argument against.

This guide may or may not fully reflect the ballot you will see at the voting booth, depending on where your residency is located. For this reason, we also provide you with tips and resources for learning about all the possible choices you'll see on your ballot, and advice on how to be a successful voter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clare Brock, and the students of TWU's Gov2013.50 (U.S. National Government)

Voting Information

For Denton County Voters:

Early Voting: October 21 – November 1, 2019

- October 21 – October 25 (8am – 5pm)
- October 26 (7am – 7pm)
- October 27 (11am – 4pm)
- October 28 – November 1 (7am – 7pm)

Election Day: November 5, 2019 (7am – 7pm)

Both early voting and election day voting will be available at Texas Woman's University in Student Union Room 113

During early voting you may vote at any designated polling location. On election day you must vote at your designated precinct location, which can be found when you look up your sample ballot (see below).

Additional Voting Locations can be found using the following links.

- Early Voting Locations: https://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/1119_EV_Locations.pdf
- Election Day Voting Locations: <https://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/1119-Unconsolidated-ED-Locations.pdf>

Things to Know Before You Head to the Polls

- Bring a valid ID to the polls: Texas Driver License; Texas Election ID Certificate; Texas Personal Identification Card; Texas Handgun License; U.S. Citizenship Certificate with Photo; U.S. Military ID Card with Photo; U.S. Passport. (Check out Bring it to the Booth for more information).
 - Do NOT wear or bring anything affiliated with a party or campaign (e.g. stickers, buttons, shirts), as you could get turned away.
 - If you need to check if/where you are registered to vote, go to www.vote.org
 - In Texas, you must physically vote in the county you are registered in, unless you have requested an absentee ballot.
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Ballot Lookup

Identify the issues you will be voting on!

If you are in Denton County, you can do this by using the following Sample Ballot Lookup:

<https://www.votedenton.com/voter-lookup/#VoterEligibilitySearch>

- You will need either your Voter ID Number; OR
- Your First Name, Last Name, and Date of Birth

Check out additional voter resources and information from www.vote411.org

Lastly, local newspapers are a great resource to find out more about elections and propositions on the local level!

Denton County Bond Proposition A

Appears on ballot as: "The issuance of \$154,000,000 of public securities for Street Improvements, and levying the tax in payment thereof"

Explanation: Proposition A will allocate funds for the construction, reconstruction, or extension of sidewalks, streets, street lighting and other transportation related infrastructure improvements. This will include projects such as: improvements to and reconstruction of the city's aging streets; installing new sidewalks; improvements of Bonnie Brae Street, Hickory Creek Road, and Ryan Road; and improving street lighting in areas with large amounts of traffic.¹

Argument in favor: By dedicating funds to improving the streets of Denton, driving through the city would become much safer and easier. If approved, lights and sidewalks will be installed along University Drive, which will also receive road repairs. Additionally, particular focus will be paid to completion of projects and construction in the neighborhoods of Southeast Denton, Ginnings Elementary School and Denton High School.² Generally poor road conditions throughout Denton would also be remedied, making for smoother and safer transportation.

Argument against: The proposition would add to the rising level of local debt and projects may cost more than what they are bonded for. Increased road work will also exacerbate traffic congestion in the city.³

¹ City of Denton. (2019). "2019 Bond Election Information." Retrieved from: https://www.cityofdenton.com/CoD/media/City-of-Denton/Government/Bond-Election-Information-Final_2.pdf

² Heinkel-Wolfe, P. (2019, October 3). Campaign begins in support of Denton's \$221.5 million bond election. *Denton Record-Chronicle*. Retrieved from: https://dentonrc.com/news/campaign-begins-in-support-of-denton-s-million-bond-election/article_b5ba478d-671a-5911-8117-e33cd3da2032.html.

³ Heinkel-Wolfe, Peggy. (2019, June 30). "What We Owe: Four Takeaways on the City's Debt Load." *Denton Record-Chronicle*. Retrieved from: https://dentonrc.com/news/denton/what-we-owe-four-takeaways-on-the-city-s-debt/article_be6f453f-3eb8-5bda-8835-b0cc0b6acaa3.html.

Denton County Bond Proposition B

Appears on ballot as: "The issuance of \$61,900,000 of public securities for Public Safety Facilities for Police Department, and levying the tax in payment thereof"

Explanation: Denton County has three projects they would like to start in the summer of 2020. These include, renovating the police headquarters, constructing a new police substation, and a new police indoor firing range. Renovations would also provide for addressing and improving infrastructure issues, drainage, new landscaping, and updating facilities. In short, Proposition B will allow this money to be used to renovate, furnish, and construct new buildings for the local police department.⁴

Argument in favor: The proposition would allocate resources for the local police department to better serve their community. With the proposed funding, they can better utilize empty space at their headquarters, accommodate criminal investigations, patrol for neighborhood watch and traffic incidents, improve administrative support at the substation, and improve training aspects at the indoor range.⁵

Argument against: The passage of this proposition could increase the debt of the city of Denton. Increasing the city's debt could potentially increase how much the citizens will have to pay in taxes.⁶

⁴ City of Denton. (2019). "Proposition B." Retrieved from: <https://www.cityofdenton.com/en-us/2019bond/proposition-b>.

⁵ Donth, Joseph. (2019, September 25). "Denton Bond Election - November 5th." *Voice of Denton*. Retrieved from: <https://www.voiceofdenton.com/bond-election-november-5th/>.

⁶ Heinkel-Wolfe, Peggy. "Campaign Begins in Support of Denton's \$221.5 Million Bond Election." *Denton Record-Chronicle*, 3 Oct. 2019, https://dentonrc.com/news/campaign-begins-in-support-of-denton-s-million-bond-election/article_b5ba478d-671a-5911-8117-e33cd3da2032.html.

Denton County Bond Proposition C

Appears on ballot as: "The issuance of \$5,000,000 of public securities for Acquisition of Land for Parks, and levying the tax in payment thereof"

Explanation: This proposition would allocate funding for the acquisition of land to be used to create parks. It would entail both the development of current parks and creation of future ones. In evaluating land for parks, the City Council considers several factors including: the level of tree coverage provided, unique land features, connections to the existing multiuse trail network, locations underserved by parks, and overall proximity to residences.⁷ At this time, over forty pieces of land have been assessed by the city of Denton as viable for the creation of city parks.⁸

Argument in favor: Proposed funding would increase the availability of land for current or future parks. If the city of Denton were to expand more open land and parks, this would benefit the social, economic, and aesthetic qualities that the city values.⁹ The designation of land for parks allows more residents enjoy recreation within a 10-minute walk from their home, which is beneficial for families and communities to interact and connect.

Argument against: While investing in parks is beneficial for building community, opponents argue that city revenue could be better spent elsewhere for more pressing needs, particularly in the face of rising levels of local debt.¹⁰

⁷ "Proposition C." *Proposition C* | City of Denton, <https://www.cityofdenton.com/en-us/government/strategic-initiatives/2019bond/proposition-c>.

⁸ Finley, M. (2019, October 19). On the Ballot. *Denton Record-Chronicle*. Retrieved from https://dentonrc.com/news/on-the-ballot/article_1340447c-1338-5c6f-ac01-fb7c5dac522d.html.

⁹ "Parks & Recreation." *Parks & Recreation* | Denton Economic Development Partnership. Retrieved from: <https://dentonedp.com/data/parks-recreation>.

¹⁰ Heinkel-Wolfe, Peggy. (2019, June 30). "What we owe: Four takeaways on the city's debt load." *Denton Record-Chronicle*. Retrieved from: https://dentonrc.com/news/denton/what-we-owe-four-takeaways-on-the-city-s-debt/article_be6f453f-3eb8-5bda-8835-b0cc0b6acaa3.html

Denton County Bond Proposition D

Appears on ballot as: "The issuance of \$619,000 of public securities for Public Art, and levying the tax in payment thereof"

Explanation: Approval of this bond will allocate funding for having public art made, acquired, and installed within the city of Denton. ¹¹

Argument in favor: This funding will provide local artists with the opportunity to gain exposure and it will bring new art and artists to the city of Denton. Supporters hope that increased funding for public art in Denton will increase the attractiveness of the city to potential residents by beautifying of the environment and enhancing the local economy. ¹²

Argument against: Opponents say that the city government is not responsible for the production and display of art. Gathering funds for public art is a poor use of taxpayer money because it uses money that the city could allocate to more pressing or urgent needs. ¹³

¹¹ Denton City Council Calls Bond Election. (2019, August 15). Retrieved from <https://www.cityofdenton.com/en-us/news-events/stories/bond-election>.

¹² Heinkel-Wolfe, P. (2019, September 21). Insight Denton: What happens if any of Denton's four bond propositions fail on the November ballot? Retrieved from https://dentonrc.com/news/insight-denton-what-happens-if-any-of-denton-s-four/article_946a76b3-5724-55fb-a12d-6d1303933586.html.

¹³ (2011) "Should the arts get public money?" *The British Broadcasting Corporation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-12759987>

State of Texas Proposition 1

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time."

Explanation: This measure would allow a person to be appointed or elected, and serve, as a municipal judge in more than one municipality at a time. While the Texas Constitution currently allows appointed judges to hold multiple offices simultaneously, it prohibits elected judges from doing so. Proposition 1 would allow municipal judges to hold multiple offices regardless of whether they are elected or appointed.¹⁴

Argument in favor: The Texas House Research Organization analysis says that the proposition would make it easier for smaller municipalities to obtain qualified municipal judges, if judges are allowed to serve in more than one municipality at a time. This is a particular challenge for very small municipalities who often lack qualified attorneys and judges, and often find themselves unable to fill judgeships from within their own communities.¹⁵

Argument against: Passage of this proposition could lead to an erosion of the one-person, one-office rule. Additionally, allowing judges to take on multiple positions across municipalities could reduce their capacity to preside over a court effectively and with full attention.¹⁶

¹⁴ Texas Proposition 1, Allowed to Serve as Multiple Municipal Judges Amendment. (2019). *Ballotpedia: The encyclopedia of American Politics*. Retrieved from: [https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_1_Allowed_to_Serve_as_Multiple_Municipal_Judges_Amendment_\(2019\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_1_Allowed_to_Serve_as_Multiple_Municipal_Judges_Amendment_(2019))

¹⁵ House Research Organization. (2019). *Amending the Texas Constitution regarding offices of municipal judge*. Retrieved from: <https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/ba86r/hjr0072.pdf#navpanes=0>

¹⁶ "Yes, There's An Election in Texas In November. Here's What's On The Ballot." (2019, September 27). *KUT 90.5 Austin's NPR Station*. Retrieved from: <https://www.kut.org/post/yes-theres-election-texas-november-heres-whats-ballot>

State of Texas Proposition 2

Appears on the ballot as: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas."

Explanation: This proposition will authorize the Texas Water Development Board to sell bonds, the proceeds of which would be used to help build water supply, sewer services, and wastewater facilities, particularly in economically distressed areas. Bonds issued by the board would be limited to \$200 million or less.¹⁷

Argument in favor: The costs of water and related infrastructure are high, and in some underserved, economically distressed areas, Texans do not currently have access to water that meets state standards. Financial assistance with these services will allow Texans to access improved water without straining resources by funding improvements through general revenue.¹⁸

Argument against: This is a local issue and should not be handled through constitutional amendment,¹⁹ and any necessary infrastructure improvements that the state does decide to address should be funded using general revenue.²⁰

¹⁷ Downey, Renzo. (2019, May 29). "10 Constitutional amendments slated for November ballot." *Austin American Statesman*. Retrieved from: <https://www.statesman.com/news/20190529/10-texas-constitutional-amendments-slated-for-november-ballot>

¹⁸ House Research Organization. (2019). *Proposing a constitutional amendment to issue bonds for EDAP projects*. Retrieved from: <https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/ba86r/sjr0079.pdf#navpanes=0>

¹⁹ League of Women Voters of Texas. (2019, July 24). *Prop 2. Assistance for Water Projects in Distressed Areas*. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDI0pJtYglc&feature=youtu.be>

²⁰ House Research Organization. (2019). *Proposing a constitutional amendment to issue bonds for EDAP projects*. Retrieved from: <https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/ba86r/sjr0079.pdf#navpanes=0>

State of Texas Proposition 3

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster."

Explanation: Proposition 3 proposes a constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to temporarily exempt a homeowner's property taxes if their homes and/or businesses are in a disaster area, as declared by the governor. Damage assessment and associated exemptions would be based on recommendations from FEMA or other sources, according to the Texas House Research Organization.²¹

Argument in favor: If passed, this amendment has the potential to provide a method of property appraisals following disasters that would be both less costly and easier to understand for the average person. This would also save appraisers time and money, as well as prevent them from having to make multiple trips into potentially hazardous areas.²²

Argument against: Critics contend it would deprive cities and counties of revenue at a time when they have to provide much-needed services after a disaster. Still, other critics believe the legislation does not go far enough to help taxpayers after a disaster. In addition, The House Research Organization points out that there are local, state, and federal funds already available for natural disasters.²³

²¹ "There's An Election In Texas Coming Up. Here Are The Constitutional Proposition You'll Vote On." (2019, September 27). *KUT STAFF*. Retrieved from: <https://www.kut.org/post/theres-election-texas-coming-here-are-constitutional-propositions-youll-vote>

²² KUT Staff. (2019, September 27). There's An Election In Texas Coming Up. Here Are The Constitutional Propositions You'll Vote On. *KUT 90.5 Austin's NPR Station*. Retrieved from: <https://www.kut.org/post/theres-election-texas-coming-here-are-constitutional-propositions-youll-vote>.

²³ "What's on the November Ballot in Texas? An Income Tax Ban, School Funding, Service Dogs and More." (2019, October 21). *Dallas News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2019/10/18/whats-on-the-november-ballot-in-texas-an-income-tax-ban-school-funding-service-dogs-and-more/>.

State of Texas Proposition 4

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income."

Explanation: The Texas Constitution requires that voters approve an individual income tax in a statewide referendum. Proposition 4 would amend the Texas Constitution to require a two-thirds vote in favor in both the Texas House and the Senate, instead of a majority vote, before sending such a proposition to state voters for approval. Proposition 4 would make it harder for lawmakers to institute an individual income tax in Texas.²⁴

Argument in favor: Texas has a low-tax, pro-growth approach to economic expansion, which is dependent on not having a personal income tax. Proponents also argue that the lack of an income tax supports population and economic growth. In addition to increasing the financial burden on individuals, a personal income tax would increase the size of the government by requiring a larger number of officials to administer and enforce this tax.²⁵

Argument against: Opponents, such as the Center of Public Policy Priorities, argue that this proposition is unnecessary, as voters in Texas already have control over the adoption or vetoing of an individual income tax.²⁶ Proposition 4 raises the barriers for future Texas voters who might consider an individual income tax as a potential revenue source to support public services.²⁷

²⁴Downey, Renzo. "10 Texas Constitutional Amendments Slated for November Ballot." *Statesman*, Austin American-Statesman, 31 May 2019, <https://www.statesman.com/news/20190529/10-texas-constitutional-amendments-slated-for-november-ballot>

²⁵ Texas Proposition 4, Prohibit State Income Tax on Individuals Amendment (2019). (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_4,_Prohibit_State_Income_Tax_on_Individuals_Amendment_\(2019\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_4,_Prohibit_State_Income_Tax_on_Individuals_Amendment_(2019)).

²⁶ Rich, Davis. "How Hard Should Creating a Texas Income Tax Be? Voters Will Decide with Proposition 4." *The Texas Tribune*, Texas Tribune, 17 Oct. 2019, <https://www.texastribune.org/2019/10/17/texas-income-tax-proposition-ballot-would-make-it-harder-add-new-tax/>.

²⁷ "Main Page." *Ballotpedia*, https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page.

State of Texas Proposition 5

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes."

Explanation: This amendment would allocate the state's tax revenue from the sales of all sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission. These two organizations would use the additional funds to protect natural areas, water quality, and state's history, without increasing tax rates.²⁸ Additionally, the proposition will require a 2/3 majority vote in each legislature chamber in order to reduce revenue for parks, wildlife, and historical agencies and prohibit reducing revenue by more than 50%.²⁹

Argument in favor: The proposition will ensure that the revenue from sporting goods sales tax is directed to the Texas's Parks and Wildlife Department and the Historical Commission. The legislature has always intended money to be spent this way, however, a loophole in the current law has allowed some money to be diverted for other purposes. This proposition will allow the state to revitalize decaying parks and historic sites and allow the agencies to engage in long-term planning and preservation work so that future generations will be able to enjoy Texas parks.³⁰

Argument against: By closing the loophole that allows money to be diverted away from Texas parks, this proposal eradicates budget flexibility for the Texas Legislature, which has occasionally used this money to balance the state budget. Dedicated accounts can also lead to unneeded growth of the state budget by diverting funds to a less critical issue, when needs may be greater in another.³¹

²⁸ Finley, M. (2019, October 19). On the Ballot. *Denton Record-Chronicle*. Retrieved from https://dentonrc.com/news/on-the-ballot/article_1340447c-1338-5c6f-ac01-fb7c5dac522d.html.

²⁹ (2019). Texas Proposition 5, Sales Tax on Sporting Goods Dedicated to Parks, Wildlife, and Historical Agencies Amendment. (2019). *Ballotpedia*: The encyclopedia of American Politics. Retrieved from: [https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_5,_Sales_Tax_on_Sporting_Goods_Dedicated_to_Parks,_Wildlife,_and_Historical_Agencies_Amendment_\(2019\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_5,_Sales_Tax_on_Sporting_Goods_Dedicated_to_Parks,_Wildlife,_and_Historical_Agencies_Amendment_(2019))

³⁰ League of Women Voters of Texas. (2019). "Prop. #5 Sporting Goods Taxes to Support State Parks" Retrieved from: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/constitutional-amendment-election-11519/prop-5-sporting-goods-taxes-support-state-parks>

³¹ "What's on the November Ballot in Texas? An Income Tax Ban, School Funding, Service Dogs and More." (2019, October 21). *Dallas News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2019/10/18/whats-on-the-november-ballot-in-texas-an-income-tax-ban-school-funding-service-dogs-and-more/>.

State of Texas Proposition 6

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas."

Explanation: This amendment would increase largest bond amount from \$3 billion for \$6 billion for Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). CPRIT provides assistance through grants and research support to programs working on cancer research. Currently, funding for awards through CPRIT is expected to run out in 2021.³²

Argument in favor: The state of Texas is currently a leading source of funds for cancer research, second only to the federal government. Increasing the bond amount for CPRIT would allow Texas to continue attract researchers and associated jobs to the state, generating billions of dollars economically and maintaining the states status as a leader in medical research and advancement.³³

Argument against: The funding of cancer research, to this extent, is not necessarily a responsibility of the state government, and CRPIT currently has funding through 2022. This money could be spent on other, more pressing, priorities in the state. This proposition would give \$3 billion in taxpayer money to on organization that has previously been penalized for mismanaging funds, while raising debt for the state of Texas.³⁴ Instead of asking taxpayers to devote more money to this organization, the state legislature needs consider the long-term plan for CPRIT and how the organization can become financially self-sufficient.³⁵

³² League of Women Voters of Texas. (2019, August). "Prop. #6 Cancer Prevention Research." Retrieved from: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/constitutional-amendment-election-11519/prop-6-cancer-prevention-research>

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ (2019). "Texas Proposition 6, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute Bonds Amendment (2019)." *Ballotpedia*, [https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_6,_Cancer_Prevention_and_Research_Institute_Bonds_Amendment_\(2019\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_6,_Cancer_Prevention_and_Research_Institute_Bonds_Amendment_(2019))

State of Texas Proposition 7

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund."

Explanation: The Permanent School Fund was created to invest revenue from state owned lands into education. The Texas General Land Office manages state owned lands and transfers revenue generated from the lands to the State Board of Education. Some of the interest from this revenue is allotted to the Available School Fund which is then distributed to school districts each year. The Proposition would increase the maximum amount of revenue that the GLO and allot to the ASF yearly from \$300 million to \$600 million. Additionally, the SBOE can manage up to \$600 million from land related revenues.³⁶

Argument in favor: The proposition would improve education funding by doubling the yearly revenue distribution to the ASF. In addition, as PSF assets managed by the board of land increase in value and generate more revenue, the legislature will be able to make more money available for the purchase of more instructional materials and meeting of other educational needs.³⁷

Argument against: Critics say there is no proof more money means better educational outcomes for students. In the past, the School Land Board made questionable investments at the expense of public education funding. If the amount of funding increased, so would the opportunity for questionable investments. Also, money taken from the Permanent School Fund for today's students cannot be invested for future students.³⁸

³⁶ Texas Proposition 5, Increase Distribution to School Fund Amendment (2019). *Ballotpedia: The encyclopedia of American Politics*. Retrieved from:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_7,_Increase_Distributions_to_School_Fund_Amendment_\(2019\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_Proposition_7,_Increase_Distributions_to_School_Fund_Amendment_(2019))

³⁷ House Research Organization. (2019, April 24). *Allowing increased distributions to the Available School Fund*. Retrieved from: <https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/ba86r/hjr0151.pdf#navpanes=0>

³⁸ "What's on the November Ballot in Texas? An Income Tax Ban, School Funding, Service Dogs and More." (2019, October 21). *Dallas News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2019/10/18/whats-on-the-november-ballot-in-texas-an-income-tax-ban-school-funding-service-dogs-and-more/>.

State of Texas Proposition 8

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects."

Explanation: Proposition 8 is a constitutional amendment that would create funding for flood infrastructure, thereby providing funding for flood drainage, mitigation and flood control projects. The funding for the flood infrastructure would be taken from the Economic Stabilization fund, also referred to as the "rainy day fund."³⁹

Argument in favor: Recent floods and natural disasters, such as Hurricane Harvey and others, have caused many tragic losses and damages. The costs involved in the recovery from a major flood or hurricane are far more substantial than the cost would be to build infrastructures that prevent those damages in the first place.¹⁵

Argument against: State government has not historically played a large role in flood-control infrastructure, which usually comes from local and federal government systems. Since this is not historically a role filled by the state government, there is no need for a state-wide fund regarding flood control.⁴⁰ Additionally, tax payers could be liable for repayment of loans in the future.⁴¹

³⁹ Downey, Renzo. "10 Texas Constitutional Amendments Slated for November Ballot." *Statesman*, Austin American-Statesman, 31 May 2019, <https://www.statesman.com/news/20190529/10-texas-constitutional-amendments-slated-for-november-ballot>.

⁴⁰ Proposition #8: Flood Control. (2019). *League of Women Voters of Texas*. Retrieved from: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/constitutional-amendment-election-11519/prop-8-flood-control>

⁴¹ Here Are What the State Propositions on the Texas Nov. 5 Ballot Mean. (2019, October 21). Retrieved from <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/san-antonio/news/2019/10/21/here-are-what-the-state-propositions-mean-for-the-nov--5-texas-election>.

State of Texas Proposition 9

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state."

Explanation: This proposition would form a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to establish a property tax exemption for precious metal (such as gold, silver, and platinum) held in a precious metal depository that is located in Texas.⁴²

Argument in favor: Supporters of the proposition say the law allows state depositories to compete on a level playing field with depositories in other states that do not tax deposits. The law would, in effect, make precious metals equivalent to storing cash, which is generally not subject to ad valorem taxes.⁴³ In addition, a tax exemption would increase demand for putting precious metals in a Texas depository and will make the Texas precious metal depository more attractive. This exemption would increase the states chance of being able to join COMEX, which is the leading marketplace for precious metals exchange.⁴⁴

Argument against: The proposition uses tax exemption as an incentive to encourage people to buy and store precious metals in Texas depositories, allowing the government to pick the winners and losers within the economic market.⁴⁵

⁴² Explanatory Statements for the November 5, 2019 Constitutional Amendment Election [PDF]. (2019). Retrieved from: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/forms/2019-explanatory-statements.pdf>

⁴³ "There's An Election In Texas Coming Up. Here Are The Constitutional Proposition You'll Vote On." (2019, September 27). *KUT STAFF*. Retrieved from: <https://www.kut.org/post/theres-election-texas-coming-here-are-constitutional-propositions-youll-vote>

⁴⁴ Prop. #9 Tax Exemption of Precious Metals. (2019, August 15). Retrieved from <https://my.lwv.org/texas/constitutional-amendment-election-11519/prop-9-tax-exemption-precious-metals>.

⁴⁵ House Research Organization. (2019, April 30). *Amending the Texas Constitution to allow a precious metal tax exemption*. Retrieved from: <https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf/ba86r/hjr0095.pdf#navpanes=0>

State of Texas Proposition 10

Appears on ballot as: "The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances."

Explanation: Currently, service animals who are removed or retired from service are classified as salvage or surplus property. This means that these animals can be donated, auctioned off, or destroyed after retirement. This proposition would help deal with the retirement of service animals, such as police dogs. Also, the proposition would eliminate the adoption fee that caretakers and law officers have to pay to keep the dogs they have been working with for years.⁴⁶

Argument in favor: Proposition 10 would ensure the well-being of the service animals, allowing them to be returned to their original handlers or be adopted without an adoption fee.⁴⁷ This bond recognizes the relationship between the service animal and their handler that could be overlooked in auctions.⁴⁸

Argument against: Eliminating the adoption fee could potentially reduce the state income that an auction would provide the state.⁴⁹ Additionally, complications could arise if the animal's handler retires before the animal is ready to retire, thus making it difficult to determine which handler had priority when animal's retirement arises.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ ⁴⁶ Downey, Renzo. "10 Texas Constitutional Amendments Slated for November Ballot." *Statesman*, Austin American-Statesman, 31 May 2019, <https://www.statesman.com/news/20190529/10-texas-constitutional-amendments-slated-for-november-ballot>

⁴⁷ "Austin's Leading Local News: Weather, Traffic, Sports and More: Austin, Texas." *KVUE*, 31 Dec. 1969, <http://www.kvue.com/>.

⁴⁸ Prop. #10 Law Enforcement Animals. (2019, October 21). Retrieved from <https://my.lwv.org/texas/constitutional-amendment-election-11519/prop-10-law-enforcement-animals>.

⁴⁹ "Austin's Leading Local News: Weather, Traffic, Sports and More: Austin, Texas." *KVUE*, 31 Dec. 1969, <http://www.kvue.com/>.

⁵⁰ 10 state propositions will be on the ballot this Election Day. Here's what you need to know. (2019, October 19). Retrieved from <https://www.kvue.com/article/news/politics/vote-texas/vote-texas-election-day-texas-propositions/269-da133e75-b316-4b85-84f0-95f93a5ab71c>.