



SAHCC ENCOURAGES YOU TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING BALLOT INITIATIVES

During the 88th Texas Legislative Session, 2/3 of both the Texas House and Senate approved 14 amendments to the Texas Constitution. The 14 amendments will be on the ballot this November and only require a simple majority to go into effect. Ballot language and order can be found on the Texas Secretary of State's website. Election Day is November 7, 2023, and early voting takes place October 23, 2023 - November 3, 2023.

Below you will find the 9 propositions the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Supports and reasons why YOU should support them this November.

Prop 1 – Agriculture Practices

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - According to the Farm Bureau, 97% of farms and ranches are owned and operated by families. This proposition will protect farming and ranching in Texas.
 - Proposition 1 will ensure Texans have access to safe and affordable food in the future.
 - Proposition 1 will protect farmers and ranchers from ordinances that limit or prohibit the use of undeveloped land for agricultural purposes.

Prop 2 – Childcare Provider Tax Cut

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - Supporting this amendment will encourage the growth of childcare facilities by providing tax cuts.
 - Increased childcare options attract working parents and allow them to contribute effectively to the workforce.
 - According to the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, childcare continues to be a barrier to employment. Texas loses an estimated \$9.39 billion annually from its economy due to breakdowns in childcare.





Prop 4 – Property Tax Cuts

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - Proposition 4 would save an average Texas homeowner \$1,300 a year in property taxes.
 - Property tax cuts will provide homeowners and businesses with much-needed financial relief.
 - Cutting taxes makes Texas more economically competitive which will attract new businesses, foster economic growth, incentivize business expansion, job creation, and capital investment.

Prop 6 – Creates Texas Water Fund

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - The establishment of the Texas Water Fund will dedicate funding to expanding our water supply portfolio and updating existing aging water infrastructure.
 - Adequate water resources are crucial for businesses’ operations, and this fund will increase the state’s water supply.

Prop 7 – Creates Texas Energy Fund

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - Creating the Texas Energy Fund will improve the reliability of the grid by incentivizing new dispatchable energy generation.
 - This will ensure a stable and reliable energy supply, benefiting businesses and preventing disruptions that can negatively impact the local economy.

Prop 8 – Creates Broadband Infrastructure Fund

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - Creating a broadband infrastructure fund will lead to expanded internet access to nearly 2 million households in Texas who currently don’t have access to the internet.
 - Improved connectivity fosters digital inclusion, enabling businesses to access larger markets, operate more efficiently, compete on a global level, and foster economic development.
 - Broadband is no longer a luxury, but a critical component of a business’s success and growth in today’s digital economy.



Prop 9 – Cost of Living Adjustment for Texas Retirement System (TRS) Retirees

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - Authorizing cost-of-living adjustments for retired teachers and state employees acknowledges their contributions and ensures their financial well-being.
 - Authorizing cost-of-living adjustments retains experienced educators who play a critical role in educating the future workforce.
 - Retirees with stable financial conditions are more likely to spend money in their local communities, contributing to the local economy.

Prop 10 – Medical Manufacturing Property Tax Exemption

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - Texas has large cities which are hubs for healthcare and bioscience.
 - An Inventory Tax Exemption for Medical and Biomedical Industries will make Texas more economically competitive with other states which have bioscience and healthcare hubs.

Prop 14 – Creates State Park Fund

- **Ballot language:** The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.
- **Reasons to vote “YES”:**
 - The park fund will provide long-term funding to protect current state parks and for acquiring new ones in the future.
 - Open spaces are essential preserving and enhancing to the quality of life in Texas.