



REPRESENTATIVE GIOVANNI CAPRIGLIONE

88th Legislative Report • District 98

Elections • Pensions, Investments & Financial Services - Chair • Youth Health & Safety, Select

88th Legislative Report • Fall 2023



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Giovanni Capriglione

State Representative • District 98

Dear Friends,

Serving you in the Texas House of Representatives is an honor and a privilege. I am proud of the work we accomplished this past session and the subsequent special sessions. Texans have persevered through hard times over the last few years, but our tenacity and persistence have led Texas to be the most prosperous in our history.

We began this session with a record budget surplus of \$33 billion. Keeping a fiscally conservative approach, the Legislature stayed well under its spending limits and ensured that our shared priorities were met. A historic \$18 billion was provided for property tax relief, we increased public education funding by \$5 billion, for the first time provided cost of living adjustments for retired teachers, increased border security funding, strengthened the state's commitment to mental health services, continued broadband development, and increased funding for highway planning, construction, and maintenance by \$5 billion.

I was proud to pass 16 bills covering a wide range of issues -- increasing Alzheimer's care training, protecting your personal data collected online, establishing an Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council to study the ethics of AI, keeping our elections transparent, making internet doxing a crime, increasing our state IT workforce through reskilling and upskilling, and conservatively regulating digital asset service providers to ensure your funds are protected.

During the 2023 legislative session, 297 constitutional amendments were filed, and we passed 14 of them. This is the highest number of ballot measures in 16 years, so please be informed as to what statewide ballot measures will be on your ballot in November. This newsletter will provide you with information on each of the proposed constitutional amendments. They range from local issues in Galveston County to providing statewide property tax relief to all Texans. However big or small the decision, an informed vote is most important.



If my office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you want periodic updates from House District 98, send me a note at: Giovanni.Capriglione@house.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Capriglione
Texas State Representative HD98



Proposition Number	BALLOT LANGUAGE AND SUMMARY
Proposition 1	<p>HJR 126: <u>Right to Farming, Ranching, Timber Production, Horticulture, and Wildlife Management</u> <i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."</i></p> <p>Summary: With the an increase in regulation prohibiting and greatly restricting farmers and ranchers who engage in production agriculture within municipal boundaries, this proposed constitutional amendment would protect the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.</p>
Proposition 2	<p>SJR 64: <u>Tax Exemption for Childcare Facilities</u> <i>The Ballot Will Read: "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."</i></p> <p>Summary: This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a county or municipality to apply a minimum 50% exemption on property taxes for a property used to operate a childcare facility, helping to address childcare shortages across Texas.</p>
Proposition 3	<p>HJR 132: <u>Prohibiting a Wealth or Net Worth Tax</u> <i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."</i></p> <p>Summary: Multiple other states have explored imposing state taxes based on net worth or wealth. This proposed constitutional amendment allows Texans to decide if a net worth tax could be imposed in Texas in the future.</p>
Proposition 4	<p>HJR 2: <u>Property Tax Changes and State Education Funding</u> <i>The Ballot Will Read: "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."</i></p> <p>Summary: See Proposition Spotlight</p>
Proposition 5	<p>HJR 3: <u>Renaming and Changes to the National Research University Fund</u> <i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."</i></p> <p>Summary: This proposed constitutional amendment would rename the National Research University Fund to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities. It will also provide an ongoing revenue source for the fund through interest earned from the economic stabilization fund.</p>
Proposition 6	<p>SJR 75: <u>Creation of the Texas Water Fund</u> <i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."</i></p> <p>Summary: It is estimated that the state loses 136 billion gallons of water a year to leaking water main pipes and the state will be 7 million acre feet short of supply in the next 50 years. The Texas Water Fund would assist in financing water projects, mainly to cover aging and failing pipes and buildout new water supply.</p>

Please visit votetexas.gov for helpful information such as: checking if you're registered to vote, seeing what is on the ballot, information on required voter identification, finding a polling place, and much more.

VOTING GUIDE

VOTE	PROPOSITION	VOTE	PROPOSITION
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	1. Right to Farming, Ranching, Timber Production, Horticulture, and Wildlife Management	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	8. Creation of the Broadband Infrastructure Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	2. Tax Exemption for Childcare Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	9. Retired Teacher Cost-of-Living Adjustment
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	3. Prohibiting a Wealth or Net Worth Tax	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	10. Tax Exemption on Medical Equipment and Inventory
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	4. Property Tax Changes and State Education Funding	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	11. El Paso County Parks and Recreation Facilities Bonds
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	5. Renaming and Changes to the National Research University Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	12. Abolishing the Galveston County Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	6. Creation of the Texas Water Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	13. Increasing the Mandatory Retirement Age for State Judges and Justices
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	7. Creation of the Texas Energy Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	14. Creation of the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund

PROPOSITION SPOTLIGHT

Proposition 4 Spotlight – Record Breaking Property Tax Relief

Skyrocketing property taxes have become unaffordable for too many residents in this state, especially here in Tarrant County. Texas taxpayers needed real property tax relief and for the state to make much-needed improvements to the property appraisal system. Over the past several sessions, the Texas House has been dedicated to reforming the property tax system in Texas and relieving Texans of ever-growing property taxes.

SB 2, SB 3, and HJR 2, the new property tax relief plan, represents a significant win for providing relief to Texas property owners and reflects our commitment to address the concerns of taxpayers and provide substantial relief from the burden of escalating property taxes. Let me dive deeper into this historic \$18 billion tax relief:

First, it further reduces your school district’s M&O tax rate by 10.7 cents, compressing school property tax rates for ALL property owners. Along with what was appropriated in the State Budget, this amounts to nearly \$13 billion in total compression. In the past, homeowners over the age of 65 whose property taxes were frozen didn’t realize savings because their taxes couldn’t decrease. In this session, my colleagues and I fixed that by ensuring senior citizens’ property taxes decrease with these applied savings.

Second, the passage of Proposition 4 will result in the mandatory ISD homestead exemption increasing from \$40,000 to \$100,000, meaning homestead owners will have \$100,000 of home value that is not taxable. With the additional \$10,000 exemption that seniors and people with disabilities receive, they will now have \$110,000 of home value not taxed.

There will also be important reforms to our appraisal system. For the first time in history, non-homestead properties valued at \$5 million or less will have predictability by capping their taxable value at 20% per year for the next three years. This limit will provide stability for small and medium-sized businesses that have struggled with double and triple increases in the last few years.

Additionally, we will ensure that our Central Appraisal Districts (CAD) are more accountable and transparent to taxpayers by adding three elected members to the CAD board of directors for Tarrant and other large counties.

This legislation, for the first time, significantly reduces recapture (“Robin Hood”). For HD98 school districts, this means a 50% or more reduction in recapture.

I am proud to have supported the largest property tax relief package in Texas history!

Proposition Number	BALLOT LANGUAGE AND SUMMARY
Proposition 7	<p align="center">SJR 93: <u>Creation of the Texas Energy Fund</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."</i></p> <p>Summary: The Texas Energy Fund would fund the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities and be administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. If Proposition 7 passes, \$5 billion would be transferred into the new fund.</p>
Proposition 8	<p align="center">HJR 125: <u>Creation of the Broadband Infrastructure Fund</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."</i></p> <p>Summary: The Broadband Infrastructure Fund would expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects. If Proposition 8 passes, \$1.5 billion would be transferred to the new fund. Texas will also receive federal matching funds of \$3.3 billion.</p>
Proposition 9	<p align="center">HJR 2: <u>Retired Teacher Cost-of-Living Adjustment</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."</i></p> <p>Summary: This amendment would authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to retired teachers who meet the criteria provided by law. Depending on retirement date, a retiree would receive a COLA of 2%, 4%, or 6%.</p>
Proposition 10	<p align="center">SJR 87: <u>Tax Exemption on Medical Equipment and Inventory</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot will Read: "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."</i></p> <p>Summary: This proposed constitutional amendment would exempt from property taxes tangible personal property used or produced by medical and biomedical manufacturers, such as medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and personal protective equipment (PPE).</p>
Proposition 11	<p align="center">SJR 32: <u>El Paso County Parks and Recreation Facilities Bonds</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."</i></p> <p>Summary: In 2003, the Texas Constitution was amended giving conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties the ability to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. El Paso County was left out of the 2003 constitutional amendment and would now be included with the passage of Proposition 11.</p>
Proposition 12	<p align="center">HJR 134: <u>Abolishing the Galveston County Treasurer</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."</i></p> <p>Summary: The Texas Constitution provides that the office of county treasurer may be abolished via a constitutional amendment. This amendment would abolish the Galveston County treasurer and authorize the county to employ, contract with, or designate another county officer to fulfil the functions as treasurer.</p>
Proposition 13	<p align="center">HJR 107: <u>Increasing the Mandatory Retirement Age for State Judges and Justices</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."</i></p> <p>Summary: State law currently requires judges and justices to retire at the age of 75. Given today's longer life expectancies, this proposed constitutional amendment would increase the mandatory retirement age of state justices and judges to 79 years of age.</p>
Proposition 14	<p align="center">SJR 74: <u>Creation of the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund</u></p> <p><i>The Ballot Will Read: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."</i></p> <p>Summary: The Centennial Parks Conservation Fund would provide a dedicated funding source for the acquisition and development of state parks in Texas, avoiding the possibility of state parks on leased land being closed due to the sale of the land. If Proposition 14 passes, \$1 billion would be transferred to the new fund.</p>

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This session, I filed and sponsored important legislation that would directly affect those in House District 98. I'm proud to say 16 of those bills passed and have been signed into law by Governor Abbott. A short summary of each of those bills is included below.

HB 4	The Texas Data Privacy and Security Act (TDPSA), gives consumers the right to control data that is collected about them online. Consumers will have the right to know when and why data is collected, delete or correct data, access data, opt out of targeted advertising, the sale of personal data, and data profiling, and will be protected from discrimination or retribution for using their rights.
HB 584	Allows the state to develop a State Information Technology credential tailored to addressing the shortages in the state information resources workforce.
HB 591	Gives oil producers stability to know they won't be subject to severance tax if gas that would have otherwise been flared is used to power mobile Bitcoin mines.
HB 611	Makes the disclosure of a residence address or phone number, with intent to harm, a Class B misdemeanor, increasing to a Class A misdemeanor if the offense results in bodily injury to the targeted person or a family member.
HB 1666	Regulates digital asset service providers in the State of Texas to ensure consumer funds are secure and protected.
HB 1673	Requires assisted living facility employees to receive Dementia-related training annually. Currently, Dementia-related training is suggested, but not required.
HB 1817	Allows for a cure period if a state-mandated Disclosure of Interested Parties form for certain government contracts is not on file.
HB 2060	Establishes the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council to study and monitor the use of AI systems by state agencies in Texas.
HB 2545	Requires genetic testing companies to receive express consent from the consumer before sharing their genetic information with a third-party, using the genetic data for a purpose other than service purchased by the consumer, or retaining a sample after testing is completed.
HB 2878	Turns over the responsibility of inspecting Mobile Food Trucks from municipalities in Tarrant County to the county so food trucks that operate in multiple cities can streamline their application process and receive one permit for use in the entire county instead of apply for permits for each individual city.
SB 621	Codifies in statute the position of Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR). While DIR currently employees a CISO, the position never existed in state statute.
SB 768	Reduces the timeline that certain businesses are required to notify affected individuals of a data breach from within 60 days to within 30 days.
SB 1089	Repeals the ability to declare unopposed candidates for office as elected and restores the candidate's name to the proper order on a ballot to maintain the integrity and credibility of the electoral process.
SB 1780	Codifies Governor Abbott's proclamation allowing the use of Remote Ink Notary during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will allow for the continuous usage of a Remote Ink Notary instead of needing a "wet ink" signature.
SB 2035	Prevents taxing entities from issuing Certificates of Obligation (COs) and Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs) to fund projects that have been previously rejected by voters within the last five years.
SCR 8	Honors and celebrates 500,000 Italian Americans who have chosen Texas as their home by designating June 2nd as Italian Heritage Day.



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★ ELECTION DAY – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 ★

POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. – 7 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY

LAST DAY TO REGISTER: MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

MAIL-IN BALLOT APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

EARLY VOTING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

For more information on voting, visit the Texas Secretary of State's website at www.votetexas.gov

For condensed analyses and comments
in Support or Opposition of the proposed
Constitutional Amendments, visit TLC.Texas.gov

