



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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(409) 234-5521
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Produced By:
Carol Nelson • Lynda Appelt Evans
Jeannine Fearing
Shirley Lueddecke • Katherine Smith

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To The Editor & You

ELMS students looking sharp!

The students of Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS) have a great new look, and everyone is talking about it. They have received even more compliments about the results of the new standard mode of dress than about earning Recognized status on the TAAS.

For several years parents have approached the administration of the middle school about adopting uniforms, but until last year there was not enough support throughout the community to take the next step.

Last year, there was a greater encouragement from the parents. Mrs. Mathys sent a committee of parents, teachers, and students to visit a campus similar in make up to our middle school. With an enthusiastic response from the committee, the middle school parents were surveyed, and the results overwhelmingly favored the adoption of a standard mode of dress.

Under the new dress code, students have some leeway in styles, but most of them have chosen to purchase uniforms with polo shirts. With the combination of shorts, shirts, jumpers and pants as well as the mixture of colors, it is obvious that there is no actual uniform, but it definitely looks as if these young people take pride in themselves.

That special feeling that comes from looking good is one of the things they like best about the dress code.

"We look good," is the usual response to questions about what they like about the change. The majority of the students also like the fact that getting dressed in the morning is so simple and fast.

The most serious response, which comes from about every fourth or fifth students asked, is that "people can't make fun of the way we dress, now." It is a sad reflection on society that clothing can have such a strong negative effect on self esteem and that others will use this fact to be unkind, but it is a fact of life with which many young people live.

Almost every adult who has walked onto the campus has commented on how great the students look, and the kids are probably getting tired of hearing the teachers say how much they like it.

Even people from the community who never get to the campus are making a point of telling Mrs. Mathys and her staff that they are really impressed with the way our students look.

Some people even believe that the way they dress is affecting the way they act on their way to and from school.

Last year, some students voiced concern that they would lose their identity if we adopted the new dress code. This year, I think they would agree; any changes in our young people are based on increasing maturity, not the way they dress. We still have a school full of distinct personalities.

Jeanie Jackson
ELMS

Allstate Insurance to refund \$4.5 million to Texas policy holders

Allstate has agreed to refund \$4.5 million to Texans who paid too much for auto liability insurance because two Allstate companies incorrectly computed special discounts for drivers aged 50-64 over a four-year period.

Texas Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor and Allstate officials signed a consent order in which Allstate denied violating Texas auto insurance rating rules but agreed to make the refunds.

The drivers will receive the difference between the discounts they should have gotten and the discounts they actually got, plus 10% annual interest. Approximately 135,000 policyholders and former policyholders will receive refunds averaging \$20.

The discount reduced liability, medical payments and personal injury protection coverage premiums by



State Capitol Highlights
By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

15%. But most of the eligible policyholders got less than 15% because of the way Allstate calculated the discount.

Many of those receiving refunds reside in ZIP Codes of inner-city neighborhoods or rural areas, particularly those with low-income and high-minority populations.

"We require car insurers to apply discounts fairly and uniformly, but that didn't happen in the case of Allstate's 50-64 discount," Montemayor said. "I'm pleased that Allstate has agreed to fix the problem

without a prolonged and costly administrative hearing."

Refunds will go to all Texas customers of Allstate Indemnity Co. and Allstate Property and Casualty Co. who received Driver-Age 50-64 discounts on policies with effective dates of Sept. 1, 1995, or later. Allstate may pay the refunds directly by check or by giving current policyholders credit towards their next premiums.

Two other Allstate companies, Allstate Insurance Co. and Allstate County Mutual, did not offer the Driver Age 50-64 discounts and are not affected by the consent order.

A Texas Department of Insurance actuary identified the problem with the discounts when he reviewed 1999 auto rates filed by Allstate Indemnity and Allstate Property and Casualty. (See Highlights, Page 3)

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

March 28, 1974

The new David Brown tractor is being provided for use by the Rice High School Vocational Agricultural Department and the FFA Chapter by Eagle Tractor Inc. T Lang owner of the company was on hand to present it to members of the chapters. On hand were chapter members Donnie Rollins, Arnold Cardenas, Louis Sides,

Vocational ag instructor L.J. Rosprim, Charles Supak, Vocational ag instructor Willie Fitzgerald, Craig Popp and Richard Lujan...

Mr. & Mrs. L.L. Ingram of Eagle Lake will observe their Golden Wedding Anniversary today, March 28, with a family gathering at their home at 514 Gonzales. County Sheriff George (Doc)

Mueller received resignations this week from Deputy Al Peterson and wife, Marlene. She has been serving as jail matron and cook for the prisoners...

The Colorado County Texas Exes Club has awarded its annual scholarship to Miss Jimmi McCauley, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J.H. McCauley of Sheridan...

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Martin celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sunday afternoon, March 17, from 2 to 5 o'clock with an open house at the Travis Street United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in La Grange...

On Saturday evening, March 23, at eight o'clock, a large group of friends arrived at the lovely new home of Mr. members."

PROPOSITION NO. 15 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 36 - HJR 36 proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow spouses, by an agreement in writing, to convert all or part of their separate property into community property. Separate property is primarily the property owned or claimed by the spouse before marriage and the property acquired by the spouse during the marriage by gift or inheritance. Community property consists of the property, other than separate property, acquired by either spouse during marriage.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting spouses to agree to convert separate property to community property."

PROPOSITION NO. 16 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 71 - HJR 71 proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow a county with a population of 50,000 or more, rather than 30,000 or more, to be divided into four to eight justice of the peace and constable precincts. The amendment would allow a county with a population between 18,000 and 50,000 to have two to eight justice of the peace and constable precincts. Furthermore, the amendment would limit Randall County to not less than two and not more than six precincts. Finally, the amendment would set a minimum of four precincts for any county that as of November 2, 1999, is divided into four or more precincts.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that certain counties shall be divided into a specific number of precincts."

PROPOSITION NO. 17 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 58 - HJR 58 proposes a constitutional amendment which would require the board of regents of the University of Texas System to manage investments of the permanent university fund (PUF) according to the standards of a prudent investor. Generally, earnings from the PUF are distributed to the available university fund (AUF) and then ultimately distributed to the public university systems of Texas. Under the amendment, the amount distributed to the AUF would consist of distributions, as determined by the University of Texas System board of regents, from the total return on all investment assets of the PUF, instead of consisting only of the dividends, interest, and other income of the PUF minus administrative expenses. The amendment also would provide guidelines for minimum and maximum amounts to be distributed to the AUF, and require that the board of regents manage distributions to the AUF in a manner that will provide the AUF with a stable and predictable stream of annual distributions and maintain the purchasing power of the PUF investments and annual distributions to the AUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the investment of the permanent university fund and the distribution from the permanent university fund to the available university fund."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el 2 de noviembre de 1999. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis por llama al 1/800/252/8683 o por escribir al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, Tx 78711.

Published by Secretary of State Elton Bomer

PUBLIC NOTICE
BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF
PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Special Election
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

PROPOSITION NO. 1 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 44 - HJR 44 proposes a constitutional amendment that would ensure a clear succession in event of vacancies in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Specifically, the amendment would provide that if after qualifying for the office, the Governor is temporarily unable to serve, the Lieutenant Governor shall act as Governor until the Governor is able to serve; but if the Governor is permanently unable to serve, the Lieutenant Governor shall become the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. The amendment would require a Lieutenant Governor who becomes Governor to forfeit the office of Lieutenant Governor. The amendment would also provide similar succession procedures when a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor before the newly elected Governor qualifies for office, and when the newly elected Governor is temporarily unable to take office. The amendment also would provide that if there is a temporary vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate will fill the position; but if there is a permanent vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall serve as Lieutenant Governor only until such time as the whole senate can convene to elect one of its members to perform the duties of Lieutenant Governor. Finally, the amendment would provide that if the Lieutenant Governor, while temporarily exercising the powers of the Governor, becomes temporarily disabled or unable to serve, the President pro tempore of the senate shall exercise the powers and authority of the office of the Governor until such time as the Governor or Lieutenant Governor resumes those powers and duties.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to revise the provisions for the filling of a vacancy in the office of governor or lieutenant governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 2 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 12 - SJR 12 proposes a constitutional amendment that would resolve conflicts between the Texas Constitution and federal law relating to the definition, rules, and procedures of reverse mortgages. The amendment would define "reverse mortgage" in part as an extension of credit made against the homestead of a person who is 62 years or older, or whose spouse is 62 years or older. It would expand the list of circumstances under which payment of principal and interest become due and the procedures involved in foreclosure, and would require certain advances to be made according to specific terms in loan documents, including advances by the lender, on behalf of the borrower for payments necessary to protect the lender's interest. Finally, the amendment would require the Texas Supreme Court to promulgate rules of civil procedure expediting court-ordered foreclosures of reverse mortgage liens.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the making of advances under a reverse mortgage and payment of a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION NO. 3 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 62 - HJR 62 proposes a constitutional

amendment that would simplify and clarify the language of the Texas Constitution. The amendment would make no substantive changes, but would eliminate duplicative, expired, out-of-date, and ineffective terms.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to eliminate duplicative, executed, obsolete, archaic, and ineffective provisions of the Texas Constitution."

PROPOSITION NO. 4 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 4 - HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment that would broaden the definition of charitable organizations. The amendment would exempt from ad valorem taxation the property of any organization engaged primarily in public charitable functions, and it would allow such an organization to conduct additional activities to support its charitable functions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to exempt property owned by institutions engaged primarily in public charitable functions from ad valorem taxation."

PROPOSITION NO. 5 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 26 - SJR 26 proposes an amendment that would remove the restriction prohibiting state employees who receive all or part of their compensation from the state from serving as members of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district unless the state employee receives no salary for such service. The amendment would allow state employees to receive compensation from the governing bodies of which they are members.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment allowing state employees to receive compensation for serving as a member of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district."

PROPOSITION NO. 6 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 22 - SJR 22 proposes a constitutional amendment that would increase the maximum size of an urban homestead, which is a homestead in a city, town, or village, from one acre to ten acres and require the urban homestead to be composed of either a single lot or several lots that are adjacent to one another. The amendment also would provide that the urban homestead must be used as a home or as both a home and place of business, whereas current law does not require that an urban homestead that is used as a place of business be used also as a home.

Current law further allows a person to secure a home equity loan on their homestead, provided that the loan does not overburden the homestead. That is, the principal amount of the home equity loan, when added to the total of the outstanding principal balances of all other indebtedness secured against the homestead, does not exceed 80 percent of the fair market value of the homestead on the date the extension of credit is made. The

proposed amendment would clarify current law by specifically allowing home equity loans on all or part of urban homesteads of up to ten acres and subject such loans to the same requirement that the refinanced or new loan not overburden the homestead.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment increasing the maximum size of an urban homestead to 10 acres, prescribing permissible uses of urban homesteads, and preventing the overburdening of a homestead."

PROPOSITION NO. 7 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 16 - HJR 16 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that if an employee is delinquent in paying court-ordered spousal maintenance, a portion of that employee's wages may be withheld to pay the spousal maintenance. Current law allows such withholding, or garnishment, only for payment of delinquent court-ordered child support.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing garnishment of wages for the enforcement of court-ordered spousal maintenance."

PROPOSITION NO. 8 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 95 - HJR 95 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that the adjutant general, who is appointed by the Governor and who serves as the governing officer of the state military forces, serves as long as the Governor wishes the appointed person to serve in that capacity rather than serving a specific two-year term set by the legislature.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that the adjutant general serves at the pleasure of the governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 9 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 10 - SJR 10 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to create a judicial compensation committee to make recommendations for salaries for the justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Courts of Appeals, and the District Courts. The amendment would mandate that the recommendations become law if neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives rejects them by majority vote.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to create a judicial compensation commission."

PROPOSITION NO. 10 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 74 - HJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide that the commissioner of health and human services, who is appointed by the Governor, serves as long as the Governor wishes the appointed person to serve in that capacity rather than serving a specific two-year term set by the legislature.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that the commissioner of health and human services serves at the pleasure of the governor."

PROPOSITION NO. 11 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 69 - HJR 69 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize a county, city, town, or other political subdivision to

spend public funds or extend credit to purchase nonassessable property or casualty insurance from a mutual insurance company authorized to do business in Texas. Under current law, a political subdivision is generally prohibited from spending public funds or extending credit to become a stockholder in a corporation but is permitted to purchase nonassessable life, health or accident insurance policies from a mutual insurance company authorized to do business in Texas. This amendment would authorize a political subdivision to also obtain non-assessable property and casualty insurance from such a company.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting a political subdivision to purchase nonassessable property and casualty insurance from an authorized mutual insurance company in the same manner that the political subdivision purchases life, health, and accident insurance."

PROPOSITION NO. 12 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 21 - SJR 21 proposes a constitutional amendment that would exempt from ad valorem taxation a leased motor vehicle that is not used by the lessee primarily to produce income. The amendment would provide that the legislature also may limit the ability of a political subdivision to subject such a vehicle to taxation.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation leased motor vehicles not held by the lessee primarily to produce income."

PROPOSITION NO. 13 ON THE BALLOT

SJR 16 - SJR 16 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to allow the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue and sell general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$400 million in order to finance educational loans to students. The amendment also would authorize the Legislature to limit the amount of interest the bonds can bear and establish procedures for the investment of the bond proceeds. The proposed amendment would specify the method of repaying the bonds.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of \$400 million in general obligation bonds to finance educational loans to students."

PROPOSITION NO. 14 ON THE BALLOT

HJR 29 - HJR 29 proposes a constitutional amendment which would authorize the Legislature to require the board of regents of the state university and boards of trustees or managers of the educational, charitable, and penal institutions of the state, whose members serve six year terms, to be composed of an odd number of three or more board members (for example, 5, 7, or 9 members). The proposed amendment would allow approximately one-third of members of boards whose membership is not evenly divisible by three to be elected or appointed every two years. The amendment also would allow the Legislature to set the composition of constitutionally required boards, whose members serve for a term of six years, to a number divisible by three so that exactly one-third of the board members may be elected or appointed every two years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide that a state board, commission, or other agency shall be governed by a board composed of an odd number of three or more

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