

Vote For Our Future, Vote For Our Water

By Doug Beal
Headlight Editor

The time has come, once again, for the residents of Eagle Lake and Colorado County to step up to do something to help preserve one of our most vital, and precious resources, not for us, but for future generations to come. We are talking about our groundwater. While it is unlikely that many of us living today will experience shortage of groundwater, our children and grandchildren may not be so lucky if nothing is done to help preserve it.

The Eagle Lake Headlight normally does not make endorsements in elections, but we feel that the issue coming to vote on Tues., November 6 is of utmost importance if we are to protect our groundwater for the future. The issue at hand is whether or not to create a groundwater conservation district.

We have examined thoroughly the arguments in favor and opposed.

A groundwater district remains the only way to help con-

serve your groundwater for your use and for that of your children and grandchildren.

Much misinformation has been spread about the district.

Yes, there will be cost to pay for operation of a district. A maximum three-cent tax rate is proposed.

For the owner of \$50,000 home, the cost would be \$15 a year at the most.

Concerns about a water district taking private land have been addressed. A district will have no power to condemn land.

Access to private property has also been restricted.

There will be no meters on wells that produce less than 25,000 gallons of water a day. (Average household use is less than 100 gallons a day.)

Neighboring Fayette and Wharton counties both have groundwater districts.

It is time to act to protect our groundwater supply.

In the last election, in light voter turnout, the issue was

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During Fire Safety Week the Eagle Lake Fire Department visited the Pre-K, Head Start, and PPCD children. They talked about fire safety and also gave a small presentation. The firefighters dressed in their uniforms and let the children try on their hats. At the end of their presentation each child got to spray water and the E.L.V.F.D gave each child their own fire hat and safety coloring book.

Explanation Of Propositions Given For Election

Following are explanations for the propositions on the ballot for the November 6 election.

PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 103)

HJR 103 would update the

constitutional reference to Angelo State University to conform with the statutory transfer of that institution from membership in the Texas State University System to membership in the Texas Tech University System.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the continuation of the constitutional appropriation for facilities and other capital items at Angelo State University on a change in the governance of the university."

PROPOSITION 2 (SJR 57)

SJR 57 would authorize the legislature to permit the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue up to \$500 million in general obligation bonds to finance educational loans to college and university students, and to enter into bond enhancement agreements.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of \$500 million in general obligation bonds to finance educational loans to students and authorizing bond enhancement agreements with respect to general obligation bonds issued for that purpose."

PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 40)

HJR 40 would authorize the legislature to limit the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for property tax purposes in a tax year to the lesser of the most recent appraisal valuation, or 110 percent, or a greater percentage as determined by the legislature, of the appraised value in the preceding tax year.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide that the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation is limited to the lesser of the most recent market value of the residence homestead as determined by the appraisal entity or 110 percent, or a greater percentage, of the appraised value of the residence homestead for the preceding tax year."

PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 65)

SJR 65 would authorize the legislature to permit the Texas Public Finance Authority to issue up to \$1 billion in general obligation bonds, the proceeds of which would be dedicated to maintenance, construction, repairs, and equipment purchases, as authorized by the legislature for the following state agencies: the Texas Building and Procurement Commission; the Parks and Wildlife Department; the Department of the Adjutant General; the Department of State Health Services; the Department of Aging and Disability Services; the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; the Texas Youth Commission; the Texas Historical Commission; the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; the Texas School for the Deaf; and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of up to \$1 billion in bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for maintenance, improvement, repair, and construction projects and for the purchase of needed equipment."

PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 44)

SJR 44 would authorize the legislature to permit cities with

a population of less than 10,000 to hold an election to allow the city to enter into an agreement with a property owner to temporarily freeze taxes on property either in or adjacent to an area approved for funding under the Downtown Revitalization Program or the Main Streets Improvements Program administered by the Department of Agriculture.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit the voters of a municipality having a population of less than 10,000 to authorize the governing body of the municipality to enter into an agreement with an owner of real property in or adjacent to an area in the municipality that has been approved for funding under certain programs administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture under which the parties agree that all ad valorem taxes imposed on the owner's property may not be increased for the first five tax years after the tax year in which the agreement is entered into."

PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 54)

HJR 54 would authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem tax one motor vehicle owned by an individual that is used by the individual for both business and personal use.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation one motor vehicle owned by an individual and used in the course of the owner's occupation or profession and also for personal activities of the owner."

PROPOSITION 7 (HJR 30)

HJR 30 would allow a governmental entity to sell property acquired through eminent domain to its immediately previous owner at the original purchase price, if the public use of the property has been canceled, if no progress is made toward that public use by a prescribed deadline, or if the property is unnecessary to accomplish that public use.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to allow governmental entities to sell property acquired through eminent domain back to the previous owners at the price the entities paid to acquire the property."

PROPOSITION 8 (HJR 72)

HJR 72 would clarify home equity loan procedures and protections and make conforming changes to the written disclosure provided to the borrower at the loan closing. The amendment would establish that the status of whether property is an agricultural homestead for the purpose of receiving homestead protection, would be determined by whether it was designated for agricultural use on the date of the loan closing. The amendment would provide that a declared state of emergency (e.g., following a natural disaster) would justify execution of a second home equity loan on the same property less than one year after the first home equity loan. It would provide that non-substantive omissions on a loan application would not affect the agreement. It would require a borrower to receive a copy of all executed loan documents, and a disclosure list of fees and costs at closing. It would prohibit the use of preprinted checks for the use of unsolicited loan advances

to obtain a home equity line of credit.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to clarify certain provisions relating to the making of a home equity loan and use of home equity loan proceeds."

PROPOSITION 9 (SJR 29)

SJR 29 would authorize the legislature to exempt all or part of the market value of the residence homesteads of veterans certified as having a service-connected 100 percent disability rating. SJR 29 would also clarify the progression of property tax exemptions available to veterans who are less than 100 percent disabled.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt all or part of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans from ad valorem taxation and authorizing a change in the manner of determining the amount of the existing exemption from ad valorem taxation to which a disabled veteran is entitled."

PROPOSITION 10 (HJR 69)

HJR 69 would remove constitutional references to the former office of inspector of hides and animals.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to abolish the constitutional authority for the office of inspector of hides and animals."

PROPOSITION 11 (HJR 19)

HJR 19 would require a vote taken in either house of the legislature to be recorded by record vote, if the vote was on final passage of a bill, other than local bills, a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment, or any other resolution that is not purely ceremonial. The record vote must be archived and available for public viewing on the Internet for at least two years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to require that a record vote be taken by a house of the legislature on final passage of any bill, other than certain local bills, of a resolution proposing or ratifying a constitutional amendment, or of any other nonceremonial resolution, and to provide for public access on the Internet to those record votes."

PROPOSITION 12 (SJR 64)

SJR 64 would authorize the Texas Transportation Commission to issue up to \$5 billion in general obligation bonds for highway improvement projects, the proceeds of which will be used to pay for projects, costs, and payments owed under related credit agreements.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds by the Texas Transportation Commission in an amount not to exceed \$5 billion to provide funding for highway improvement projects."

PROPOSITION 13 (HJR 6)

HJR 6 would authorize the denial of bail to a person who violates conditions of release in a family violence case and permit the legislature to authorize the denial of bail to a person who violates certain court orders in a family violence case.

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Thin Cows	30-40	
PACKER BULLS		
Heavyweight bulls	58-65	
Utility cutter bulls	48-57	
STEERS	#1	#2
150-300 lbs	130-150	110-129
300-400 lbs	124-138	110-123
400-500 lbs	116-128	98-110
500-600 lbs	102-114	90-101
600-700 lbs	95-104	85-94
700-800 lbs	93-100	82-92
HEIFERS	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	125-145	105-124
300-400 lbs	106-121	92-105
400-500 lbs	102-113	88-99
500-600 lbs	98-108	85-95
600-700 lbs	90-100	84-90
700-800 lbs	85-94	75-84
STOCKER COWS		
Good Stocker Cow/Calf Pairs	850-1000	
Medium Cow/calf Pairs	750-850	
Common Cow/calf Pairs	600-725	
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