

Montgomery County Eagle Forum – October 5, 2023

2023

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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Congressional Candidate CD38 [unsuccessful, 2nd of 10]
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2020 Convention Legislative Priorities Committee Chair

EXPECTATIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

**“Oh what a tangled web we weave,
when we practice to deceive.”**

– Sir Walter Scott –

from his epic poem *“Marmion: A Tale of Flodden Field”*, 1808

2023

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

METHODOLOGY

- Looked up and studied underlying legislation / lege council / SOS / officials
- Is this a “lobbyist bill”?
- Does this “grow government”?
- Does this raise or lower government spending and taxes?
- Is this limited to one or a few special interests or is it universal?
- Protect individual rights?
- Protect government?
- **Why is this a Constitutional Amendment** (vs. a simple bill)?
- Others – Who supports, Does it fund the left, etc. – but this is still my opinion...

1 RIGHT TO FARM

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN FARMING, RANCHING, TIMBER PRODUCTION, HORTICULTURE, AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

- Not immediately clear “why”?

Lobbyist Bill?	Grow Gov't?	Spending & Taxes?	Special Interests	Protect Personal Rights	Protect Gov't Power	Why a Const. Amend.?	Others?
Yes	No	No	Yes- Farms & Ranches No- Eaters!	Yes	Yes- State No- Local (Local control?)	“Right”	Raises the bar for courts —“Protect public health” vs “arbitrary and capricious” overreach:
							City restrictions!
							Sid Miller “strongly ports.”

2 CHILD CARE CARVE-OUT

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.

- Why? Local option. If used, MINIMUM 50% property tax cut to the “winners”. (Ted Poe quote.)

Lobbyist Bill?	Grow Gov't?	Spending & Taxes?	Special Interests	Protect Personal Rights	Protect Gov't Power	Why a Const. Amend.?	Others?
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes-Local (Local option)	Unequal treatment of taxation.	Sort of funds the left
							Let's local Ds pick winners and losers
					Reauthorizing not needed!		Ds and Moderate Rs. Conserv. Rs opposed

4 PROPERTY TAX BUYDOWN

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.

Lobbyist Bill?	Grow Gov't?	Spending & Taxes?	Special Interests	Protect Personal Rights	Protect Gov't Power	Why a Const. Amend.?	Others?
No	No	No	No(?)	Yes	Yes- State No- Local	Breaks the "spending caps" by being exempt.	Terrible "compromise", but better than doing nothing.
							Compression vs Personal Exemption
							Businesses vs Residential

5 SHOVEL MORE \$\$\$ TO ACADEMIA

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.

- **TERRIBLE BILL!!!**

Lobbyist Bill?	Grow Gov't?	Spending & Taxes?	Special Interests	Protect Personal Rights	Protect Gov't Power	Why a Const. Amend.?	Others?
Yes	Yes	Yes \$200 MM*	Yes- Public Universities except UT and TAMU	NO!	Yes- State	Breaks the Spending Cap. Exempts. Indexes!	Vague. Bureaucratic. Funds the extreme left. Takes money from Rainy Day Fund.
		*MM=million					

6 SHOVEL MORE \$\$\$ TO WATER PROJECTS

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CREATING THE TEXAS WATER FUND TO ASSIST IN FINANCING WATER PROJECTS IN THIS STATE.

- Might be needed in some parts of the state. Not here.

Lobbyist Bill?	Grow Gov't?	Spending & Taxes?	Special Interests	Protect Personal Rights	Protect Gov't Power	Why a Const. Amend.?	Others?
Yes	Yes.	Yes* \$3 MMM** *Will drive water costs higher.	Yes- Connected water infrastructure companies. Bond companies. Lawyers.	No	Yes- State	Breaks the Spending Cap	Empowers the bureaucracies. Keeps building surface water.
		**MMM=billion					

MATRIX

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mark S. Ramsey	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

\$22,129,000,000+

“Reduction in funds available for property tax relief.” -HuffinesLiberty.com

CLOSING THOUGHTS

1. Government does **NOT** have a **greater right** to you and your families' resources than you and your family does.
2. ALL PROPOSED TAX INCREASES ARE **ZERO SUM GAMES**...YOU and YOUR FAMILIES LOSE—they GAIN. USUALLY PERMANENTLY, **PLUS** they **SLOW** the **ECONOMY**.
3. Sometimes **doing nothing is riskier** than trying to do something.
4. **No data IS data.**



THANK YOU!

The background features abstract, flowing lines in shades of blue and red, creating a sense of motion and depth. The lines are layered and semi-transparent, giving the overall composition a dynamic and modern feel.

LAGNIAPPE

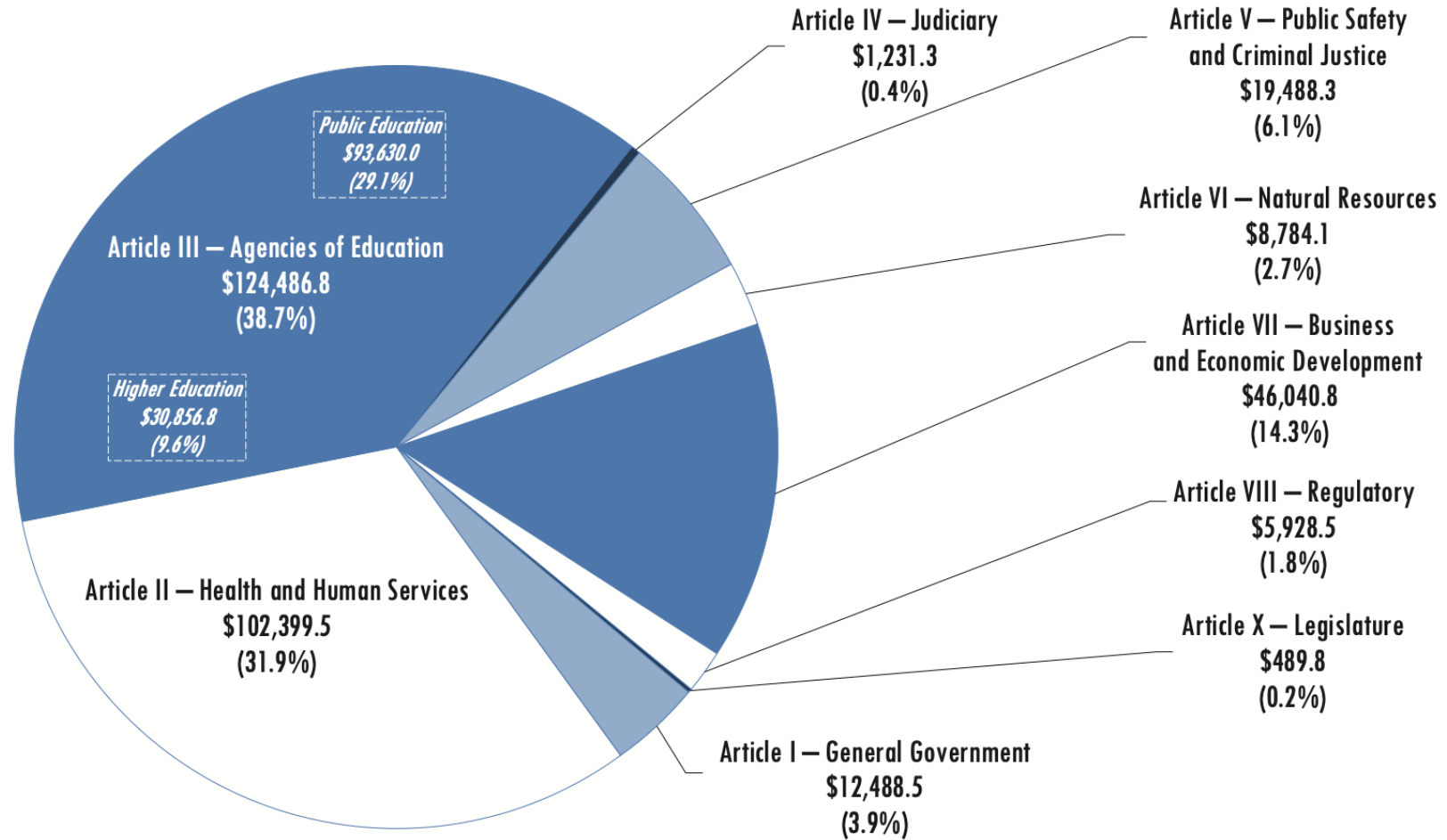
2024–25 BIENNIUM CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL 1

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

FUNDING BY ARTICLE, ALL FUNDS

TOTAL=\$321,337.6

(IN MILLIONS)



NOTES: Appropriations for the 2024–25 biennium made in Article IX are included in the functional articles shown.
 Funding excludes Interagency Contracts.
 Totals may not sum due to rounding.





THANK YOU!