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## Political Edition 2009

### Constitutional Amendment

Our Escapees Mail Service members who are Texas residents will find this edition of *The Forum* most helpful. Texas voters will be presented with eleven constitutional amendments in November 2009.

### Early Voting By Mail

The last day to register to vote, to be eligible for the November 3, 2009, constitutional amendment election is October 5, 2009 (moves to next business day, Monday). When you apply for a ballot by mail, you must first request an application. **Applications for voting by mail will be accepted September 4 through October 27 (received, not postmarked).** Once your application is received by the County Clerk, a ballot will then be mailed to you. The ballot must be mailed to an address outside of Polk County unless you are 65 (or older) or disabled (no proof necessary); however, you must indicate your reason for applying for an absentee ballot, e.g. disabled, away traveling, etc.

Escapees Mail Service members who will be traveling out of state may have their ballots sent to the following address:

Your Name  
c/o Escapees RV Club  
PO Box 1578  
Shepherd, TX 77371

This special box is for Escapees members who will be away traveling and do not have a secure temporary mailing address that they are comfortable using. Escapees mail service agents will forward these ballots on to you, but it is important to recognize that this can cause an additional time delay.

Mail application requests and return ballots to:  
Early Voting Clerk  
PO Drawer 2119  
Livingston, TX 77351-9401

Important Phone Numbers:  
Applications fax line ..... 936-327-6874  
County Clerk/Voting Info. .... 936-327-6804  
or 936-327-6805

**IMPORTANT:** To help cover staff time to check the box daily and retrieve ballots, Escapees Mail Service will charge \$5 per ballot that is retrieved from the Shepherd address. It is always best to have your applications and ballots sent directly to you if at all possible.

Remember, time is of the essence. You must request your application first, send it back to the County Clerk, receive your ballot, and mail it back to the County Clerk (see address below for returning ballots), all before the November 3, 2009, election deadline!

**Note:** Early voting by personal appearance is October 19-30, 2009.

*Continued on next page =>*



**Proposition 1 (HJR 132)**

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation.”

**Proposition 2 (HJR 36-1)**

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property’s value as a residence homestead.”

**Proposition 3 (HJR 36-3)**

“The constitutional amendment providing for uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes.”

**Proposition 4 (HJR 14-2)**

“The constitutional amendment establishing the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund.”

**Proposition 5 (HJR 36-2)**

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations.”

**Proposition 6 (HJR 116)**

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans’ Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized.”

**Proposition 7 (HJR 127)**

“The constitutional amendment to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices.”

**Proposition 8 (HJR 7)**

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of veterans hospitals in this state.”

**Proposition 9 (HJR 102)**

“The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico.”

**Proposition 10 (HJR 85)**

“The constitutional amendment to provide that elected members of the governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years.”

**Proposition 11 (HJR 14-1)**

“The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature’s authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity.”

**Voter Resources**

Polk County ballot applications  
fax 936-327-6874

Polk County Clerk’s Office  
936-327-6804 or 936-327-6805

**Escapees voter info:**

[www.escapees.com/voterinfo.asp](http://www.escapees.com/voterinfo.asp)

**Texas voter info:**

[www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter)