

# ANALYSES OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

88th Texas Legislature November 7, 2023, Election

Published by the Texas Legislative Council August 2023

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## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

The following comments supporting or opposing the proposed amendment reflect positions that were presented in committee proceedings, during house or senate floor debate, or in the analysis of the resolution prepared by the House Research Organization (HRO) when the resolution was considered by the House of Representatives.

### Comments by Supporters

- In 2003, the Texas Constitution was amended to allow conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities if approved by district voters, but El Paso County was not among the counties included at that time. The proposed amendment would extend this beneficial authority to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County.
- The issuance of bonds to fund parks and recreational facilities in these districts in El Paso County would help to address the need for more parks and open spaces in the county and improve the quality of life for county residents. It could also make the county more competitive for Texans considering moving to El Paso.
- The decision to assess property taxes to support the issuance of bonds for that purpose is left to the discretion of each district and its voters. The assessment of property taxes would not be mandatory.
- The proposed amendment would not impair any district's contract with the federal government regarding per-acre assessments since it does not create a mandate.

### Comments by Opponents

- The proposed amendment would give certain conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County the unnecessary authority to assess property taxes.
- Under Section 55.364, Water Code, certain conservation and reclamation districts in the county have federal contracts that require that any land within the districts be assessed on a per-acre basis. These districts should be excluded from the applicability of the resolution's property tax provisions to avoid additional tax burdens.