

ANALYSES OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The constitutional amendment proposing to add Section 44(d), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, if approved by the voters, would abolish the office of county treasurer in Galveston County and authorize the commissioners court of that county to employ or contract with a qualified person, or designate a county officer, to perform any of the functions that would have been performed by the county treasurer if the office had not been abolished. The amendment also provides that the amendment takes effect only if, in addition to approval by voters across the state, a majority of the voters in Galveston County voting on the question also approve the amendment.

BACKGROUND AND DETAILED ANALYSIS

Section 44, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, requires in part that the legislature prescribe the duties and provide for the election of a county treasurer in each county. Section 44 also provides that each county treasurer shall have an office at the county seat, hold their office for four years, and be compensated as provided by law. Section 44 also provides that the office of county treasurer does not exist in a county in which the office has been abolished pursuant to a constitutional amendment.

The constitutional amendment proposed by H.J.R. 134, if approved by the voters, would add Section 44(d), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, to abolish the office of county treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would allow the commissioners court of Galveston County to employ or contract with a qualified person, or to designate a county officer, to perform the functions that would have been performed by the county treasurer if the office had not been abolished. The amendment also provides that the amendment takes effect only if, in addition to approval by voters across the state, a majority of the voters in Galveston County voting on the question also approve the amendment. Similar constitutional amendments have previously been approved by the voters to abolish the office of treasurer in a number of other counties.