

ANALYSES OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

88th Texas Legislature November 7, 2023, Election

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SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

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

Comments by Supporters

- The Galveston County Treasurer's Office does not provide a sufficient level of added protection for taxpayers to justify the amount of county funds needed to operate the office.
- The duties of the office of county treasurer could and would be absorbed by other county departments and done at a cost savings to taxpayers.
- Galveston County is well suited to successfully operate without a county treasurer as the county has a number of other officers, including an auditor, CFO, and purchasing agent, who perform duties that are performed by the county treasurer in other counties.
- Elimination of the treasurer's office is supported by the current Galveston County treasurer, all members of the Galveston County Commissioners Court, and all municipalities in the county.
- Galveston County voters have already tacitly approved of abolishing the office of county treasurer by voting for the current county treasurer, who ran on the platform of abolishing the office.
- Nine other counties have eliminated their county treasurer position and have been able to continue operating efficient county governments.
- Voters statewide have previously recognized that an official treasurer position is not necessary by voting to abolish the office of state treasurer in 1995.
- Eliminating a constitutionally elected office is not unprecedented as other such offices, like county land surveyor or animal control officer, have been eliminated in the past.

Comments by Opponents

- A stand-alone office of county treasurer that is headed by a person directly elected by county voters provides essential checks and balances in the operation of county government.
- Eliminating the office of county treasurer would not provide any real cost savings as the duties undertaken by the office would still be necessary and additional employees would need to be hired in other county departments to carry out those duties.
- Eliminating one county office and absorbing its functions into other departments sets a bad precedent and could lead to the concentration of power within the county.
- Since the office of county treasurer is a constitutionally elected office, it is important to maintain the office.

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