

ANALYSES OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Joint Chair Speaker Dade Phelan, Joint Chair
Jeff Archer, Executive Director

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

- Texas is in need of significant financial investment in water infrastructure and water supply development to address both aging infrastructure, the failure of which causes the state to lose an estimated 136 billion gallons of water each year and often subjects Texans to boil water notices, and the need for new water supply projects to support Texas' growing population amid perennial drought conditions that deplete existing water sources.
- The creation of the Texas water fund would further the state's investment in water infrastructure and would give the Texas Water Development Board flexibility in allocating financial assistance through existing and newly created funds to address issues with existing water infrastructure and support new water supply projects across the state for years to come.
- Small water systems in less urban areas of the state do not have the tax base to support large water infrastructure projects, and a statewide approach is needed to ensure water resources are available to all Texans.

Comments by Opponents

- The Texas Water Development Board should be able to address the state's water needs without the creation of new programs.