

Amendment Election set for Tuesday

The Texas Constitutional Amendment Election will be held Tuesday, November 3.

The explanations of the proposed amendments are listed below.

Proposition Number 1

SJR 1 - Current law provides an exemption of \$15,000 from the ad valorem taxation for public school purposes of a residence homestead. The proposed amendment would increase this exemption to \$25,000, starting in the tax year beginning January 1, 2015. In order to reflect the increased exemption on the homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or a disabled person, the proposed amendment would provide a reduction to the current limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes. The proposed amendment would protect school districts from all or part of the revenue loss by authorizing an appropriation of funds according to formulas set by the legislature. In addition, the proposed amendment would authorize

the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision from reducing or repealing a homestead exemption adopted by the political subdivision. Finally, the proposed amendment would prohibit the imposition of a tax on the conveyance of real property, but would not prohibit the imposition of a business tax measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on the issuance of title insurance, or a change in the rate of a tax in existence on January 1, 2016.

Proposition Number 2

HJR 75 - In 2011, voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow a surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran an exemption from ad valorem taxation from all or part of the market value on the disabled veteran's residence homestead, as long as the surviving spouse had not remarried. The amendment did not apply to surviving spouses of veterans who died before 2011. This amendment would extend the exemption in such cases. The proposed amendment would apply only to ad valorem taxes imposed for a tax year beginning

on or after January 1, 2016.

Proposition Number 3

SJR 52 proposes a constitutional amendment to repeal the requirement for the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the Attorney General, and any other officers elected statewide to reside in Austin, Texas, the state capital. Under current law, these statewide elected officers are required to reside in the capital of the State of Texas while in office. This amendment would not apply to the residency requirement for the Governor.

Proposition Number 4

HJR 73 proposes a constitutional amendment that would grant the legislature the authority to pass statutes to allow a professional sports team charitable foundation to conduct charitable raffles under the terms and conditions imposed by general law. The laws passed under this authority may provide that the professional sports team charitable foundation may use proceeds from such charitable raffles to pay reasonable

advertising, promotional, and administrative expenses. Any law enacted by this provision only applies to entities defined as professional sports team charitable foundations on January 1, 2016. Additionally, any law enacted by this provision may only allow charitable raffles to be conducted at games hosted at the home venue of the professional sports team associated with a professional sports team charitable foundation.

Proposition Number 5

SJR 17 proposes a constitutional amendment which would increase from 5,000 to 7,500 the maximum total population threshold of a county that is allowed to construct and maintain private roads as long as the county imposes a reasonable charge for the work.

Proposition Number 6

SJR 22 proposes a constitutional amendment that would add the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, including by use of traditional methods, in the Bill of Rights of the Texas Constitution. This right would be subject to laws and regulations intended to conserve and man-

age wildlife and to preserve the future of hunting and fishing. The proposed amendment would establish hunting and fishing as the preferred method of managing and controlling wildlife in Texas. The proposed amendment is not intended to affect any law or provision related to trespass, property rights or eminent domain, and would not prevent the legislature from authorizing a municipality to regulate the discharge of a firearm in a populated area in the interest of safety.

Proposition Number 7

SJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of revenues from (1) the state sales and use tax, and (2) the tax imposed on the sale, use, or rental of a motor vehicle, to the State Highway Fund (SHF). Under current law, these funds would be deposited to the General Revenue Fund. Money deposited to the SHF is intended to be used only to construct, maintain, or acquire rights-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads; or to repay certain transportation-related debt.

12 Reasons Ben Carson Would Make a Good President

By Sandy Fitzgerald/Newsmax

He's a newcomer: Carson has never run for a public office and could bring a fresh, perspective to the White House should he transform his success as an author and speaker into a competitive campaign.

2. He's not politically correct: He often speaks out against the evil of political correctness in his speeches and interviews, and his position has been reflected in policy ideas and his six published books that don't always follow the straight conservative line.

3. He's for a flat tax: Carson has often spoken in favor of a flat tax to replace the nation's current tax structure, including citing the Bible in his arguments. He has not settled on a number, but says 10 percent is recommended in the Bible so he often recommends between 10-15 percent that is proportional across all income levels.

4. He is a fierce Obamacare foe: As a world class surgeon, Carson says health insurance companies should be turned into utilities with profit limits, and has even brought controversy by equating the Affordable Care Act with "slavery."

5. He's a free-market advocate: He points to the deregulation of Wall Street in the 1990s as the root cause of the financial crisis.

6. He's for individualism and independence: Even though his family relied on food stamps while he was young, he says President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society era started the steady fall of the country's individualism and independence.

7. He's got guts: Carson's launch can be traced back to February 2013, when he delivered his fiery speech at the National Prayer Breakfast challenging President Barack Obama on health care, taxes, spending, and the country's direction — all with the president and first lady sitting just a few feet away.

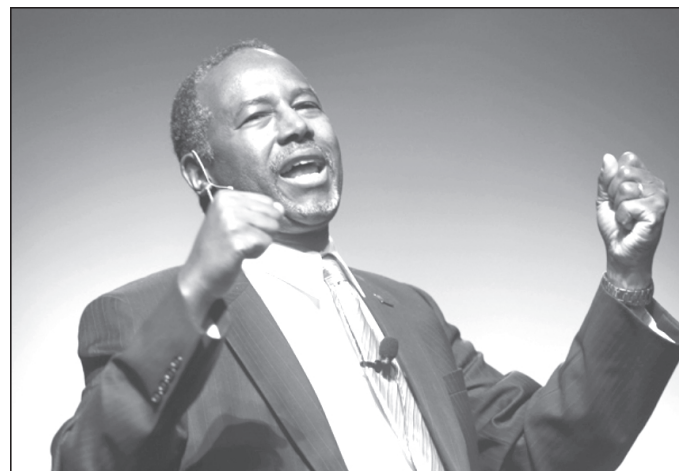
8. He's got a real rags to riches story: With the support and prodding of his mother, he rose from poor grades, a single-parent home, and poverty to attend Yale University and medical school at the University of Michigan.

9. He's a bonafide genius: He became the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, all while becoming the first surgeon to successfully separate twins conjoined at the back of the head.

10. He's used to the corporate world: Carson has served on corporate boards including Kellogg Co. and Costco Wholesale Corp., and his foundation, Carson Scholars Fund, is operating in all 50 states and has given out nearly \$6 million in scholarships to students for academic and humanitarian achievement.

11. He backs social conservatism: Carson is a staunch social conservative who opposes abortion rights and same-sex marriage, views he attributes to his personal faith as a practicing Christian.

12. He's a loyal husband and family man: Carson, who has three sons, is rarely without his wife, Candy, by his side. Though she has no official title, she's described by aides as a senior adviser on his team, a group that has hired a mix of businessmen and political veterans in recent months in preparation for a run.



Retired doctor-turned-conservative star Ben Carson officially announced his candidacy for the White House in his hometown of Detroit, and there are several reasons the former Johns Hopkins head of pediatric surgery would make a great president.



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