



Texas' Constitutional Amendments Corporate Welfare on the Texas Ballot

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On November 7, Texas voters are being asked to approve \$13.8 billion in new spending over the next two years proposed by the Texas Legislature. As noted elsewhere, this is because the Texas Legislature wanted to spend more money than allowed by the Texas Constitution. So instead of taking a dangerous political vote themselves to “bust” the state spending cap, Texas politicians decided to pass the buck to voters.

The new spending, which is covered by eight propositions on the ballot (see below), is for things like infrastructure, teacher retirement, and parks. While there might be some debate about the merits of these propositions, the primary beneficiaries of the \$13.8 billion is seen in the sponsors of the political advertising in support of the spending.

For instance, below are the members of the [Texas Infrastructure Coalition](#), sponsored by the [Texans for Opportunity and Prosperity PAC](#), that are advocating in support of propositions 6, 7, and 8, which would spend \$7.5 billion if approved by voters. However much Texans might benefit from the spending, these businesses—and the Texas politicians that have proposed it—would benefit more.



Here is a list of the amendments that would increase state spending by \$13.8 billion and benefit special interests and corporations:

Constitutional Amendments that Authorize \$13.8 Billion in New Spending				
Proposition	Topic	2024-25 Cost	Future Costs	Notes
2	Property tax breaks for childcare facilities	?	?	Only for subsidized, low-income facilities
5	Creates the Texas University Fund	\$208 million	\$120 million annually	Funding for “emerging” research universities
6	Creates the Texas Water Fund	\$1 billion	N/A	Increases government control over water
7	Creates the Texas Energy Fund	\$5 billion	N/A	Subsidies for natural gas electricity generators
8	Creates the Texas Broadband Fund	\$1.5 billion	N/A	Subsidies for rural telephone companies
9	Teacher Retirement	\$5 billion	N/A	Increases payments to retired teachers
10	Property tax breaks for medical products	\$43 million	\$50+ million annually	Subsidies for medical product manufacturers
14	Creates the Centennial Parks Fund	\$1 billion	N/A	Funds the purchase of more state parks
Total		\$13.8 billion		

Texans can cut state spending by \$13.8 billion, more than 6%, by rejecting these propositions. And send a message to Texas politicians that they want more tax relief, not more spending, bigger government, and increased corporate welfare.