

H-Z Sept 30/Oct 1 Column - YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED!

As August moved toward September, we received Senior Portrait proofs from our granddaughter. When I remarked that she would have a challenge from many lovely options, her response was “Yes, and I also registered to vote!” I then urged that she encourage her twin brother to be sure to register as well, not just for the draft (selective service) but so he can vote. The time urgency dictates getting it done since we vote THIS NOVEMBER 7TH and not just in 2024. My explanation continued that there are two “propositions” which are Amendments in Texas to the Constitution, PROPOSITION 6 “The Texas Water Fund” item and PROPOSITION 14 “the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund.” Other measures may prove important as well, but these two provide a one-time opportunity with a rare surplus in state funds to do something for our future long term. Allow me to explain.

Since we vote Tuesday, November 7, 2023, there will be a period in every County in Texas for early voting as well during late October and the first days of November. In Comal County those early voting dates will be from October 24th through November 4th. Watch for announcements of times & locations. Whether early or on the date set aside, DO VOTE!

PROPOSITION 6: A YES vote on PROPOSITION 6 will support a constitutional amendment establishing the TEXAS WATER FUND using \$1 Billion of the state’s surplus funds to create a revenue stream to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

The 2022 State Water Plan projects a population increase of 73% between 2020 and 2070! The fund would provide funding for loans and grants that assist communities across the state with water supply and wastewater projects. This new fund creates a New Water Supply for Texas Fund designed to implement innovative strategies such as marine and brackish water desalination; oil and gas produced water treatment projects; and aquifer storage and recovery projects. All of these measures are needed NOW! A detailed and more technical description of Proposition 6 and the new Texas Water Fund is available on our website at comalconservation.org or on the TWDB website.

PROPOSITION 14: A YES vote on PROPOSITION 14 will support a constitutional amendment establishing the CENTENNIAL PARKS CONSERVATION FUND using \$1 Billion of the state’s surplus funds to help secure new parks for future generations of Texans to explore and enjoy without a tax increase. The fund will allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to purchase land from willing sellers when unique properties become available. Such investing for the public interest, when possible, with private donor partners, protects Texas’ quality of life so future generations can enjoy our land, water, and natural beauty beyond existing properties. Previously voters dedicated in 2019 the Sporting Goods Sales Tax to provide for ongoing support toward maintenance, staffing and upkeep of our park system. The Centennial Parks Conservation Fund focuses on the future, dedicated solely to acquiring and then improving land for new parks to add to the system. As our state is ranked 35th nationally in State Park acreage per capita with approximately 640 acres today, only 0.37% of Texas’ acreage is set aside for parks. As our state is home to 7 of the top 15 most rapidly growing cities in the nation, the priority to act now is dramatic! Currently Texas loses nearly one quarter million acres of farms, ranches and open space to further development annually.

CAN WE COUNT ON YOUR VOTE FOR THESE EFFORTS? PLEASE, YES!