

# Constitutional Amendments

By GLENN DROMGOOLE  
Battalion Editor

Amendment No. 3, among the 10 Texas constitutional amendments to be voted on Nov. 2, provides that the legislature enable the state government to continue cooperating with the federal government in providing assistance to aged handicapped and needy persons.

The amendment would change Section 51-a and Subsections 51a-1 and 51a-2 of Article III of the bulky Texas Constitution and incorporate them into one Section 51-a.

The proposed amendment makes two changes in present provisions which enable Texas citizens to participate in the cooperative federal-state program of assistance to and or medical care on behalf of certain aged, needy and handicapped persons:

1. Age limits are expanded for those eligible for assistance to the blind, dropping the requirement from 21 years old to 18; eligibility of needy children is expanded from under age 16 to 21. Age brackets for the permanently and totally disabled and for needy over 65 remain unchanged.

2. The present constitutional provision making old age assistance benefits available only to Texas citizens would be changed to include all U.S. citizens or persons who have resided in the country for 25 years.

Within these guidelines, the legislature is given authority to enact appropriate legislation which will enable the state to continue a cooperative program with the federal government in providing assistance to these persons.

Governor John Connally said this week that 1,215 aged residents of Brazos County will have their medical benefits jeopardized if the amendment fails to pass in the Nov. 2 election.

Arguments for the amendment include:

1. Adoption is essential if Texas is to continue its participation in a medical care program for old age assistance recipients which uses federal funds. Should the amendment fail, federal money would be withdrawn July 1, 1967.

2. The state cannot finance the entire assistance and medical care programs alone. Withdrawal of federal funds would mean final death to the Texas medical care program for Old Age Assistance recipients.

3. The federal tax burden upon Texas citizens will continue whether or not the proposed amendment fails, Texas' share of this tax money will be siphoned off to other states.

Arguments against include:

1. The cutoff date for matching federal funds is July 1, 1967. Therefore, if the proposed amendment fails in adoption this year, there would still be time for the 60th legislature to pass the proposal and submit it to the electorate. It is possible that Congress would look upon delays of this type by a number of states as disapproval of the expanded program.

2. Broader coverage included by expanding the age brackets for blind assistance and for needy children would increase program costs to the state.

3. Medical programs for indigents are rightly the responsibilities of local subdivisions of government.

## 4

Amendment No. 4 to the Texas Constitution would give state officials elected in statewide elections four year terms instead of their present two-year terms.

This proposed change to Sections 4, 22 and 23 of Article IV provides the longer term for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller of public accounts, treasurer, commissioner of the general land office and secretary of state.

Also included in the amendment is any statutory state official who is chosen by Texas voters at large, unless the term is specifically provided in the Constitution. Presently this provision applies only to the commissioner of agriculture.

All of these officers now serve two year terms.

A provision of Amendment No. 4 specifically states that nothing "... shall be construed as to extend the term of office of any office holder previously elected to a two-year term."

Which means that even if the amendment passes, all elected officials must run in the 1966 general election before they can obtain four year terms.

Arguments for include:

1. Adoption would give the people of Texas more efficient utilization of their state officers. Newly elected officials would have sufficient time to master the functions of office before embarking upon campaigns for reelection, and incumbents would have time to develop more effective and productive operations to the benefit of the state. The complexities of present state government, far beyond anything envisioned when the Constitution was

framed in 1876, require full-time service of state officials. The demands of biennial campaigns, in many instances, force a capable executive to spend so much time and energy in campaigning that he is lost to the state for too long.

2. The Texas one-party system offers little incentive for voter turnout after party primaries in non-presidential years. Following adoption of the proposed amendment, the election of these four-year term officials would be held in the non-presidential election years which could stimulate voter interest and possibly advance the development of a two-party system in Texas.

3. The costs of campaigning for office in a state-wide race are generally so high that the candidate must either spend his entire salary and savings and possibly accumulate a heavy debt, or accept the support of individuals and special interests who may later demand special favors.

4. Thirty-five of the nation's 50 states have provided four year terms for their governors, recognizing that a short, two year term does not give the chief executive sufficient time to plan and inaugurate his program.

Arguments against include:

1. Long terms tend to alienate the public official from the citizens who elected him. He loses touch with his constituents and becomes less responsive to the rise and fall of public opinion. With a two-year term, an official can hardly become overconfident, for every two years he must feel the people's pulse.

2. State officials would be given too much increased power. A governor, for example, serving two four-year terms could appoint almost all members on many state boards and commissions. Appointees owing their positions to a single official are naturally subject to his influence and control.

3. History has shown that long tenure in office and political corruption go hand in hand.

4. Although 35 of the 50 states have established four year terms for governors, more than half have established four year terms reelection. Amendment No. 4 contains no restrictions.

**CORPS FRESHMEN**  
Yearbook Portrait Schedule:  
Corps freshmen will have their portraits made for the Aggie-land '66 according to this schedule. Portraits will be made at University Studio, 115 N. Main in class "A" winter uniforms. Fish should bring poplin shirts, black ties, & brigade shields.

Your picture is already paid for in your activity fee so make sure you have your activity book with you.

Oct. 19 - 20 Sqd. 13 & 14

1966 AGGIELAND  
Date: 15 October 1965  
To: Unit First Sergeants  
From: Military Section,  
SUBJECT: Outfit Pictures

Outfit pictures for the AGGIELAND will be made according to the schedule below.

Uniform will be class A winter. Outfit C.O.'s will wear sabers; seniors will wear boots and mid-night shirts. Guidons and award flags will be carried. All personnel in the outfit will wear the billed service cap issued by the university. The type of cap worn by underclassmen to and from the picture-taking area is left up to the discretion of the outfit C.O.

Outfits should be in front of the Administration Building by 1230 hours on the appointed day. Arrangements should be made by first sergeants with the Mess Hall supervisors to allow the outfit to be admitted to the Mess Hall early.

October 25	A-1, B-1
October 26	C-1, D-1
October 27	E-1, F-1
October 28	G-1, H-1
October 29	A-2, B-2
November 1	C-2, D-2
November 2	E-2, F-2
November 3	G-2, H-2
November 4	Sqd. 1, Sqd. 2
November 5	Sqd. 3, Sqd. 4
November 6	Sqd. 5, Sqd. 6
November 7	Sqd. 7, Sqd. 8
November 8	Sqd. 9, Sqd. 10
November 9	Sqd. 11, Sqd. 12
November 10	Sqd. 13, Sqd. 14
November 11	M-Band, W-Band
November 12	DAVID M. HONEYCUTT
November 13	MILITARY SECTION EDITOR

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