

Texans Face School Money, Bond Interest, Hospital Amendments

AUSTIN (AP)—Most Texas voters probably have never heard of three of the constitutional amendments on the Nov. 7 ballot, but each is important to some group or section of the state.

The last proposition on the ballot would allow county commissioners to distribute money in county permanent school funds to local school districts to reduce

bonded indebtedness or construct buildings.

If Amendment 14 is passed, commissioners could take part of their county's permanent school fund and divide it among the school districts in the county, giving each district an amount proportional to its share of the county student population. The commissioners would be required to

leave enough money in the fund "to pay ad valorem taxes on school lands or royalty interests owned at the time of the distribution."

During the 1800s, all but the last few counties to be organized were granted several thousand acres of land to provide funds for public education. Counties were permitted to sell the land, but had to reinvest the proceeds and continue to use the income for the school system.

Amendment 14, if passed, would mark the first time counties have been allowed to spend any part of the principal of the county permanent school funds.

The amendment passed the Legislature with only one dissenting vote in each house. Sponsors say the change is necessary to ease the financial strain on school districts, many of which have already sold all the bonds they are

legally permitted to issue.

While the distribution would decrease the annual income available to each county from its permanent fund, supporters of the amendment say the loss would be offset by increased funds from the state, which are allocated in part on the basis of income available from the county fund.

But opponents of the measure use the same fact in arguing against the amendment, saying it would raise considerably the amount of state tax money needed to support the public schools.

They also argue that siphoning off principal from the permanent funds for the first time would set a precedent that might be followed every time the schools face short-term crisis, a precedent that would deny future generations the funds needed for education.

The next to last amendment on the ballot would permit most state agencies that issue bonds to

raise the interest rates they pay to a maximum of 6 per cent.

The constitution currently contains numerous provisions setting different maximum rates for the bonds of cities, counties, political subdivisions and various state agencies.

Almost all of the rates are set below 5 per cent, a figure well under the rates on most bonds being sold today on the open market.

This makes Texas' bonds hard to sell, supporters of the amendment say. They warn that if it does not pass, many programs like the Parks and Wildlife Department's parks program or the loans made to veterans for the purchase of land—would have to be cut back or dropped.

But opponents, of whom there were only a handful when both houses of the Legislature voted overwhelmingly to put the amendment on the November ballot, say the higher interest rates would inevitably result in higher taxes to retire the bonds.

Higher rates would also encourage agencies and local government units to rely more heavily on bonded indebtedness to finance commissioners to dispose of the district's assets.

A constitutional amendment is required because the district was established by a constitutional amendment 12 years ago. The district has since ceased to operate,

and the county wants to sell assets.

There is no known opposition to the amendment.

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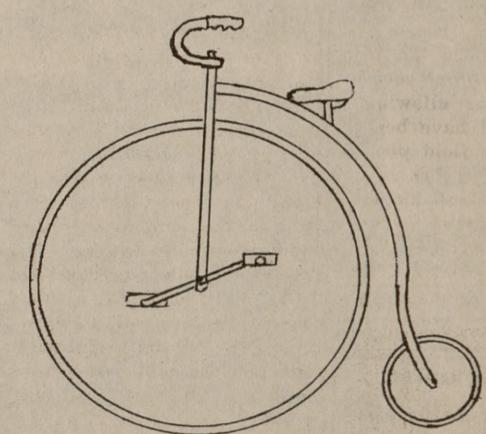
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For County Commissioner

Howard Anderson Supports:

Hiring a County Engineer to supervise county employees in road maintenance.

Development of a plan for the orderly and ecologically sound growth of the rural areas of Precinct 1.

Improvement of the quality of existing roads and lanes.

Amendment Number 12.

His Qualifications:

B.S. and M.S. degrees from Texas A&M University.

Teacher for 5 years at A&M Consolidated School.

Four years with Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Five and one-half years in management at Alenco.

Four years experience with heavy equipment.

Self-employed for four years as owner of Anderson Machine and Specialty Company.

Republican Club Of Precinct 9 — Tres. Tom Taylor Pd. Pol. Adv.

A&M Women's Bowling Team Places Second In District

Eight members of A&M Women's bowling team placed in the district meet held Friday and Saturday at Texas Southern University.

The state meet will be held Nov. 10-11 at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches featuring the top placers from the six districts in Texas.

In the team events A&M placed second with a team consisting of Marsha Thompson, Bernie Ponzio, Sarah Savage and Jerry Lampkin, and fourth with a team of Debbie Berrier, Lisa Macias, Susan Abbot and Dorothy Schuckler.

Ponzio and Lampkin won the doubles event while Thompson and Savage placed third.

Ponzio also finished second in singles. Macias finished fifth in singles but will not be allowed to compete in Nacogdoches as only the top four finishers in each event go to state.

Ponzio finished first in all events by having the highest total number of pins in nine games. Savage finished sixth in all events.

This is the first year A&M has fielded a women's bowling team for intercollegiate competition.

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