

# League supports article 6

**Associated Press**  
HOUSTON — Delegates to the Texas Municipal League conference voted Tuesday to support only one proposition on the proposed new state constitution and took strong stands against federal aid to distressed cities and against forced busing.

With 155 cities represented and voting, the league rejected a resolution favoring the new constitution and substituted instead a motion for formal support of proposition number six of the proposed state governing document.

The league's resolution committee had earlier passed a statement favoring the new constitution, but the issue slipped through the com-

mittee by only one vote. Officials had predicted a strong floor fight.

But when Dallas Mayor Wes Wise offered a compromise resolution, the delegates snapped it up.

Proposition number six deals with municipalities and would allow cities to create special districts within their borders without the approval of the state legislature.

Wise told the delegates that other issues in the constitution were "statewide issues" and not related to cities.

"I urge you to unify around one proposition we can support," he said.

The resolution passed quickly on a show of hands.

The biggest floor fight came over the stiff wording of a resolution condemning federal financial aid to bankrupt cities.

A proposed resolution by the committee stated that "federal aid for any state or local government that refuses to tax its own citizens to pay for the services those citizens demand is an unfair and unconstitutional plunder of responsible citizens for the benefit of the irresponsible."

The delegates cheered after the resolution was read, but Wise rose to offer an amendment.

"The city of Dallas sees no need for inflammatory language," he said. "We support the meaning, but not the inflammatory language."

He offered an amendment modifying the wording and forced a roll call vote. The delegates voted 74 to 71, with some abstentions, to support the more strongly worded resolution.

The vote came after one delegate told the league: "There's no need to be mealy-mouthed. The Northeastern states have not taken care of their own backyard."

A resolution calling for a constitutional amendment forbidding the use of forced busing to achieve a racial balance in schools was passed with a show of hands.

The resolution was offered from the floor by the city of Farmer's Branch, a Dallas suburb.

## New Constitution

### Supporters, opponents debate

**Associated Press**  
Increasing conflict and controversy became apparent Tuesday as supporters and opponents of the proposed new constitution began their last week of debate before the Nov. 4 election.

Former Gov. Allan Shivers said a little noticed provision of the new policy document could cause a tremendous traffic jam in state courts.

Former House Speaker Price Daniel Jr. said the same could develop under the present constitution.

Rep. Neil Caldwell, D-Alvin, chairman of the Constitution Convention finance committee, said comptroller Bob Bullock was trying to "scare" Texas voters with misleading statements that adoption of the document would bring on higher taxes.

Shivers said in a statement, that a provision of the new judiciary article, would let the legislature provide for "trial de novo" or completely new trials in appeals from

administrative decisions of state agencies.

"In my opinion, this means that Travis County would need an additional 10 or 15 district courts in order to handle the burden of increased litigation," Shivers said.

And not only would the matters under consideration be delayed for several years, but the additional costs to taxpayers would be astronomical.

Daniel told a Capitol news conference that trial de novo "could be done in most instances under the present constitution."

He said that each time a new administrative agency is created there have been strong attempts, some successful and some not, to have trial de novo.

Daniel also said that Gov. Dolph Briscoe made "highly misleading and grossly unfair" statements in hinting that adoption of the new constitution would lead to a state income tax.

"Such statements are as ridiculous as if I stood before you today and

stated that a state income tax is a certainty if the sprawling bureaucracy remains unchecked, the unbusinesslike budgeting system is retained and the governor is deprived of money management authority — all of which we suffer under through retention of the archaic constitution of 1876."

Caldwell took issue with a Bullock statement that property law changes authorized in the new constitution could result in higher taxes and said he thought it would result in lower ad valorem taxes.

"Comptroller Bullock raised the specter of new taxes on items such as automobiles," Caldwell said. "This is a deceitful statement for Mr. Bullock to make unless he truly is ignorant that the present constitution and laws of Texas require automobiles to be taxed."

Texans should not be deceived by the misleading statements of those special interests who are fighting to keep their tax breaks," Caldwell said.

Other efforts by supporters of the new constitution Tuesday included:  
• Announcement by Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, that he now endorses all of the constitution although originally he found fault with two sections. "I find it especially curious that the very members of the Senate who, in 1969, sponsored and passed through the Senate over my violent objections a tax on groceries and medicine, are now actively engaged in the effort to deny the people of Texas a constitution which would forever protect the public from such unfair taxation."

• Announcement of Dist. Atty. Henry Wade, Dallas, that he thinks mounting backlogs of cases in some urban areas would be reduced under the proposed new court merger system.

• A statement by the Texas Association of College Teachers' executive board that it endorses all eight propositions.

## How it stands

### The pumpkin market

Pumpkin carving is part of the Halloween scene, but the raw material shows signs of being picked-over.

Pumpkins have been on sale for about two weeks, and prices have dropped from 50 cents per pound to around 10 to 12 cents per pound.

Pumpkins at Safeway and Skaggs Albertsons are 10 cents per pound, but few remain in stock. Kroger and Lewis & Coker pumpkins are 12 cents a pound and large, but the selection is small. Piggly Wiggly is advertising pie pumpkins at 15 cents per pound and Fed-Mart has no pumpkins.

The freshest, brightest orange pumpkins at 10 cents a pound can be found at the Farm Patch. A new shipment arrived Oct. 27.

The recreation committee of the MSC is sponsoring a carving contest with entries accepted Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. in Room 216B of the MSC. The rules say the carving need not be of a face but the pumpkin must be lightable.

After a pumpkin is used as a jack-o-lantern, its meat, the inner two inches of flesh, cannot be used for cooking, said Tom Longbrake,

extension horticulturalist.

"The heat from the candle can half cook the pumpkin, and after two or three days it shouldn't be used in baking," he said.

Pumpkins will store for a long time if they aren't opened, said Longbrake, and they can't be used for much else but pies, cakes, breads and candies.

The pumpkin is a warm-season crop planted in spring and maturing in late summer or fall. Its color is brought out by early cold weather, and most pumpkins are grown in the Midwest and Northwest part of the nation.

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