

The Texas REALTOR® vote can make a difference!

Did you know that as many as 25% of Texas REALTORS® are not registered to vote? A recent study by NAR indicates that Texas is in the bottom third of the country when it comes to members registered to vote.

Registering to vote is the first step you can take to ensure that your business and livelihood is protected as the Texas Association of REALTORS® continues to advocate on behalf of REALTORS®, homeowners, and private property owners in Texas. Your ability to vote will strengthen these efforts.

Registering is easy. Just go to the [Texas secretary of state's Web site](#), fill out the form, print it, and mail it to your county voter registrar (the address is provided for you once you fill out the form). You must be registered with the state by **Monday, October 5, 2009** to vote in the November constitutional amendment election. To register in Texas, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a resident of the county you want to register in
- Be 18 years old
- Not be a convicted felon
- Not be declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law

You must vote at your voting precinct on Election Day. However, when you vote early, you can vote at any early voting location in your county.

Important dates to remember:

October 5 - Last day to mail in your voter registration card

October 19 - First day of early voting

October 30 - Last day of early voting

November 3 – Election Day

Important appraisal reform measures are on the ballot. It is vital that Texas REALTORS® get to the polls on November 3 to support Propositions 2, 3 and 5. Here is more information* on Propositions 2, 3 and 5:

Amendment No. 2 (H.J.R. 36, Article 1)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead.

Summary of Proposed Amendment: Section 1, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, requires taxation to be equal and uniform and provides that all real and tangible personal property in the state, unless exempt as constitutionally required or permitted, is to be taxed in proportion to its value. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature, by general law, to provide for the taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of its value as a residence homestead, regardless of whether residential use by the owner is considered to be the highest and best use of the property.

Amendment No. 3 (H.J.R. 36, Article 3)

The constitutional amendment providing for uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes.

Summary of Proposed Amendment: Section 23(b), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, requires that administrative and judicial enforcement of uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for property tax purposes, as prescribed by general law, originate in the county where the tax is imposed. An exception is that the legislature may provide by general law for political subdivisions with boundaries extending outside the county. The proposed amendment would remove that requirement, as well as the exception. It would instead give the legislature full discretion to prescribe the manner of the enforcement of uniform appraisal standards and procedures.

Amendment No. 5 (H.J.R. 36, Article 2)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations.

Summary of Proposed Amendment: Section 18(b), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, requires the legislature to provide by law for a single appraisal within each county of all property subject to property taxation by the various taxing units located in that county. That subsection permits the legislature to authorize appraisals outside a county when political subdivisions are situated in more than one county or when two or more counties elect to consolidate appraisal services. Section 18(c), Article VIII, requires the legislature to provide for a single board of equalization for each appraisal entity consisting of qualified residents of the territory appraised by the appraisal entity. The proposed amendment would allow the legislature by general law to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations.

[Read analyses](#) on these and other proposed constitutional amendments provided by the Texas Legislative Council.

*Amendment summaries provided by the Texas Legislative Council.