

THOSE CATTLE LOOK
THIRSTY, JEB . . .

YEP, THEY ARE . . .
BUT GOTTA SAVE THIS
RAIN FOR MY WIFE'S
PETUNIAS!



**Water, water everywhere
nor any drop to drink!**

**And THAT'S how our
constitution earmarks
Texas revenues.**

Are Texans . . . Possibly . . . Like These Cattle?

Victims Of Inflexible Budgeting By State Government?

IT'S A FACT THAT . . .

Over 80% of state income is earmarked for special funds before it is received.

AND . . .

Each of these dedicated taxes and fees cannot be used for any other purpose—regardless of current needs—or current state income!

YET . . .

What household or business could operate economically under such restrictive and limited budgeting?

CAN IT BE THAT . . .

Earmarking of income is one basic cause for the need for additional income?

"Financial policy and administration could be significantly improved by freeing the state . . . from many, if not all, of the constitutional earmarking restrictions . . . which now exist."

Lynn F. Anderson, Acting Director
Institute of Public Affairs
University of Texas

Quoted from the Texas Law Review, October, 1957

DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

A study of the Texas Constitution was requested of the Texas Legislative Council by the 55th Texas Legislature, and a Citizens Advisory Committee was authorized.

DO YOU KNOW THAT . . .

You can get a quick look at Texas government and its foundation, the State Constitution, from a booklet prepared by the League of Women Voters of Texas. It's 25c from a local League or the state office.

PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**To encourage political responsibility
through informed and active participation
of citizens in government.**

**League of Women Voters of Texas
1007 West 24th Street
Austin, Texas**

1958

100 for \$1.00

... BUT SIR! ... THE CHORUS
LINE IS FULL!



I
DON'T
CARE ...
PUT HER
IN! SHE'S
* CUTE!



... he didn't ask if
she could DANCE!

... and that's how
we amend our

TEXAS

Constitution

But The Constitution Is Amended By The People!

DO YOU KNOW . . . How constitutional amendments originate?

The legislature proposes an amendment by a vote of 2/3 of the members of each house at a biennial session — and then submits the amendment to a vote of the people.

DO YOU KNOW . . . How well informed voters are about amendments?

The proposed amendments must be published once a week for four weeks in a weekly newspaper in each county (at a cost in 1956 of about \$105,000, in 1958 of about \$95,000). Any explanation of the meaning of these proposed changes depends on efforts of newsmen and other private citizens.

DO YOU KNOW . . . How many people vote on amendments?

One of the best voting records was set on November 6, 1956, when 8 proposed constitutional amendments were on the ballot. The average number of votes on these amendments was 1,308,300—less than 1/2 of the qualified voters (2,640,221)!

CAN IT BE THAT . . .

We need to hew to the line of basic law in our State Constitution and leave detailed, statutory law to the legislature — rather than asking a poorly informed electorate to add to an already confused document?

"We venture to say that not one informed voter in five will really understand all the angles and curlicues of these nine amendments, even after studying their text and reading pro-and-con literature on them. Nor will one voter in 50, when he goes to mark the ballot be able to make an intelligent decision on the basis of what the ballot itself says. It is a poor way for a great state to conduct its fundamental business."

Corpus Christi Times
October, 1956

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... ANOTHER PATCH JUST
WON'T DO THE JOB, PA!
... GOT TO GET SOME
NEW BRITCHES!



MA IS RIGHT!
THE TIME HAS COME!

TEXAS *needs some
new britches, too!*

Ever count the patches on our State Constitution?

133 Amendments—that's right—133!

IT'S A FACT THAT . . . since 1879 . . .

2,185 proposals have been introduced in the legislature to amend the 82 year old Texas Constitution.

232 proposed amendments have been submitted to Texas voters.

133 amendments have been adopted—and 9 more to be submitted to voters in 1958.

YET . . .

The 169 year old Constitution of the United States has been amended only 22 times, 10 of which are our Bill of Rights.

CAN IT BE THAT . . .

The multitude of details in the Texas Constitution has become a strait jacket for Texas government?

WHAT SHOULD A CONSTITUTION CONTAIN?

"A good Constitution should embody the basic philosophy of the people affected by the document at the time it is written. Our present State Constitution is a "patch work" of fundamental principles, restrictions, statutory provisions and numerous amendments. Hence it seems appropriate that we review our Constitution with an objective of submitting appropriate corrective amendments without the necessity of piecemeal amendments each year."

Robert G. Storey, Dean
Southwestern Legal Foundation
Southern Methodist University

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"BUT DEAR, WE
CAN'T AFFORD A NEW CAR
... WE'VE SPENT A FORTUNE FOR
REPAIRS ON THE OLD ONE!"



**And TEXAS has
a similar problem . . .**

Should Our 1876 Model Be Exchanged For A New State Constitution? We Need To Find Out!

When a Texas rancher's stock is scrubby he finds out
if he needs new feeding and breeding methods.

When a Texas farmer's crops are nubby he finds out
if he needs new soil improvement methods.

When a Texas industrialist's sales lag he finds out
if he needs new production or marketing methods.

When a Texas banker's accounts don't grow he finds out
if he needs new public relations methods.

This Is Research

When Texas State Government fails to measure up to Texas—

Can The Texas Citizen . . . Afford . . . Not To Find Out Why?

This Is Research

"Research—the impartial, objective examination and appraisal of the facts with the ultimate goal of throwing light on matters we do not fully understand—has proved its value in every field in which it has been undertaken . . . government is a field in which objective study and clear analysis are as necessary as in the natural sciences."

Hines H. Baker
Former Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Texas Research League, 1955

Frances

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FRIEND, I DON'T KNOW
WHO TO TRADE WITH . . .
THEY'VE ALL GOT FEATHERS!



Many feathers . . . but
who's the **BIG CHIEF?**

**Like trying to find the
chief administrator of
TEXAS!**

Is The Governor of Texas...The Chief Executive?

As Stated In Article IV, Section I, The Texas Constitution

IT'S A FACT THAT . . .

The executive department is one of divided leadership, with 6 elected and 1 appointed members. The Constitution names the Governor as "chief executive," but then denies him the authority to carry out his responsibilities.

FOR INSTANCE . . .

State administration is an executive responsibility, but Texas state administration is scattered far and wide in numerous agencies which are administered in a great variety of ways, with no central authority to coordinate their activities, their functions, nor their finances . . . in opposition to every principle of modern management.

YET . . .

Again and again research and experience point out that the way to make a governor accountable is to give him authority equal to his responsibility.

CAN IT BE THAT . . .

"By making the governor responsible for administration and giving him authority commensurate with his responsibility—the twin goals of administrative effectiveness and political responsibility can be achieved."

Council of State Governments—1950

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1958

100 for \$1.00

April 3, 1958

FINANCE PROVISIONS OF A GOOD STATE CONSTITUTION

A coordinated finance structure capable of flexibility is one of the general principles of a good state constitution. The system of financial organization and administration set out in the Texas constitution is badly in need of reform. The scope of government has increased enormously in a few decades. The numerous, detailed and complex financial provisions that safeguarded the state's financial operations in 1876 now hamper severely the achievement of an efficient state-local financial structure, adequate to present and prospective needs.

A constitution which embodies the fundamental financial law of the state might include the left-hand column below, leaving the details to enactment by legislative statute. (Each proposal marked by an asterisk is recommended by the Committee on State Government of the National Municipal League and embodied in their model state constitution.)

Some Recommended Provisions

- *1. All provisions on state finances and financial procedures should be in one section or article.
- *2. The legislature should have the power to tax.
- *3. The legislature should have the power to borrow, with a simple definition of the purposes and procedures for incurring debt.
4. All fiscal offices should be integrated into one central finance department, with a director appointed by and responsible to the governor.
5. The budgeting function might be a separate department, but also responsible to the governor, who should submit the budget and the appropriation bill to the legislature.

Present Constitutional Provisions

1. Article VIII (Revenue and Taxation) has 25 sections with 23 others dealing with finance scattered elsewhere in the document.
2. Detailed limitations are included.
3. A specific ceiling of \$200,000 is set for the public debt.
4. All fiscal departments are independent of one another, with duties specified in the constitution.
5. The governor and the legislature prepare budgets for submission to the legislature at the beginning of each biennial session. The legislature prepares the appropriation bill. The trend is toward stronger legislative control of the budget.

April 3, 1958

Some Recommended Provisions

- *6. The legislature's powers of appropriation should be broadly limited. Earmarking of revenues should be prohibited.
- *7. The governor should have power to reduce expenditures of state departments, offices and agencies, if falling revenues or changed circumstances warrant economies.
- *8. Competitive bidding and centralized purchasing where practicable should be provided for.
- *9. An auditor appointed by the legislature should perform post-audits of all state agencies.

Present Constitutional Provisions

- 6. 85% of Texas ~~revenues~~ tax receipts are earmarked.
- 7. The governor has item veto power over the appropriation bill, but no power to adjust items then or later.
- 8. The State Board of Control handles this function.
- 9. A statute, not the constitution, sets forth the position and duties of the state auditor.

May 8th meeting

League of Women Voters of Dallas,
3215 Knox St., Dallas 5, Texas

April 5, 1957

WATER AND THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The legislative, executive and judicial branches of the state government share responsibility for water resources policies, but the task is primarily legislative. And it is to the legislature that we must look for putting into effect any program for full utilization of water resources and proper provision for the future. In our last unit meetings we discussed the need for such a program and various proposals which have been made for handling the water resources of Texas, using Stuart McGregor's excellent series of articles as the basis for our discussion. In this meeting our subject is the legislature's part in the solution of the water problems of Texas.

The State Constitution and Texas Water Resources

The constitutional authority for legislation regarding natural resources is found in Article III, Section 52, and in Article XVI, Section 59.

Section 52 of Article III was adopted in 1904 and provides for legislative authorization for the formation of districts to develop surface waters for purposes of flood control, irrigation, drainage and navigation. Such districts can issue bonds and levy taxes to retire them, subject to a debt limitation of one-fourth of the assessed valuation of real property within the district.

Section 59 of Article XVI was adopted in 1917 to establish a conservation policy and is commonly referred to as the "conservation amendment." It states that conservation and development of natural resources are "public rights and duties", provides means of "creating conservation and reclamation districts as may be determined to be essential to the accomplishment of the purpose of this amendment", and provides for issuance of bonds and collection of taxes by such districts. Significantly, no debt limitation was imposed other than the requirement that indebtedness be incurred only if approved by the property-taxpaying voters of the district.

Statewide Agencies Concerned with Water

Using these two sections of the constitution as authorization, the legislature has passed laws (1) creating the agencies which are concerned with water conservation and resources and (2) giving to other agencies functions in these fields. Statewide agencies which deal exclusively, primarily, or to a considerable extent with water conservation and resources include the State Board of Water Engineers, State Soil Conservation Board, Game and Fish Commission, Department of Health, Railroad Commission and the Texas Forest Service. Two advisory groups, the Water Pollution Advisory Council and the Texas Water Resources Committee, were created in 1953. Statewide agencies having quite limited concern with water conservation and resources are the State Parks Board and the General Land Office.

After discussing these statewide agencies more in detail, we will consider local, interstate and federal agencies which the legislature has authorized or in

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whose activities it has authorized participation. An international agency affecting Texas water will also be mentioned.

State Board of Water Engineers

This board is the general water agency of the state. It has broader responsibilities than any other agency in the management of the water resources of Texas. The Board consists of three full-time salaried (\$10,000 per year) members, appointed by the governor, one from each of three sections of the state, with the consent of the Senate, for overlapping terms of six years. R. M. Dixon, of Dallas, is chairman of the Board. Other members are H. A. Beckwith, Eagle Pass, and Otha Dent, Littlefield. Expenditures of the Board of Water Engineers in recent years have been approximately \$400,000 per year. The staff of the Board consists of a secretary required by legislation to be "thoroughly conversant with irrigation law", at least one accountant, examiner (attorney), office assistant, secretary and stenographer, a janitor and several hydraulic engineers.

The duties of the Board include: (1) collection of data, principally about the water resources of the state; (2) supervision (far from complete) over development of water resources; (3) regulatory powers to prevent certain kinds of waste of water (mainly in artesian wells and irrigation) but no powers over the pollution of surface or underground water; and (4) limited control over allocation of water for various uses. A very important activity of Board members is speaking to groups all over the state regarding conservation and water problems.

Additional information about the State Board of Water Engineers and its specific activities is given in material from the League of Women Voters of Texas which has been supplied to unit group leaders and resource committee members for National Item II. This material also contains further information about other conservation agencies and will be referred to henceforth as "the material from the League of Women Voters of Texas".

State Soil Conservation Board

This board was established by the legislature in 1939 to assist in the creation, management, supervision and termination of soil conservation districts and to represent the interests of the districts and their farmer constituents in dealing with other agencies, state and federal, having related functions. Soil conservation districts and the board are listed as being agencies concerned with water problems because of the close relationship between land use and water use. The board has five members, who are elected by convention in each of the five state districts created by the State Soil Conservation Act. Board members are paid a per diem allowance and expenses, and the executive secretary receives a salary of \$7,500 per year. Annual expenditures of the Board are about \$100,000.

There is additional information on soil conservation districts in the material from the League of Women Voters of Texas.

State Game and Fish Commission

This commission, successor in 1951 to the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, is concerned with water conditions which affect fish and wildlife. It is charged with enforcement of the anti-pollution laws "insofar as concerns the protection of

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fish and other edible animals", its duly authorized deputies have the power of arrest, and it cooperates with the Attorney General and the State Department of Health in public hearings to abate pollution of public waters. The commission has nine members, who receive expense money but no salaries and are appointed by the governor. The executive secretary receives a yearly salary of \$11,500, and annual expenditures of the commission are somewhat over \$3,000,000.

State Department of Health

Working toward elimination of health hazards associated with water is an important concern of the Department of Health, which discharges this responsibility chiefly through its Bureau of Sanitary Engineering. Drinking water supplies and sewage disposal systems for public use can be established only upon approval of plans by the department. The department is headed by the Commissioner of Health, who is appointed by the Governor for a two-year term and receives a salary of \$16,000 per annum. Health department expenditures are about \$10,000,000 per year.

Further information about the department's duties in connection with water resources is given in the material from the League of Women Voters of Texas.

State Railroad Commission

In regulating the production of oil and gas, this commission has the authority to set up and enforce policies of disposal of oil well wastes, such as brines, to prevent pollution of water supplies. These objectives are sought by requiring proper casing of oil wells and by encouraging operators to dispose of salt water wastes by returning them to underground strata through injection wells. This, however, is not a major function of the commission--in the distribution of state government costs the Railroad Commission's \$1,500,000 annual expenditure is classed as "regulation of business and industry" rather than as "development and conservation of natural resources". It was to the Railroad Commission that Dallas appealed last summer for abatement of the salt in Red River water.

Texas Forest Service; Water Pollution Advisory Council; Water Resources Committee

Information about these agencies is given in the material from the League of Women Voters of Texas. The last-named is particularly important because of its initiation of legislation for water conservation. Senator Parkhouse of Dallas is on this committee, and his particular interest in the present legislature is water legislation.

State Parks Board

Because it develops and maintains parks on lands adjoining several streams and lakes this agency is interested in water conservation.

General Land Office

The reclamation department of the General Land Office has some functions with regard to certain conservation districts created by special act of the legislature. The office is also required by law to regulate oil and gas development of public lands in ways to prevent water pollution, and it may call upon the Game and Fish Commission for assistance.

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River Authorities and Water Districts in Texas

Information about these is given in the material from the League of Women Voters of Texas.

An additional pertinent fact about the districts formed by special act of the legislature is that each act is a separate entity with many of its provisions peculiar to itself. This has resulted in lack of uniformity in the extent of control which state agencies--usually the Board of Water Engineers--may exercise over operations of these districts. Fiscal powers, spelled out in detail in legislation, vary greatly among districts, as does the number of directors of the districts and the manner of their choice. In general, the larger and more powerful water districts are those created by special act, but the tendency has been to use special acts in many cases where the districts might better have been created by general statute.

With some exceptions, the operations of water districts created by general statute are not supervised by state agencies. This situation and the lack of uniformity among special acts creating water districts add greatly to the difficulty of achieving an over-all, coordinated water conservation and development program for Texas.

Interstate Agencies Concerned with Texas Water Resources

"Waters in certain interstate streams flowing through Texas have been apportioned among affected states by compacts entered into by representatives of those states and ratified by their legislatures. To administer compact provisions, compact commissions, composed of representatives of the signatory states and a non-voting representative of the United States, have been created. The major task of these commissions is the maintenance of gauging stations and the collection of other data useful in measuring the share of each state in accordance with terms of the compact. Compacts now in force to which Texas is a party are the Rio Grande Compact, ~~between New Mexico and Texas~~ among Colorado, New Mexico and Texas; the Pecos River Compact, between New Mexico and Texas; and the Canadian River Compact, among New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas." (Staff Research Report to the Texas Legislative Council on "Inventory of Water Problems and Agencies in Texas.")

It is interesting to note that as a result of ~~diminished~~ diminished flow of the Rio Grande into Texas, the State of Texas filed suit in the United States Supreme Court to compel New Mexico to comply with the Rio Grande Compact.

In 1949 the legislature created the office of Interstate Compact Commissioner to negotiate compacts concerning the Canadian, Red and Sabine rivers. With the Canadian Compact negotiated and ratified and an act of the 1951 legislature having transferred negotiation of the Sabine Compact to the Sabine River Authority, the remaining responsibilities of the Interstate Compact Commissioner seem to be limited to negotiating a compact for the Red River and making investigations and collecting data incidental to negotiating a compact for the Sabine with Louisiana.

Federal Agencies Concerned with Texas Water Resources

Some twenty different federal agencies operating in Texas affect our water resources and their development. Many of their activities are in cooperation with

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those of state agencies. Legislative authorization is often required, and sometimes there must be appropriation of state funds to match federal funds. (An example of the first is the provision in state law whereby the program of soil conservation districts is directed by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Texas A. and M. College System and other organizations. An example of the second is the appropriation of matching funds for the cooperative work on stream flow, etc., between the U. S. Geological Survey and the State Board of Water Engineers, work which is described as of the greatest importance in the development of Texas water resources.)

International Water Agencies

Pursuant to the Treaty of 1944 between Mexico and the United States, the International Boundary and Water Commission has responsibility for allocating waters of the Rio Grande between the two nations and constructing and operating development works. The commission has had two resolutions directed to it by the present legislature—one relating to illegal diversion of waters of the Rio Grande and the other to illegal pumping on the Rio Grande. Both resolutions call on the commission to see that the provisions of the treaty are faithfully executed.

Water Legislation in the 1957 Legislature

As can be seen from the foregoing discussion, a major task of the legislature in the field of water through the years has been the creation of the various agencies, districts, commissions, cooperative arrangements, etc., which now form the multitude of governmental units engaged in managing Texas water resources. And although in the last three legislatures attempts were made to set up an over-all state water conservation program, most legislation regarding water still is concerned with relatively minor aspects of the situation. For example, of the more than 60 bills pertaining to water which have been introduced in the 1957 legislature, approximately 2/3 deal with local matters (such as formation of a water district or amendment of a previous act creating a water district) or else are of minor importance (such as a bill to authorize a wider choice of names for certain water districts).

Of the nine or ten bills of real importance to a statewide conservation program, only three had passed the legislature by March 25th. Two of these, a constitutional amendment and its enabling act, authorize state bonds up to \$200,000,000 to be loaned to local communities to aid them in constructing water reservoirs, etc., and create the Texas Water Development Board to administer the bond fund. The third measure cancels water filings and permits after they have been unused for ten years.

Apparently stalled in the legislature is another constitutional amendment and its enabling act, which would authorize the issuance of \$200,000,000 of state bonds for the purchase of water storage space in federally-constructed reservoirs and sale of the space to cities and towns.

Two anti-pollution bills of statewide application have received favorable reports from the Senate Committee on Water and Conservation. One bill creates the Texas Stream Pollution Board; the other requires permits to drill injection wells or to convert existing wells into injection wells for the disposal of industrial or municipal wastes. A bill to facilitate recharging of underground water reservoirs seems still to be in committee.

April 5, 1957

Several subjects of major importance to an over-all statewide conservation program seem not even to have been introduced in the 1957 legislature. One of these is amendment of the water code to more clearly define both underground and surface water rights and to establish a formula for the distribution of the waters of a river among users from source to mouth. The necessity for such amendment is shown by the fact that, at present, one system of water rights is applicable to water while it is on the surface of the land and has not reached a watercourse; two systems (with the boundary between them not clearly defined) are applicable to water while it is in a watercourse, and a still different system is used for water while it is underground.

Summary

The legislature has the primary responsibility for setting water policies for Texas. Over the years it has created a multitude of governmental units--statewide agencies, districts of many kinds, commissions and committees--which participate in management of water resources. Only within quite recent years have there been attempts in the legislature to establish an over-all state water conservation program. In the present legislature about one-third of the water bills most important to statewide conservation and development have been enacted as of March 25th.

League of Women Voters of Dallas
3215 Knox St., Dallas 5, Texas

September 12, 1956

SUGGESTIONS FOR UNIT LEADERS AND RESOURCE PEOPLE ON THE PROS AND CONS OF THE
TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

This material has a double purpose: (1) To inform our membership concerning the amendments, and (2) To interest them in discussing with our legislators the appointment of a commission to review the Texas Constitution.

FIRST OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS

1. General Discussion of Constitution: (suggested time 20 min.)

Since understanding of the proposed constitutional amendments goes hand-in-hand with understanding of the constitution which it is proposed to amend, the first twenty minutes of the meeting might be devoted to a general consideration of the Texas Constitution. An excellent way to do this is to pose a few questions to your members--questions which each one of them will have an opinion on just from her general fund of knowledge. For example:

- A. What is the importance of a state constitution to the residents of the state?
- B. Does the Texas Constitution affect Texans' lives more directly than the constitutions of other states their residents?
- C. What is a constitution? What is it for? What does it do?

To aid discussion, leaders and resource people should be thoroughly familiar with the chapter, "What is a Constitution?" in TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW.

- E. What are the reasons for amending constitutions?

Helpful to the discussion of the distinguishing characteristics of the Texas Constitution is the following information:

The Constitution was written in 1875. This was right after a long reconstruction period in Texas. In addition, the distances were great, and the population was thinly distributed throughout the state. Also, Texas was primarily agrarian in economy and had a comparatively small urban population.

There have been 208 amendments submitted and 121 adopted. This large number of amendments stems from at least two facts: the relative ease of the amending process and the failure of the original constitution to meet the needs of a changing Texas.

2. Discussion of Amendments (suggested time 10-15 minutes):

In thinking about these, or other constitutional amendments, it is helpful for each individual to arrive at principles to govern her thinking, and general discussion within your group might achieve this objective.

Amendments can be considered from the point-of-view of their objectives. Are you, or are you not, in favor of what an amendment is trying to do?

Amendments can be considered from the point-of-view of your opinion as to the functions of a constitution. If you favor a constitution embodying only general principles, do you wish to make exceptions for any of these amendments?

Amendments can be so poorly drawn, unclear in meaning, or inflexible as to invite litigation and subsequent amendments. If this seems to be the case, would you or would you not feel that such an amendment should be in the Constitution?

There are undoubtedly other ways of looking at amendments. Encourage your unit members to speak their minds freely.

3. The Amendments Themselves (Nos. 1 through 6):

It will probably be best to discuss these amendments one by one, following a general pattern such as this:

- A. Read the summary of the amendment as given hereafter and give any additional explanation deemed necessary. (See PROS AND CONS OF THE NINE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.)
- B. Invite pro and con discussion--the objectives of the amendment, its type (statutory or not) and its characteristics (flexibility, clearness of meaning, etc.). If the discussion is one-sided, you might refer to the opposing point-of-view (see PROS AND CONS OF THE NINE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS). Aim for a well-balanced discussion which will really help each person to make up her mind.

Please note that the wording as it will appear in the voting machine is the part in quotation marks following H.J.R. XX.

Amendment 1. Authorizing the Legislature to recompense persons who have paid fines or served prison sentences for offenses of which they were not guilty.

Amendment 2. Giving the Commissioners Court of a county authority to vary the tax rates each year for the four constitutional funds without having to get taxpayers' approval at a special election, so long as the total does not exceed 80¢ on the \$100 valuation. At present the maximum tax rate for each fund is set in the Constitution and may be adjusted for a six-year period upon approval by the majority of the voters.

The information in the chapter entitled "State-Local Relations" in TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW might be helpful to the leaders and resource people in connection with the discussion of this amendment.

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Amendment 3. Re-aligning the sources of income from which state institutions of higher learning finance their building programs (expanding the list of property tax supported institutions and bringing more uniformity to the A. & M. and Texas University system schools) and permitting investment of the Permanent University Fund in additional securities to include stocks in addition to the bonds already permitted, the kind being specified in the amendment.

The material starting on page 46 of TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW under the heading "Education Reforms," might be helpful to the leaders and resource people in discussing this amendment.

Amendment 4. Increasing the allowable cost to the state and to members of the teacher retirement system (individual teachers); broadening the benefits (to include disability and death benefits); revising eligibility requirements (reducing length of service required, etc.); and expanding the conditions under which money in these funds can be invested (similar to that allowed the Permanent University Fund).

Amendment 5. Increasing the total of bonds which the State can issue for the Veterans' Land Program by \$100,000,000, and changing the membership of the Veterans' Land Board from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the Governor and the Attorney General to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, as Chairman, and two citizens of the State appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. This program would run until Dec. 1, 1965; the present one ends Dec. 1, 1959.

You might note that the two appointed members would have four-year terms, while the elected Commissioner of the General Land Office has only a two-year term. It might be a good idea to consider this from the standpoint of efficiency and continuity in government.

Amendment 6. Separating the oath of office to be taken by appointive state officers from the oath taken by elected state officers.

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SECOND OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS

1. Brief Review of the General Discussion of Amendments (suggested time 5 minutes; see 2 and 3 of 1st October meetings):

It might be well to go over the standards by which constitutional amendments can be evaluated: The objective of the amendment. The function of a constitution and how well this amendment fits in. The actual wording of the amendment making it unclear, inflexible, etc.--and any others you may have arrived at in your previous discussion.

2. The Amendments Themselves (Nos. 7 through 9)

Amendment 7. Providing conditions under which jury trial may be waived when a person is alleged to be of unsound mind and requiring medical testimony for commitment of such persons.

Amendment 8. Providing that a judge or magistrate may deny bail to a person accused of a felony less than capital, if he has been convicted of two previous felonies.

A felony is an offense punishable by confinement in the penitentiary or by death.

Note that amendments 1, 7 and 8 are all amendments to the Bill of Rights

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and you might want to become familiar with the chapter, "Bill of Rights" in TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW.

Amendment 9. Authorizing a state program of assistance to needy citizens who are permanently and totally disabled by reason of a mental or physical handicap and making it possible to accept funds for such assistance from the Federal Government.

This amendment will be voted on in a special election on November 13. It might be well at this point to discuss the shortcomings and advantages of having a legislature which is practically all-powerful, but is in session only around 120 days out of each two years. (See the chapter "Legislative Department" in TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW.)

3. Legal Status of Women (Suggested time 10-15 minutes):

Review the material contained in "A Kit for Action" which you received prior to the September 12th Briefing Session.

This is fascinating material and very important to all of us. Here in Dallas the League is joining with a number of other groups to try to get the two statutes (Separate Acknowledgment and Management and Control of Separate Property) changed.

This is such an exciting topic and there are so many other legal discriminations, you will probably have difficulty keeping your members focused on the two laws the League and other organizations are working on now.

4. November 14, General Membership Meeting:

This General Membership Meeting at the Student Union, S.M.U., is our big chance to meet our Dallas legislators face to face. We shall hear them speak from the platform and we shall also have time to chat informally with them while eating the brunch which will be served.

Most of us have no contact with our legislators other than the voting machine and through any letters we might write them in Austin. Here, at last, the League is making it possible for us to meet them personally. We must not waste this chance. We can't have another for two years. This is an easy and pleasant way to take action on League program.

How can we do this? In two ways specifically:

A. By preparing in advance of the meeting questions to ask the legislators on subjects relating to League program. Each unit should have three questions prepared ahead. These will be used during the formal part of the meeting and will make our legislators aware of how vitally interested we are in League program.

B. By trying, during our informal chats with the legislators to keep the League program in mind so that we can introduce the parts we are interested in into the discussion.

You can see that if the legislators leave this meeting feeling that League members know what our Program is and are really working for it,

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they will go down to Austin with our Program in mind. Then when a bill comes up and we write them about it, half of our battle will have been won.

The Program of the League of Women Voters of Texas, of which our Dallas League is a part, is:

- A. A. We are working for the formation of a Constitutional Commission to review the Texas Constitution.
- B. Legal Status of Women. We are working right now on the two bills discussed in the material you have received.
- C. Family Courts. We are working to establish a state-wide system of family courts and also for recodification of the laws relating to juveniles.
- D. Election Laws. We are working for laws to make voting easier and less subject to fraud.

Please discuss all these subjects in your unit meeting and work together on the questions you will be bringing to the November 14th general meeting. Perhaps these could be presented in your unit by means of a hypothetical discussion with a legislator on League Program.

Plan to be at the November 14th meeting yourself, of course, with a 100% turnout from your unit! This meeting is THE event of the year for bringing together League members and Dallas legislators in a discussion of League program.

Don't let anyone miss it.

Report of the State Item Chairman Ellen Solender to the Board
of the League of Women Voters of Dallas on ~~June~~ September 5, 1956

At the last Board meeting on July 11, I received a copy of a call for action from the State Item Chairman, Mrs. George Boller. She requested that we present a resolution on the ^{new} constitution to all the precinct conventions in Dallas County. After consulting with various other League Board members I took the following action.

I consulted with the Republican County Chairman about presenting the resolution at republican precinct conventions and he requested me not to, asking that it merely be presented at the county level. I complied with his request and it was presented at the county convention, or rather to the resolutions committee, and was apparently not considered party material.

I consulted with the Democratic County Chairman and he agreed to assist me in distributing the resolution to the precinct chairmen. ~~He suggested that~~

I then made arrangements for making enough copies of the resolution for all the precinct chairman. At the same time I made enough copies for every League member.

Each League member received a copy of the resolution along with a request from me to go to her precinct convention and present the resolution. This message was included in the Voters Guide and so must have received considerable attention.

I also called all the members of my committee and personally asked them to attend their precinct conventions.

The net result to all this was that about 20 precincts passed the resolutions. Of these 6 were precincts in which members of my committee presented the resolution, in 2 others good friends of mine presented the resolution.

The resolution was also presented to the resolutions committee of the Democratic County Convention where it was also apparently not considered party material.

~~At the time of the Democratic County Convention~~ In all of these activities Beth McDonald was a tremendous help, and did considerably more than half of the work.

In order that something may be gained from all this effort, I should like the Board to consider the following and decide whether or not it would be advisable to send this suggestion, which is my idea, to the State Board as the suggestion of the Dallas Board.

DAY

DATE _____

ACCOUNT	SIZE	POSITION REQUESTED
I received from the Board of Directors of the County League a copy of the following resolution:		
The resolution was also presented to the resolutions committee of the Democratic County Convention where it was also apparently not considered party material.		
In order that something may be gained from all this effort, I should like the Board to consider the following and decide whether or not it would be advisable to send the suggestion to the State Board as the suggestion of the		
of the Board.		
and did considerably more than half		
in all of these activities both before		
not considered party material.		
The resolution was also presented to the resolutions committee of my committee presented the resolution.		
the resolutions. Of these I were president in which matters		
asked them to attend their precinct conventions.		
I also called all the members of my committee and personally		
and so must have received considerable attention.		
a request from me to her precinct convention and present		
Each League member received a copy of the resolution along with		
I made enough copies for every League member.		
to assist me in distributing the resolution to the precinct chairmen. Many thanks		
I consulted with the Democratic County Chairman and he agreed		
subsequently not considered party material.		
conviction, or rather to the resolution committee, and was		
I consulted with the Republican County Chairman about presenting		
with various other League Board members I took the following action:		
To all the precinct conventions in Dallas County.		
We requested that we present a resolution on the Constitution		
Call for action from the Board of Directors.		

We have found from from expreience that it is not possible to rouse the membership of the Dallas League by mail alone. We have found that only a few people will respond to a written request, while a far lagger number will respond to a personal or telephone request. An even larger number will respond if they are notified well in advance and have the opportunity to discuss the contemplated action in a unit meeting. Therefore, we suggest that any action which requires an effort on the party of the membership be initiated only when the units are still meeting.

~~We are in favor of the suggestion that the Dallas League should initiate actions in the community in Texas which are common to the~~

Realizing that the timing of the League Conventions and of state and national elections are such that it would be impossible for an incoming State Board (taking office in April) to plan action ~~enough~~ at a time convenient for Dallas (which would be March or April), we would suggest that action wo the type we have just had should be ^{initiated} ~~planned~~ by the outgoing baord and followed trhroug by the incoming board.

POSITION REQUEST

DAY.

DATE.

[illegible]