



# Charles "Doc" Anderson

## Capitol News Report

Texas House District 56



October 2009 Volume 10

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



CHARLES "DOC" ANDERSON  
District 56

Howdy Friends!

The Texas Constitutional form of government allows citizens the opportunity to alter the Constitution by the ballot process. The constitutional election doesn't historically draw as much public participation as a general election; however, it is every bit as important. I hope you'll familiarize yourself with these 11 proposals.

The Texas Constitution was adopted by voters in 1876. There have been 632 proposed amendments submitted to voters by the Legislature under our current constitution; 456 amendments have been adopted, and 176 have been defeated.

**This newsletter provides the ballot language of each of the 11 proposed amendments on this year's ballot**, as well as some explanatory notes. If you'd like to learn more about these proposed amendments, feel free to contact my office. **You're welcome to hang on to this information, share it with friends, and carry it with you to the polls.**

Also in this edition is some information **related to renewing your driver's license** which I hope will be a benefit to you as well as expedite the process. Concerns about the wait times at renewal offices have been a recurring issue brought to my attention as I meet with constituents around the county. This prompted me to visit with the local driver's license office to review procedures, as well as visiting with Department of Public Safety command officers in Austin to learn more about how we can best help our drivers.

You will also find in this newsletter a list of **schools in McLennan County honored as "Exemplary" or "Recognized"** by the Texas Education Agency. Achievements of this nature represent a successful long-term focus, commitment, and team effort among **teachers, students, volunteers, support staff, administration, and parents**. Your hard work was vital to this successful rating, and it is very much appreciated as well!

Thanks for your continued interest in state government. As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve the good folks of McLennan County and to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

*Doc*

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<http://www.house.state.tx.us>





# PROPOSED STATE CONSTITUTIONAL A

## PROPOSITION 1

*The constitutional amendment authorizing the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation.*

This proposed amendment would allow the legislature by general law to authorize a municipality or county to issue bonds or notes to finance the acquisition of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation. The amendment would allow a municipality or county to pledge property tax revenues imposed in the area by the municipality, county, or other political subdivisions for repayment of the bonds or notes.

## PROPOSITION 2

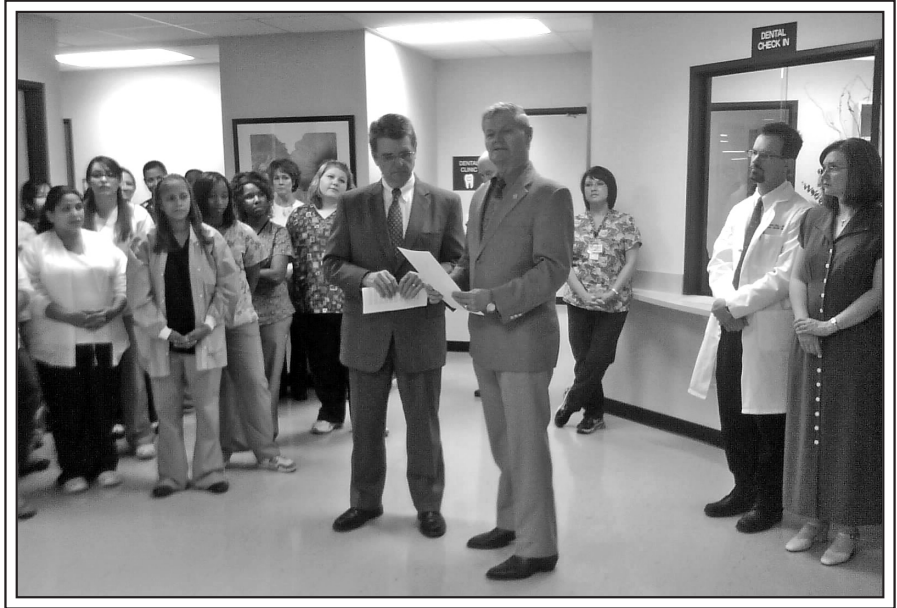
*The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead.*

The 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. This 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.

## PROPOSITION 3

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

While the property tax system is primarily administered on the local level, the state retains an interest in the consistent determination of property tax appraised values from one locality to the next, because the state allocates funding to public schools based on the per-student aggregate taxable property value in each school district. This proposed amendment would give the legislature full discretion to prescribe the manner of the enforcement of uniform appraisal standards and procedures.



*Doc was on hand to present a commendation from Governor Rick Perry at the Dr. Tom Oliver South 18th Street Community Clinic expansion of the Family Health Center. With Doc and clinic staff is Dr. Roland Goertz, Chairman of the Family Health Center.*

## PROPOSITION 4

*The constitutional amendment establishing the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund.*

Texas currently has two universities considered to be major research, or Tier I, institutions -- Texas A&M University, and the University of Texas at Austin. This proposed amendment would create the national research university fund, consisting of money transferred or deposited to the credit of the fund and any interest or other return on the investment of fund assets, for the purpose of providing a dedicated, independent, and equitable source of funding to enable other emerging state research universities in Texas to achieve national prominence as major research, or Tier I, universities.

The proposed amendment would require the legislature to establish eligibility criteria for a state university to share in the distributions from the fund and would provide that a university that becomes eligible remains eligible to receive additional distributions in subsequent state fiscal bienniums. The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University would not be eligible to receive money from the fund.

## PROPOSITION 5

*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.*

This proposed amendment would allow two or more adjoining appraisal districts, if they so opt, to consolidate appraisal review board functions.

## PROPOSITION 6

*The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized.*

Under current provisions of the Texas Constitution, the Veterans' Land Board must return to the legislature and to the voters every four years to secure bonding authority. This proposed amendment would allow the board to avoid having to seek new bonding authority every four years; instead, the amendment would allow the board to issue new bonds in place of those already issued and then retired or redeemed, as long as the amount of outstanding bonds does not exceed the total amount of bonds authorized by the legislature and the voters in previous constitutional amendments.



*Doc and James Burkhardt, President of L-3 Platform Division appear with Deannie Bishop Parrish, a WWII veteran of the WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots), who was honored by cutting the ribbon at L-3's ceremony dedicating a new 87,000 square foot hangar, expected to create at least 100 jobs. Ms. Parrish is a Congressional Gold Medal honoree.*



*God Bless Texas!*





Doc was instrumental in forming an I-35 Strike Force to maximize funding for the Heart of Texas region. Here he meets with Appropriations Chairman Jim Pitts of Waxahachie and other key transportation officials in Hillsboro to visit about segment plans for I-35 improvements.

## PROPOSITION 7

*The constitutional amendment to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices.*

Under current provisions of the Texas Constitution, civil officials are not allowed to hold dual public offices at the same time. Exceptions are made for members of most branches of the military. However, this exception does not extend to members of the Texas State Guard. This proposed amendment would exempt officers and enlisted members of the Texas State Guard and any other active militia or military force organized under Texas law from the prohibition against holding or exercising more than one civil office.

## PROPOSITION 8

*The constitutional amendment authorizing the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of veterans hospitals in this state.*

The proposed amendment would authorize the state to contribute money, property, and other resources to establish, maintain, and operate veterans hospitals. This comes with the presumption of working in concert with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, which operates nine inpatient facilities around the state serving the state's 1.7 million veterans.

## PROPOSITION 9

*The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico.*

The proposed amendment would add Section 33, Article I, Texas Constitution, to establish that the public has an unrestricted right to access and use a public beach. "Public beach" would mean a state-owned beach bordering on the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico, extending from mean low tide to the landward boundary of state-owned submerged land, and any larger area extending from the line of mean low tide to the line of vegetation bordering on the Gulf of Mexico to which the public has acquired a right of use or easement by prescription or dedication or has established and retained a right by virtue of continuous right in the public under Texas common law. The proposed amendment also would establish that the right to unrestricted access and use is dedicated as a permanent easement in favor of the public and would authorize the legislature to enact laws to protect that right and to protect the public beach easement from interference and encroachments. In addition, the proposed amendment would establish that its provisions do not create a private right of enforcement.

## PROPOSITION 10

*The constitutional amendment to provide that elected members of the governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years.*

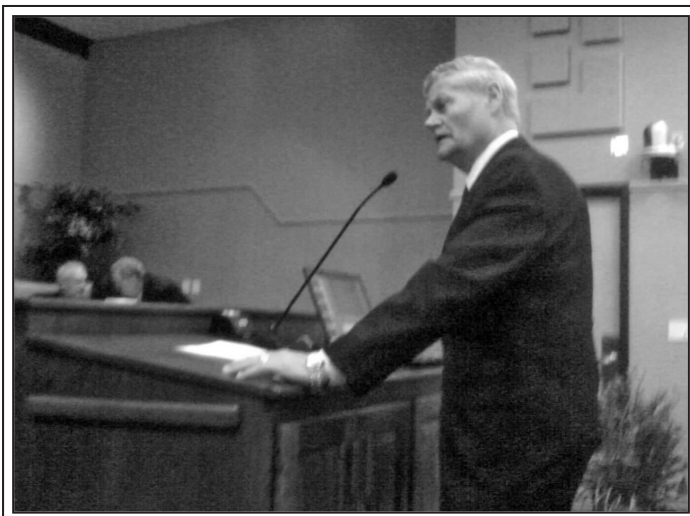
Section 30, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, limits the term of office for all state offices to two years unless otherwise specifically indicated by the constitution (which is used widely by other political subdivisions of the state, as well as statewide elected officials). This proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to provide that members of the governing board of an emergency services district may serve terms not to exceed four years.

## PROPOSITION 11

*The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or*

*enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity.*

This proposed amendment would restrict the taking, damaging, or destroying of a person's property for public use to circumstances in which the taking, damage, or destruction is necessary for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State of Texas, a political subdivision of the state, or the public at large or an entity granted the power of eminent domain, or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property. The proposed amendment would also specify that the term "public use" does not include the taking of property for transfer to a private entity for the primary purpose of economic development or enhancement of tax revenues. Effective January 1, 2010, the proposed amendment would limit the legislature's ability to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity by requiring the grant to be approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house.



Doc traveled to San Angelo on July 15th to address a meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission, emphasizing Waco's application for federal TIGER funds to widen I-35 to six lanes throughout the region.



God Bless Texas!





Michael Quinn Sullivan, president of Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, came to Waco to present Representative Doc Anderson with the Texas Taxpayer Champion award for "his commitment to sound fiscal policy, voting in the best interests of the taxpayers, and wisely stewarding the taxpayers' resources in the 81st session of the Texas Legislature".

DRIVER LICENSE OPTIONS TO HELP YOU SAVE TIME



Many Texans can save time and gas by skipping the trip to the local driver license office. At www.TexasOnline.com, you can conveniently renew your driver license or identification card or change the address without leaving home.

DPS has offered eligible individuals the option of renewing their driver license or identification card over the internet since 2001. Individuals are eligible for these services as long as they are: 18 years of age, within one year of the license or identification card expiring and did not renew online, by mail or telephone at their last renewal.

Ineligible driver license and ID card holders include: those who have an expired, revoked or suspended license or identification card; individuals who possess a provisional or commercial driver license; and drivers age 79 and older.

Other options for driver license services include renewal by mail or phone for those persons who are not required to appear in person.

You may contact the Driver License Division by emailing customerservicedl@txdps.state.tx.us or calling 512-424-2600 if you have questions about your eligibility to renew by alternate means. Some applicants for driver license renewal are being asked to verify documents by supplying original birth certificates or social security cards. Customer service can assist in determining if any document verification is required.

We encourage you to utilize email for the most efficient response. The Department of Public Safety also recommends you do not call your local DPS office for general questions since telephone customer service agents are not stationed in the field offices.

When emailing, customers should include their full name, driver license or identification card number, telephone number and e-mail address, as well as their specific question. Driver License Division employees should be able to respond to your email within one business day.

Most driver license renewals do not require applicants to present additional documentation. However, if documentation of your legal status, birth certificate, or social security has not been verified, you may be asked to provide those documents before a license will be issued.



Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Pauken and Doc present a workforce grant for \$176,699 to create and upgrade 139 aviation-related jobs. The Skills Development Fund check is presented to (L-R) Danny Uptmore of McLennan Community College, Terri Hurley from Free Flight Systems, and Mike Holmes from L-3.

"Power under the Constitution will always be in the people. It is entrusted for certain defined purposes, and for a certain limited period, to representatives of their own choosing. And whenever it is executed contrary to their interests, or not agreeable to their wishes, their servants can and undoubtedly will be recalled."

--George Washington



God Bless Texas!

