It is October, which means a few important things. It’s time for the baseball playoffs (Go Astros! Go Rangers!). It’s college football season. And an election is on the horizon.

This November, various jurisdictions over the state are having local elections. In addition to those local races, the State of Texas will have several constitutional amendments on the ballot for voters to consider. Below is an overview of each of those seven amendments. The election will be held Tuesday, November 3; early voting in person starts Monday, October 19, and runs through Friday, October 30.

**Proposition 1**

Proposition 1 is the property tax cut deal passed by the Legislature in 2015. As we have previously reported, the legislature enacted about $4 billion in tax cuts for the biennium. Those cuts came from a 25% decrease in the Margin Tax rate; an increase in the number of entities that qualify for the E-Z Tax calculation for the Margin Tax; and an increase in the residence homestead exemption from $15,000 per house to $25,000 per house.

Proposition 1 is the amendment needed to increase the property tax exemption. Also included in this amendment is a prohibition on the Legislature enacting a real property transfer tax.

**Proposition 2**

Proposition 2 is also a property tax amendment, though it was not part of the broader tax cut deal. This amendment authorizes the Legislature to provide a partial or full property tax exemption of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100% or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing the exemption for such a veteran took place. Several sessions ago, the Legislature fully exempted the residence of certain disabled veterans who died after January 1, 2010; this proposition would allow the exemption to the spouses of those disabled veterans who died before January 1, 2010 but otherwise would have qualified.
Proposition 3

Texas law currently requires statewide officeholders to maintain their residence in the state capitol. This amendment would repeal that requirement, allowing those officeholders to reside anywhere in the state.

Proposition 4

Texas law generally prohibits anyone from conducting a raffle, unless they are a charity and meet certain specific restrictions. This amendment would allow the Legislature to permit professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles. Based on testimony during the 2015 session, the teams are likely to do “50/50” raffles at home games, where tickets are sold and the winner of the raffle receives half the proceeds, with the charitable foundation receiving the other half of the proceeds. Similar activities are legal in several other states.

Proposition 5

This amendment would allow sparsely populated counties (populations below 7,500) to perform private road construction and maintenance. The current population maximum is 5,000 people, a number established in 1980. This amendment would add an additional 21 counties to the list of those able to perform private road construction and maintenance.

Proposition 6

This amendment would create a state constitutional right for citizens to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife. The legislature would retain the ability to regulate hunting, fishing, and harvesting wildlife to conserve and manage wildlife and preserve the future of hunting and fishing. The amendment will not affect any laws related to trespass, property rights, or eminent domain power.

Proposition 7

This amendment would dedicate certain sales tax revenues to use in constructing and maintaining Texas roads. In 2014, Texas voters amended the constitution to dedicate to the Highway Fund one half of the oil & gas severance taxes previously sent exclusively to the Rainy Day Fund; this amounted to the single largest increase in transportation funding in Texas history. This amendment will build on the 2014 amendment, by dedicating the first $2.5 billion in sales tax collections that exceed $28 billion each year to highway funding, and by dedicating 35% of motor vehicle sales taxes in excess of $5 billion each year to highway funding.