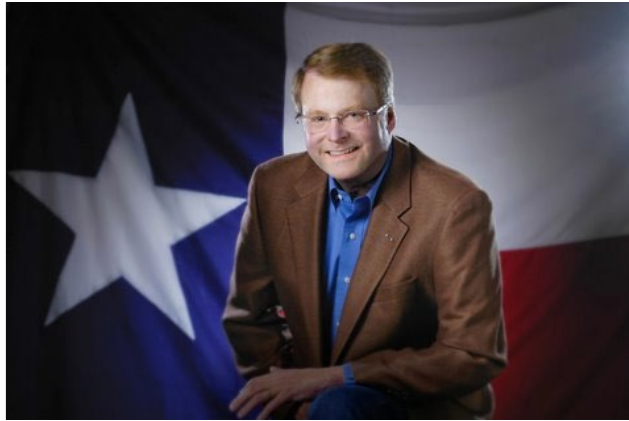




Senator Birdwell's 'Capitol Update' ***— STATE PROPOSITIONS EDITION —***

Greetings from your Texas Capitol! There are seventeen proposed constitutional amendments to the Texas Constitution that will be on this November's ballot. Normally I would have this in the newsletter that goes out to all registered voters. The newsletter summarizes what we did during session (as well as the two special sessions). Because all 31 Senators have submitted their newsletters after the special sessions, they are taking a little longer to get printed and mailed than normal. With the newsletter more than likely arriving after the November constitutional amendment election, I wanted you to hear from me before early voting starts on October 20th. For general voting information visit www.votetexas.com, and for detailed descriptions of each constitutional amendment visit www.sos.texas.gov/elections/forms/2025-explanatory-statements.pdf. I hope this is informative and that you'll share it with your friends, family and colleagues in Senate District 22.

State Propositions on November Ballot

There are seventeen proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution which will be decided by voters in the upcoming election on November 4, 2025. I voted in favor of all of these propositions when they came before the Senate. Below is additional information on the two propositions I authored, Propositions 1 and 16.

Proposition 1 –SJR 59 “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.”

- Prop. 1, if ratified, will establish two dedicated special funds in the state treasury to provide a more reliable source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System.
- The Legislature appropriated \$850 million in the budget this past session for the ‘permanent technical institution infrastructure fund’ to serve as an endowment for the TSTC System, contingent upon the passage of the constitutional amendment (Prop 1). The Comptroller will hold, manage, and invest the permanent fund, {like that of the Texas University Fund (TUF), which was established during the 2023 constitutional amendment election} so that the fund generates revenue for use by TSTC. The Comptroller may distribute funds from the revenue generated from the initial invested corpus into the ‘available workforce education fund’ during each fiscal year, and that fund will be administered by the TSTC System Board of Regents for their capital infrastructure needs. Those annual distributions are limited to approximately \$52 million a year.
- This will give TSTC a permanent and reliable source of capital funding, similar to what the other six public university systems already have, to address capacity needs for technical training programs across the TSTC system. This allows the board of regents to manage the day-to-day needs of the system without having to come to the Legislature to appropriate money for each new individual building or renovation, while also meeting the needs of future growth and help meet the growing skills gap in Texas by placing more Texans in great-paying jobs. By passing Prop 1, we are investing in a public university system that is providing a very high return on investment for both students/graduates and the State of Texas.
- We are also placing TSTC on an equal playing field with the other six public university systems for capital funding which already have access to different state funded endowments, to which TSTC does not have access.

Proposition 16 – SJR 37 “The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.”

- While it is currently statutory law that non-citizens cannot vote in elections in Texas, it would only take a majority vote of each body of a future Texas Legislature, with the Governor’s signature, to remove that language from Texas law. By ratifying Prop. 16 and putting this into the Texas Constitution, it will mean that a future Legislature would need to have a 2/3rd vote from each body and then approval of the citizens of Texas to repeal the ban on non-citizens being able to vote. A constitutional amendment is far more difficult to repeal than statute, thus why I offered and support this amendment.

As always, I hope our Capitol Updates have been informative and that you’ll share it with your friends, family and colleagues in Senate District 22. If you missed any of my previous Capitol Updates and want to read them too, you can find them [here](#)! Thank you again for your interest in my updates and I have been truly blessed to have represented you in the Texas Senate. It continues to be my honor to serve you, and I look forward to seeing you around the district soon!

God bless you, and God bless Texas,



Brian Birdwell
State Senator, District 22

Austin: (512) 463-0122 // Arlington: (817) 466-7327 // Waco: (254) 776-6225 // Granbury: (817) 573-9622
Brian.Birdwell@senate.texas.gov // www.senate.texas.gov