

Proposition 8—Water-Stewardship Amendment

Honorary Chairs: Senator Kirk Watson, Senator Craig Estes, Representative Allan Ritter

We all need water to live. Nothing is more important than having a reliable supply of clean water to drink. Now, more than ever, Texas is in need of tools to protect its valuable water supply.

Proposition 8- The Water-Stewardship Amendment is one of those tools. Prop 8 will help Texas:

- Secure a reliable supply of water for our children and grandchildren
- Protect water quality in our streams, rivers and aquifers
- Increase our water supply, which will help keep water rates affordable
- Enhance water conservation by encouraging more efficient water usage

Proposition 8 was passed unanimously by the Texas Legislature and had the support of both Republicans and Democrats. Prop 8 is backed by farmers, ranchers, landowners, taxpayers' organizations and conservation groups.

Texans will vote on Prop 8 on November 8, 2011.

Prop 8 Incentives

Currently, Texas property owners who use their land to promote agriculture or protect wildlife are eligible to have their land value assessed at a lower rate, which reduces their property taxes. For these property owners, Prop 8 would extend a similar tax incentive if they decide to instead manage their land to conserve water and protect water quality. And because the water incentives in Prop 8 would only apply to property owners who already qualify for the agriculture or wildlife incentives, it would not reduce the State's tax revenues.

Prop 8 Can Help With The Drought

Over 90 % of Texas is currently in some form of drought, ranging from moderate to severe. Lakes and rivers in some areas have gone completely dry, and all signs point to the drought continuing to get worse. If these trends continue unabated by rain, the current drought cycle could rival, or be worse than, the drought of the 1950's, the worst drought on record in Texas.

Proposition 8 provides a new tool for landowners by incentivizing protection and stewardship of our state's limited water resources. It encourages landowners to partner with the state to protect water quantity and quantity without impacting the state's finances. The measure is also helpful to landowners affected by recent wildfires who can no longer sustain agriculture and want to restore their property.

Proposition 8 will protect the security of Texas' water supply for future generations.

For more information, or to request a speaker on Proposition 8, contact:

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