

Two Important Constitutional Amendments Approved

by Kaye C. Corprew

Proposition 11 - Fees for Teachers and Administrators

A Constitutional Amendment was approved by the voters at the November 6, 2001, election that will allow school teachers, retired school teachers, and retired school administrators to receive compensation for serving as a member of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or local governmental district including water districts.

Teachers, retired teachers and retired school administrators may currently serve on these governing bodies, but the Constitution prohibits them from receiving any fees of office (per diem) normally provided for by political subdivisions. In many rural areas and small towns, the number of qualified people willing and able to serve on governing bodies is limited. Allowing education professionals to be compensated for serving on local government boards, such as water districts, will increase the pool of qualified people for such offices.

Proposition 19 - Texas Water Development Fund II

Texas voters approved the proposed Constitutional Amendment at an election on November 6, 2001, to authorize the Texas Water Development Board to issue additional general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2 billion. The TWDB issues bonds to pay for water supply projects, water quality enhancement projects, flood control projects, state participation in water and wastewater facilities, and project for economically distressed areas.

\$50 million of the bonds will be used for the water infrastructure fund created by Senate Bill 2. The purpose of that fund is to finance water development projects that will encourage the conservation and development of the water resources of the State.