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Texas Proposition 15, Parental Rights Amendment (2025)

Texas Proposition 15, the **Parental Rights Amendment**, was on the ballot in Texas as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 4, 2025. It was approved.[1]

A "**yes**" vote supported amending the Texas Constitution to provide that parents have the right, exclusive to them, to make decisions concerning the child's well-being, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's education, health, and physical development and the parent's child.[1]

A "**no**" vote opposed amending the Texas Constitution to provide that parents have the right, exclusive to them, to make decisions concerning the child's well-being, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's education, health, and physical development.[1]

Texas Proposition 15

Election date
November 4, 2025

Topic
Constitutional rights and Family relationships

Status
Approved

Type | **Origin**
Legislatively referred constitutional amendment | State legislature

Election results

See also: 2025 ballot measure election results

Texas Proposition 15

Result	Votes	Percentage
Yes	2,065,714	69.87%
No	890,963	30.13%

Precincts reporting: 100%
Election results are certified and unofficial. These results were last updated on November 7, 2025 at 6:53:03 AM Eastern Time.
Source

Overview

What did Proposition 15 add to the state constitution?

See also: Text of measure

The amendment added language to the state constitution to provide that parents have the right "to exercise the care, custody, control, and management of their children" and the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing, including "to nurture and protect the parent's child."[1]

At the time of the election, Texas was one of 26 states that had a Parents' Bill of Rights in state law. The law prescribed the parental rights that fell to access their child's student records, school activities and assessments, and teaching materials, among other provisions.[2][3]

Had any other states voted on similar amendments?

Texas Proposition 15 was the first parental rights constitutional amendment to appear on a regular ballot measure in 2025. Voters in Louisiana and Nebraska had also voted on measures, including the Life to Vote Act and Initiative 434 regulating education, values, and discipline of their children.[4] In 2026, the Coalition for Parental Responsibility coordinated to place a parental rights constitutional amendment on the ballot in Arkansas and Missouri.[5] The ballot measure was defeated, with 57.7% voting "No."

Who supported and opposed Proposition 15?

See also: Support and Opposition

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission, Family Freedom Project, Texans for Vaccine Choice, Texas Eagle Forum, and Texas Values School Coalition. Texans for Public Policy Foundation and Texans Right to Life PAC registered in support of the resolution during the legislative session. Jeremy Newman, president and CEO of Texas Values, said, "Texas Proposition 15 is a critical step to protect the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children. In a case law, which is unfortunately the status quo, Texas courts could disappear if we have had judges who make it into office. ... Adding parental rights to the Texas Constitution is a critical step to ensure that the right to access their child's student records and materials from teachers, who are essential to the functioning of our society."[6]

Ballotpedia did not locate a campaign in opposition to the ballot measure.

Text of measure

Ballot title

The ballot title was as follows:[1]

> The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children.[7]

Constitutional changes

See also: Article 1, Texas Constitution

The measure added Section 37 to Article 1 of the Texas Constitution. The following underlined text was added:[1]

> To enshrine truths that are deeply rooted in this nation's history and traditions, the people of Texas hereby affirm that a parent has the responsibility to nurture and protect the parent's child and the fundamental right, exclusive to the parent, to make decisions for the control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing.[1]

Support

Supporters

Officials
- State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R)[8]

Political Parties
- Libertarian Party of Texas[9]

Organizations
- Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission[10]
- Family Freedom Project[11]
- Texans for Fiscal Responsibility[12]
- Texas Eagle Forum[13]
- Texas Home School Coalition[14]
- Texas Pro-Life Coalition[15]
- Texas Public Policy Foundation[16]
- Texas Right to Life PAC[17]
- Texas Values[18]

Arguments

- **State Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-1):** The amendment would "provide clarity for lawyers, judges, and parents in the event of a dispute between parents and the government." He said, "This resolution is designed to fix a part of the law that was left out in the State Constitution."[19]
- **Jeremy Newman, director of public policy for the Texas Home School Coalition:** "This is a priority because, currently, the constitutional rights of parents are found in statutes, which is law, which is controlled by judges. Those rights could disappear if we have had judges who make it into office. ... Adding parental rights to the Texas Constitution is a critical step to ensure that the right to access their child's student records and materials from teachers, who are essential to the functioning of our society."[6]
- **Texas Policy Research:** "Proposition 15 affirms individual liberty, personal responsibility, and limited government by codifying parental rights and ensuring state action is narrowly focused. It empowers families to guide their children's upbringing without unwarranted interference from public institutions."[20]

Opposition

Ballotpedia did not locate a campaign in opposition to the ballot measure.

Opponents

Officials
- State Sen. Molly Cook (D)[21]

Political Parties
- Collin County Democratic Party[22]
- Green Party of Texas[23]

Organizations
- Accessibility Matters[24]
- Annie Texas[25]
- Texas Impact[26]
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice[27]
- Parents of Trans Youth[28]
- Planned Parenthood South Texas Votes[29]
- Texas Freedom Network[30]
- Transgender Education Network of Texas[31]
- True Texas Project[32]

Arguments

- **State Rep. Ana-Maria Rodriguez Ramos (D-103):** "There is a movement to remove the emphasis on the Texas and Texas Republican efforts that pass unconstitutional, immoral and racial needs. When can we make sure that, as we're advocating for parental rights, we're also ensuring that a child's voice is heard? ... We're not talking about parents who are abusive. We're not talking about parents who are extremists, but that they themselves are humane worthy of validation and independence?"[33]
- **True Texans Project:** "They'll would wrongly declare that parents have the inherent right to make decisions for children. We should not have to put this into the State Constitution Courts already ordained that parents are to be responsible for their children, and government has no place in that. ... Parents already have the right to make decisions for their children. We don't need to put this into the Constitution. It creates opportunities for extremists that the state has overturned this right. And we know that when the state can give, the state can take away."[34]
- **Jane's Due Process:** "Proposition 15 is the wrong way for Texas to pass more harmful legislation and for legal challenges that could ultimately put a skewed vision of 'parents rights' before the Texas Supreme Court. ... Proposition 15 would open the door to further restrictions on healthcare, decrease youth access to emergency care, increase censorship in schools, increase family policing, harm to youth access to gender affirming care, and Harm to youth access to abortion and contraception."[35]
- **Teach the Vote:** "If adopted, the amendment would elevate existing statutory and caselaw protections for parental rights to the highest level of Texas law, making it harder for courts through the ordinary state law checks and balances. Legislators could not pass laws to protect children from threats involving students, parents, and public education, such as curriculum content, disciplinary actions, or school policies that may restrict parental involvement. The amendment does not define how parental rights interact with the state's duty to provide a uniform system of public schools. Its long-term implications would depend on how it is applied in future cases."[36]

Campaign finance

See also: Campaign finance requirements for Texas ballot measures

Ballotpedia did not locate any committees registered to oppose or support the measure. If you are aware of a committee registered to support or oppose this amendment, please email ballotpedia@ballotpedia.org.

	In-Kind Contributions	Cash Contributions	Total Contributions	Cash Expenditures	Total Expenditures
Support	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Opposed	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Total	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Background

Parents' Bill of Rights

See also: How does Texas compare to other states on Parents' Bills of Rights?

Texas is one of 26 states that has a Parents' Bill of Rights.

The statute holds that parents have the right to access their child's student records, school activities and assessments, and teaching materials, among other provisions. The text is as follows:[37]

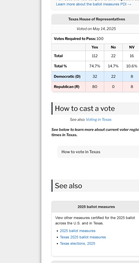
> Sec. 26.009. PARENTAL RIGHTS. Parents are partners with educators, administrators, and school district boards of trustees in their children's education. Parents are encouraged to be active participants in their children's education.
>
> (b) The rights listed in this chapter are not exclusive. This chapter does not limit a parent's rights under other law.
>
> (c) Unless otherwise provided by law, a board of trustees, administrative, educator, or other person may not limit parental rights.
>
> (d) Each board of trustees shall provide for procedures to consider complaints that a parent's rights have been denied.
>
> (e) Each board of trustees shall cooperate in the establishment of ongoing operations of at least one parent-led school organization at each school in the district to promote parental involvement in school activities.

State comparison

See also: Parents' Bill of Rights in education

As of November 2025, 26 states had enacted a statewide Parents' Bill of Rights in state law. In some states, they are education-specific, regarding the rights a parent has to be involved in their child's public education. Common examples include notification requirements, opt-out rights, and records access. Other Parents' Bills of Rights are more general, commonly affecting parents a right to direct the upbringing of their child. The map below highlights which states have adopted a Parents' Bill of Rights. Hover over a state to read more information about it.

States with statewide Parents' Bills of Rights



Troxel v. Granville (2000)

See also: JENFER TROXEL, ET UXP. v. TOMMIE GRANVILLE (2000)

In 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause in *Troxel v. Granville*. The court ruled that a Washington state law allowing any person to petition for parental rights was a parent's objection to the visitation is found to be in the child's best interest. In the 6-3 decision of *Troxel v. Granville*, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the majority, said, "[t]he liberty interest at issue in this case—the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children—is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court."[38]

Colorado Amendment 17, Parental Right to Direct Upbringing, Education, and Discipline of Children Initiative (1996)

See also: Colorado Amendment 17, Parental Right to Direct Upbringing, Education, and Discipline of Children Initiative (1996)

At the time of the election, Texas was not a state. Colorado had decided on a similar ballot measure to establish parental rights in the state constitution, including the right to "direct and control the upbringing, education, values, and discipline of children." Voters in Colorado rejected a constitutional amendment to establish parental rights to have a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment certified for the ballot as Amendment 17. The measure failed, with 57.7% voting "No."[39]

Amendment 17 would have made Colorado the first state to provide a constitutional amendment for parental rights. Similar measures had been introduced in Congress, but had failed to pass. Colorado Governor Roy Romer had vetoed the Colorado Legislature's parental rights amendment. Kristine Mosley, executive director of the Coalition of Parental Responsibility, said, "It seems to some parents ought to be given respect, but the government is not willing to do that." Opponents argued that it was a ploy by Republicans to attract conservative voters in the upcoming presidential election. Protect Our Children, said, "The Parental Rights Amendment is about a small group seeking to have its views imposed on others. Parents, movie theaters and schools to impose their views on everyone else."[40]

Path to the ballot

Amending the Texas Constitution

See also: Amending the Texas Constitution

A two-thirds (66.67%) vote is required during one legislative session for the Texas State Legislature to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot. That amounts to a minimum of 100 votes in the Texas House of Representatives and 21 votes in the Texas State Senate, assuming no vacancies. Amendments do not require the governor's approval to be referred to the ballot.

Senate Joint Resolution 34 (2025)

The following is the timeline of the constitutional amendment in the state legislature:[41]

- February 7, 2025: Senate Joint Resolution 34 was introduced.
- March 31, 2025: The vote count was Senate SJR 34 in a vote of 31-0.
- May 19, 2025: The vote count was House amendment to a vote of 22-22, with 16 not voting or absent.
- May 20, 2025: The state Senate concurred with the House's amended version by a vote of 31-0.

Partisan Direction Index = +41.6% (Lean Republican)

Democratic Support

66.2%	

Republican Support

100.0%	

How does this vote compare to other legislative ballot measures in 2025?
Learn more about the ballot measures PDI »

Texas House of Representatives

Voted on May 14, 2025

Votes Required to Pass: 100	Yes	No	NV
Total	112	22	16
Total %	74.7%	14.7%	10.6%
Democrats (D)	32	22	8
Republican (R)	80	0	8

Texas State Senate

Voted on May 20, 2025

Votes Required to Pass: 21	Yes	No	NV
Total	31	0	0
Total %	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Democrats (D)	11	0	0
Republican (R)	20	0	0

How to cast a vote

See also: Voting in Texas

See below to learn more about current voter registration rules, identification requirements, and poll times in Texas.

How to vote in Texas

See also

2025 ballot measures

View other measures certified for the 2025 ballot across the U.S. and in Texas.

- 2025 ballot measures
- Texas 2025 ballot measures
- Texas elections, 2025

Texas ballot measures

Explore Texas's ballot measure history, including constitutional amendments.

- List of Texas ballot measures
- Texas Historical Ballot Measures Factbook
- Family-related policy ballot measures
- Texas State Legislature

Legislative process

Understand how measures are placed on the ballot and the rules that apply.

- Legislatively referred constitutional amendment
- Texas Constitution
- Amending state constitutions

External links

- Text of SJR 34 ✎

Footnotes

1. [1.0] [1.1] [1.2] [1.3] [1.4] [1.5] [1.6] Texas State Legislature, "Senate Joint Resolution 34," accessed March 12, 2025 ✎
2. ↑ Texas State Legislature, "Text of SJR 34," accessed May 21, 2025 ✎
3. ↑ Texas Education Agency, "Parents' Bill of Rights," accessed May 21, 2025 ✎
4. ↑ Texas Tribune, "Texas, Louisiana Ballots Test 2 Public Education, Safety Issues and Parents," Chapter 26, Parental Rights and Responsibilities," accessed January 17, 2025 ✎
5. ↑ Texas Scorecard, "Texas Lawmakers Pass Constitutional Amendment Protecting Parental

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