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Answer online at
facebook.com/wcmessenger

What's the hot topic on the
Messenger's Facebook page this
week? Have you weighed in yet?

Check out the links at facebook.
com/wcmessenger

CRIME REPORT

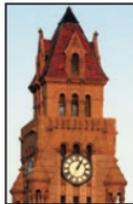
Dogs attack neighbor's
chickens. Neighbor shoots
dogs. Dog owner calls
police.
See page 3A.

FOOTBALL FRENZY



Check out the
highlights from this
week's games as
teams scramble to
make their marks this
season.

See Sports, page 1B.



WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

VOLUME 138 - NO. 84 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017 DECATUR, TEXAS 28 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS PLUS INSERTS \$1

4A WISE COUNTY MESSENGER, Decatur, Texas, Saturday, October 21, 2017

OPINION

Vote 'no' on amendments

We have a series of seven amend-
ments to the Texas Constitution
proposed by the Texas State Leg-
islature, to be on the ballot in the
See Your Views on page 5A

*It was pleasing to see the Messenger chose to
publish my views on the November 7, 2017
general elections on Proposed
Amendments to the State
Constitution. It's a worthy
effort to express your views in
ways that the public elects to
consider them, even if they
may be unpopular views!*



Continued from page 4A
general election on Tues-
day, Nov. 7, 2017. Anybody
wanting to see what the
state legislature says about
them, the backgrounds, the
pros and the cons, may visit
this 57-page posting on the
State Legislature's website:
wcmess.com/prosandcons

My study of these seven
proposed amendments
reveal they all reflect good
intentions, mostly seeking
to specify benefits for some
segment of the population
perceived as needing help.
What concerns me is HOW
we are asked to go about
rendering help to these
good causes.

First, let's think about
what is a constitution,
either for a state or a
national government? The
definition I've found says,
"A constitution is a body of

basic laws and principles
that describes the general
organization and operation
of the state and contains
fundamental principles
and norms that underlie
and guide all government
action. Given the funda-
mental nature of a constitu-
tion and its role in laying a
groundwork to shape and
support the state, a consti-
tution is usually expected
to be longstanding and
somewhat difficult to change
or undo."

The principles are
expressed in relatively sim-
ple, basic terms. Whatever
additional specificities that
may be needed are expected
to be expressed in the legis-
lative works of the govern-
ing body (legislatures or
congress). Such specificities
may be modified as needs
change as supported by the

legislature or the congress.
A constitution, on the other
hand, is much more chal-
lenging to amend, and that
character is intended so that
whimsical swings in the
population's thoughts do not
make premature changes.

An example of a very
controversial United States
Constitution's provision is
the Second Amendment:
"A well-regulated mili-
tia being necessary to
the security of a free state,
the right of the people to
keep and bear arms shall
not be infringed." Most
people would agree that
further regulation is needed
for the management of such
firearm provisions. We have
very detailed laws that the
state legislatures have each
developed for themselves.

My perception is that
our current seven proposed

amendments to the Texas
State Constitution fall
into the category of being
expressed more effectively
in legislative actions. These
proposals are introducing
a growing degree of details
and complications into our
state constitution that are
beginning to clutter the
primary constitutional
document.

All the subjects seeking
to be benefited in these
proposals are legitimate
good causes. My advice is to
vote against them all. Let
the state representatives
and senators develop the
needed legislation.

That's my view, and it is
not from the standpoint of
being an obstructionist! I
hope you'd think about it
before you vote.

D.A. Sharpe
Aurora