

By: Blanco

S.J.R. No. 48

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of  
2 the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas  
3 STRONG) defense fund, dedicating the money in that fund to benefit  
4 areas of the state significantly affected by oil and gas  
5 production, and providing for the transfer of certain general  
6 revenues to that fund, the economic stabilization fund, and certain  
7 other funds and accounts.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

9 SECTION 1. Section 49-g, Article III, Texas Constitution,  
10 is amended by amending Subsections (c), (c-1), and (c-2) and adding  
11 Subsection (c-3) to read as follows:

12 (c) Not later than the 90th day of each fiscal year, the  
13 comptroller of public accounts shall transfer from the general  
14 revenue fund to the economic stabilization fund, ~~and~~ the state  
15 highway fund, the oil and gas regulation and cleanup account or a  
16 successor account, the Texas emissions reduction plan fund or a  
17 successor fund, and the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and  
18 natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund the sum of the amounts  
19 described by Subsections (d) and (e) of this section, to be  
20 allocated as provided by Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) of this  
21 section. However, if necessary and notwithstanding the allocations  
22 prescribed by Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) of this section, the  
23 comptroller shall reduce proportionately the amounts described by  
24 Subsections (d) and (e) of this section to be transferred and

1 allocated to the economic stabilization fund to prevent the amount  
2 in that fund from exceeding the limit in effect for that biennium  
3 under Subsection (g) of this section. Revenue transferred to the  
4 state highway fund under this subsection may be used only for  
5 constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights-of-way for public  
6 roadways other than toll roads.

7 (c-1) Except as provided by Subsection (c-2) of this  
8 section, the comptroller shall allocate [~~Of~~] the sum of the amounts  
9 described by Subsections (d) and (e) of this section and required to  
10 be transferred from the general revenue fund under Subsection (c)  
11 of this section as follows:

12 (1) 38 percent [~~, the comptroller shall allocate~~  
13 ~~one-half~~] to the economic stabilization fund;

14 (2) 10 percent to the Texas severance tax revenue and  
15 oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund, subject to  
16 Subsection (c-3) of this section;

17 (3) one percent to the oil and gas regulation and  
18 cleanup account or a successor account;

19 (4) one percent to the Texas emissions reduction plan  
20 fund or a successor fund; and

21 (5) the remainder to the state highway fund [~~, except~~  
22 ~~as provided by Subsection (c-2) of this section~~].

23 (c-2) The legislature by general law shall provide for a  
24 procedure by which the allocation prescribed by Subsection (c-1)  
25 [~~of the sum of the amounts described by Subsections (d) and (e)]~~ of  
26 this section may be adjusted to provide for a transfer to the  
27 economic stabilization fund of an amount greater than the

1 allocation provided for under that subsection [~~Subsection (c-1) of~~  
2 ~~this section~~] with the remainder of that sum, if any, allocated for  
3 transfer to the other funds and accounts described by that  
4 subsection as provided by general law [~~state highway fund~~]. The  
5 allocation made as provided by that general law is binding on the  
6 comptroller for the purposes of the transfers required by  
7 Subsection (c) of this section.

8 (c-3) If the amount allocated to be transferred to the Texas  
9 severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG)  
10 defense fund for a state fiscal year under Subsection (c-1) or (c-2)  
11 of this section would cause the total amount allocated for transfer  
12 to the fund under those subsections for a state fiscal year to  
13 exceed \$500 million, the comptroller shall:

14 (1) reduce the amount allocated to be transferred to  
15 the fund under the applicable subsection by the amount that would  
16 exceed \$500 million for the year; and

17 (2) transfer the amount by which the allocation is  
18 reduced under Subdivision (1) of this subsection to the property  
19 tax relief fund or a successor fund.

20 SECTION 2. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by  
21 adding Section 49-g-1 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 49-g-1. (a) The Texas severance tax revenue and oil  
23 and natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund is established as a fund  
24 in the state treasury.

25 (b) The Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas  
26 (Texas STRONG) defense fund may consist of:

27 (1) money transferred to the fund under Section 49-g

1 of this article;

2 (2) money appropriated to the fund by the legislature;

3 (3) money that the legislature by statute dedicates  
4 for deposit to the credit of the fund;

5 (4) gifts or grants contributed to the fund; and

6 (5) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts  
7 credited to the fund.

8 (c) The legislature may appropriate money from the Texas  
9 severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG)  
10 defense fund only for use in areas of the state that are  
11 significantly affected by oil and gas production as determined by  
12 the legislature. Money appropriated from the fund may be used as  
13 provided by general law to fund grants to state agencies, political  
14 subdivisions of the state, public institutions of higher education,  
15 and nonprofit organizations to address public health and safety  
16 concerns and workforce preparedness needs and to supplement  
17 educational opportunities.

18 (d) On the last day of each state fiscal biennium, the  
19 comptroller of public accounts shall transfer any unobligated and  
20 unappropriated money that remains in the fund on that date to the  
21 general revenue fund.

22 SECTION 3. The following temporary provision is added to  
23 the Texas Constitution:

24 TEMPORARY PROVISION. (a) This temporary provision applies  
25 to the constitutional amendment proposed by the 89th Legislature,  
26 Regular Session, 2025, providing for the creation of the Texas  
27 severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG)

1 defense fund, dedicating the money in that fund to benefit areas of  
2 the state significantly affected by oil and gas production, and  
3 providing for the transfer of certain general revenues to that  
4 fund, the economic stabilization fund, and certain other funds and  
5 accounts.

6 (b) Section 49-g-1, Article III, of this constitution, as  
7 added by the amendment, and the amendment to Section 49-g, Article  
8 III, of this constitution, take effect September 1, 2027.

9 (c) This temporary provision expires September 1, 2028.

10 SECTION 4. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
11 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025.  
12 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
13 proposition: "The constitutional amendment providing for the  
14 creation of the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas  
15 (Texas STRONG) defense fund, dedicating the money in that fund to  
16 benefit areas of the state significantly affected by oil and gas  
17 production, and providing for the transfer of certain general  
18 revenues to that fund, the economic stabilization fund, and certain  
19 other funds and accounts used to construct roads, reduce the  
20 emission of air contaminants, regulate oil and gas development, and  
21 provide property tax relief."