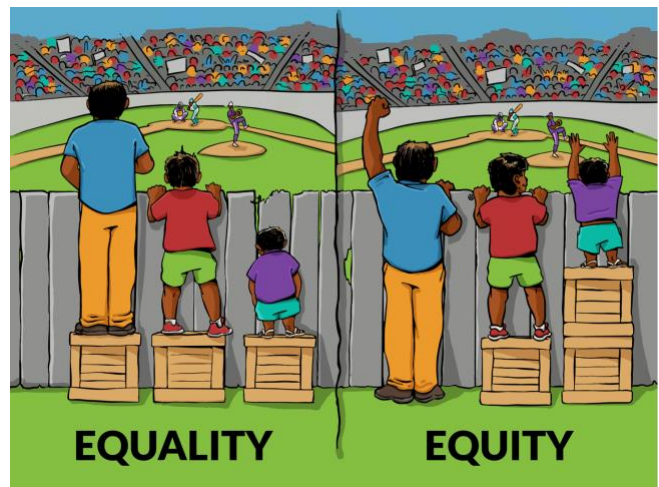




## How Will The Texas Stewardship Amendment Make Lives Better by Enhancing Environmental Protection and Environmental Justice?

- ✓ While Washington has many laws, it still has many environmental problems with people drinking polluted water, breathing contaminated air, being forced to live next to dangerously contaminated sites, and experiencing the growing impacts of climate change. Environments important to our cultures, cultural values, businesses and quality lives are being unacceptably damaged. The Texas Stewardship Amendment will ensure that when our environmental laws fall short and fail to protect our environment equitably for all people, that the constitution can be used by people and government to address the problem and protect people's lives.
- ✓ Equitable means that the rights of all Texans are protected, by recognizing that different communities experience and/or live in different circumstances, that some have suffered from greater pollution and environmental harms, and as a result these communities need and deserve greater efforts to ensure they can enjoy their rights to healthy water, air, soil and environments.
- ✓ Texas government is created by the people of Texas through our state constitution. As recognized by our state constitution: "All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit." (article 1 section 2). As such, our government officials are obligated to protect the rights of the people of Texas and to ensure all government action is for the benefit of the people of Texas.
- ✓ The constitution's Bill of Rights lists basic human, civil and political rights the state must protect and maintain, such as the right to free speech and due process. The Texas Stewardship Amendment will add our rights to a clean and healthy environmental to these basic freedoms.
- ✓ The Texas Stewardship Amendment creates an obligation on the government officials, agencies and entities within our state – including at the local and state level -- to recognize the right of all people to clean water, clean air, healthy soil, and diverse and abundant native flora and fauna, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, recreational and human health values of our environment. The amendment will ensure that government officials within our state do not take actions that will infringe on these rights, nor will they be allowed to ignore our rights through inaction.



- ✓ With a Texas Stewardship Amendment, Government officials **must** protect the environmental rights of the people because, very simply, they cannot violate the constitution. So if the constitution says the people have a constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, then the government is legally obligated to protect these rights.
- ✓ The Texas Stewardship Amendment strengthens environmental justice by very clearly stating that government must protect the environmental rights of all people equitably.
- ✓ If a community of color, indigenous community, rural or low income community is repeatedly impacted by dangerous levels of pollution at much higher levels threatening their health and lives, whether or not the operations are legal, the Texas Stewardship Amendment will require protection of the environmental rights of **ALL** people, so historically marginalized communities are no longer impacted by greater pollution and environmental harms and may be able to rely on the amendment to seek a remedy if needed to protect their families and lives.
- ✓ By very clearly stating that government must protect our state's natural resources for both present and future generations, the Texas Stewardship Amendment is requiring all government officials to ensure the environment is protected for all Texans, including our future generations.
- ✓ Because the Stewardship Amendment recognizes that our state's natural resources belong to the people of Texas, including future generations, and that our government officials are constitutionally obliged to conserve, protect and maintain these resources for the benefit of the people, including future generations, our government will not be allowed to help industry harm our environment to make more profits, or for their own political gain, if it means destroying the environmental rights of our people.
- ✓ The Texas Stewardship Amendment cannot support a lawsuit brought directly against a private individual or company because the constitution's Bill of Rights are in place to guide government actions, including making sure they do not allow private companies or industries to harm the rights of the people. For example, if a company or industry is causing so much pollution or environmental harm that a community's constitutional rights to clean water and air, or healthy environments are being undermined, the Texas Stewardship Amendment may be a tool to challenge the government action that allowed that harm to take place - for example a permit that grants permission to pollute at unconstitutional levels.
- ✓ The Texas Stewardship Amendment can help prevent new environmental harms from new industry or development projects, but it can also be used to secure protection from ongoing pollution by identifying the government action happening today that is allowing unconstitutional harm started in the past to continue through present day.
- ✓ The Texas Stewardship Amendment is intended to protect the health and safety of people and to ensure that government takes all steps necessary to ensure businesses operate in a way protective of our environment and communities, and our constitutional environmental rights.
- ✓ With the addition of the Texas Stewardship Amendment, people now have an ability to advocate for their environmental rights on constitutional grounds.

**To Learn More & Engage:** [www.TXGreenAmendment.org](http://www.TXGreenAmendment.org)