



Home > News > State

STATE

RSS Mobile Newsletters MY YAHOO!

Presidents of Tier One universities tout benefits of Proposition 4

Posted Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009 [Comments \(0\)](#) [Recommend \(2\)](#) [Print](#) [Share](#) [Buzz up!](#)
[Reprints](#)

ARTICLE COMMENTS

BY GENE TRAINOR
gtrainor@star-telegram.com

Extra Credit: More news in our education blog

Have more to add? News tip? [Tell us](#)

The presidents of the state's three Tier One universities and leaders of area chambers of commerce added their names Tuesday to the list of education and business officials touting the benefits of Proposition 4, the proposed constitutional amendment to create more major research schools.

Rice University President David Leebron, Texas A&M University interim President R. Bowen Loftin and University of Texas at Austin President William Powers Jr. sent a letter to voters urging them to consider Proposition 4 on the Nov. 3 ballot. The letter released Tuesday coincided with a news conference at the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce where area business leaders announced their support for the measure. The Fort Worth and Arlington chambers were among the groups present.

Voters will be asked to shift the \$500 million in the largely unused, state-funded Higher Education Fund to what would be called the National Research University Fund. No taxes would be raised if the measure is approved.

The money would go to the seven "emerging" universities — a state designation that includes the University of North Texas in Denton, the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at Dallas — provided they meet certain criteria. The goal is to expand the number of major research, or Tier One, institutions in the state beyond Texas A&M, UT-Austin and Rice.

Fort Worth chamber President Bill Thornton said the area needs a work force that can compete nationally and internationally and that Texas loses thousands of students a year to out-of-state universities. "Research tells us that those who end up leaving the state to get their education elsewhere are likely not to return to the state," Thornton said.

The presidents of the Tier One universities lamented that Texas loses out on billions of dollars in federal research and venture capital money because of the lack of major research institutions. "Research expenditures create jobs, add wages to the economy, and generate tax revenues," the presidents wrote.

The Young Conservatives of Texas oppose Proposition 4, saying that universities spend too much money on research.

GENE TRAINOR, 817-390-7419

[Looking for comments?](#)

MOST POPULAR NEW MEMBERS

- [Austin should have Dallas Cowboys rethinking future offense](#)
- [Benching does wonders for Patrick Crayton; let's see more of it](#)
- [Dallas-Fort Worth schools may cancel attendance incentives so sick kids don't go to class](#)
- [Cowboys regain their swagger thanks to Romo, defense](#)
- [Perry-Hutchison fight may cause major fallout in GOP](#)



DFW Preferred Landscape Draining Systems & Design, Install, & Repair of Sprinkler Systems.

Gary Brown Electrical Services
We're awaiting your call.
[Click Here to view our](#)

[Obama Backs Insurance Regulation](#)

Drivers Pay \$44/mo on Avg for Car Insurance. Are you paying too much?

Auto-Insurance

[Buy Stocks - \\$4 Fee at ShareBuilder](#)

No account or investment minimums. No inactivity fees. Start today. www.sharebuilder.com

[Super Cheap Home Insurance](#)

Get Discount Homeowners Insurance Online - Rates from \$20 / Month. Discount-Home

Ads by Yahoo!

website! 817-905-3601



Twice As Nice for 1/2 the Price
Paint & Remodeling Lowest Price Guaranteed! Click or Call 817-881-8194



Christian Home Cleaning
Keeping your home or business as clean as worldly possible! 817-913-1922



G & G Handyman
Repairs, Carpentry, Gutters, Tile, Decks - We do it all!
888-897-7202

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [ABOUT OUR ADS](#) [COPYRIGHT](#) [CONTACT US](#) [REPORT A PROBLEM](#) [ADVERTISE WITH US](#) [ABOUT THE MCCLATCHY COMPANY](#)

Star-Telegram