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Proposition 3 will give Texas growth benefit

By Juliette Rizzo
 Staff Writer

If approved, Proposition 3 will increase economic development in Texas, which will benefit Texas A&M in the long run.

"To an extent, the whole state will benefit from the proposition, and any time the state benefits so does the University," Associate Provost Jerry Gaston said.

The proposition will establish the Texas Growth Fund, a source of investment funds including venture capital that, as worded on the ballot, "will directly create, retain and expand job opportunity and economic growth in Texas."

One percent of state funds and of the Permanent University Fund (PUF) could be invested in the growth fund.

The PUF is a fund established by the University's founding fathers that is critical to Texas A&M's operation. As an endowment fund, the PUF cannot be spent, but the interest it earns transfers to the Available University Fund. The AUF provides the major part of the University's operational budget. Up to 1 percent of the PUF could be invested in the growth fund.

"Proposition 3 is an opportunity for the University to generate a little more income off of its investments which will increase the AUF," Gaston said. "The proposition would increase opportunity for investment by the PUF and as such, any increase in income would affect the University."

The growth fund, through the use of venture capital, also would benefit the business sector by making more than \$100 million available to businesses in Texas. University President William H. Mobley said in a recent letter to the Bryan-College Station Eagle, "The Texas Growth Fund will give our state

the opportunity to move to the edge of entrepreneurship — to attract new companies and people to Texas by offering an environment that supports innovation, imagination and entrepreneurial efforts and to encourage promising efforts already underway within our borders."

All investments in the fund must be directly related to further economic growth and employment opportunities in Texas. Under the amendment, 50 percent of the money in the fund would be invested in "conventional instruments of debt or equity for new or expanded industries in the state." Ten percent of the funds could be used for venture capital.

"These funds will promote the growth and development of small and emerging businesses that could prove vital to a healthy Texas economy," Mobley wrote in the letter.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents endorses and supports the proposition as being important legislation for the benefit of the state, in the best interests of the investment growth of the PUF.

Two other propositions are listed on the ballot. Approval of Proposition 1 would limit the use of federal reimbursements for state expenditures on public roadways. The proposition says that the Legislature must spend these funds solely for acquiring right-of-ways and constructing, maintaining and policing public roadways.

Passage of Proposition 2 would establish an economic stabilization fund in the state treasury. To alleviate shortages in general revenue, monies from the fund could be transferred into the general revenue fund by the state comptroller and the state treasurer. With the approval of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature, monies from the fund could be appropriated for any purpose in case of a revenue shortfall.

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Firefighters combat 18 Texas forest blazes

VOTAW (AP) — Texas forest firefighters Sunday battled forest fires throughout Southeast Texas that were fanned by winds and dry vegetation.

The service issued a high fire danger alert — the second degree of three issued by the service — for areas south of Lufkin to Bastrop and east to the Texas-Louisiana border, Texas Forest Service spokesman Sam Logan said Sunday.

The alert is effective until relief from rain or further notice from the service, he said.

"With no rain in site, ranger officials are limiting outdoor burning," Logan said.

Saturday, 18 fires burned more than 20,000 acres throughout Southeast Texas, the largest being 11,020 acres in Polk County about 5.5 miles east of Votaw, he said. The cause of the fire was unknown, Logan said.

Firefighters also fought a blaze of 500 acres in Tyler County about 15 miles north of Silsbee which officials say was probably caused by a campfire.

In Advance

CS distributing new city handbook

The College Station Public Information Office is providing local residents with a citizens' handbook about the city.

The handbook includes a brief history of the city, maps of parks and

bike routes, and a list of "action members" to call for various needs.

Handbooks may be picked up at the College Station City Hall, the Police Department, the Community Center or any other city office.

Cartoon character joins A&M groups with vote message

By Holly Becka
 Staff Writer

Pogo says, "Get out and vote."

Voting is an important privilege granted to American citizens by the U.S. Constitution, which will help determine what path the country will follow during the next four years.

And while most voters will choose between the two major candidates on Tuesday, yet another candidate is having a go at the presidential bid.

Pogo Possum, a satirical cartoon character who, with his creator, Walt Kelly, spiced up social issues and presidential politics from 1952 until Kelly's death in 1973, is back on the campaign trail with his running mate, a female skunk named Mam'selle Hepzibah.

Artist Neal Sternecky and writer Larry Doyle have brought the possum back to life and are working closely with Kelly's family to recapture Pogo's life in the Okefenokee Swamp with fellow inhabitants including Albert Alligator, turtle Churchy LaFemme, Howland Owl and fox Seminole Sam. The "new" Pogo will begin syndication in January 1989 after 13 and a half years of absence from the comics.

Pogo's main platform stand for the election is voter awareness, because the Pogo Party believes it is a national shame that more citizens, especially younger ones who are eligible, do not exercise their civic rights and duties by voting.

Pogo says he doesn't want voters to waste a "real" vote on him but he wants to make voters, especially those in college, more aware and excited by the presidential election.

Mike Hachtman, legislative assistant for Rep. Richard Smith, says voters on campus seem to be ready to vote in Tuesday's election because of efforts by campus organizations such as Aggie GOP, Aggie Democrats and the non-partisan group Aggie Voter '88.

"It's impossible to determine the exact amount of voters, but we've got more than 17,600 students who are identified as registered voters," Hachtman says. "That's the number of (student) voters in Brazos County. We can't tell how many are registered back home and are voting absentee. There could be 5,000 more."

Aggie GOP president David Shelton

says that to increase voter awareness, Aggie Republicans have put up signs around campus and at shuttle bus stops, telling voters what precinct they are in and where they have to go to vote.

"We're also putting up signs in dorms to tell students what they need to do with them to vote and where they go to vote," Shelton, a senior electrical engineering major from Hobbs, N.M., says.

Shelton says members of Aggie GOP will participate in a phone bank on Victory '88 to call registered voters and encourage them to vote.

Aggie Democrat president Mike Touchet says the Democrats are participating in a similar phone bank and trying aggressively to push voter awareness.

"We'll be at the Democratic headquarters calling registered voters and encouraging them to vote and we'll also be offering a ride service for members of the community so they can get out and vote," Touchet, a junior political science major from Austin, says.

Both organizations' presidents and members will be at voting sites on Tuesday.

Touchet says the democrats will be "pushing cards" on people coming to vote.

"Some people don't make up their mind until the last minute before they go to the voting box," she says. "We'll be standing 100 feet away from the voting place and handing out literature on democratic candidates to people so they can glance at it before they vote."

She says she thinks that passing the literature will be an effective way to get a message to voters.

Jessica Brown, a legislative secretary for Rep. Richard Smith, says Victory and Aggie GOP had been handing voter's guide packets containing information on local candidates, candidate stands on issues and what voters can do forward to in the future if they vote for a certain candidate.

"We just want to encourage voters to get out and vote," Brown says.

Touchet says her group had local candidates come to the group's meetings and students could familiarize themselves with the candidate's views.

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