

Referendum on same-sex benefits on Houston ballot

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston voters in November will consider whether the city should offer health and other benefits to same-sex partners of its employees.

The Houston City Council on Wednesday approved for the Nov. 6 ballot a referendum that, if passed, would prohibit the city from providing same-sex benefits.

The city doesn't offer those benefits now, but had been considering changing its benefits policy to include them.

The council approved the ballot addition by a 9-5 vote after City Secretary Anna Russell validated enough signatures on petitions to call for a vote. Petitioner Dave Wilson, who opposes offering same-

sex benefits, led an effort to gather 21,028 signatures on those petitions.

City law requires 20,000 valid signatures from registered voters in Houston to force a vote on a change to the city charter.

Councilwoman Annise Parker, the city's only openly gay elected official, voted against adding the referendum to the ballot, claiming that Russell missed errors or irregularities on 1,101 signatures.

Parker said those errors included signatures from people who died before 2001 or lived outside the city limits.

"This indicates a huge and gaping hole that leads to fraud in this (petition drive), and I think it's clear that happened

in this case," she told the *Houston Chronicle* in Thursday's editions.

Mayor Lee Brown said he intends to oppose the referendum and that authorities should investigate any possible fraud. Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal said his office would investigate if a complaint is filed.

Wilson said he knew of no problems with the petitions or signatures.

Houston voters in 1985 nullified a nondiscrimination ordinance approved by the council. Earlier this year, the council approved a similar ordinance protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination, and the Nov. 6 referendum does not address the ordinance.

Worship Directory

Assembly of God

Bethel Temple Assembly of God
2608 Villa Maria,
Bryan
776-4835
Sunday Worship 10:15, 6:00 pm
Sunday School 9:00
www.startel.net/bethel

Baptist

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church
College & Career Class

You are invited to a Bible study especially for students. Sunday mornings at 9:45
1228 W. Villa Maria
779-2297

For more information contact
Marcus Brewer: 731-1890
m-brewer@tamu.edu
<http://www.fellowshipfbw.org>

Catholic

St. Mary's Catholic Center
603 Church Avenue in Northgate
(979) 846-5717
www.aggiecatholic.org

Pastoral Team
Rev. Michael J. Sis, Pastor
Rev. Keith Koehl, Associate Pastor
Campus Ministers - Deacon Bill Scott, Deacon David Reed, Martha Tonn, Maureen Murray, Dawn Rouen

Daily Masses
Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m. in the Church
Tues. & Thurs.: 12:05 noon in the All Faiths' Chapel
Sat.: 10:30 a.m. (Korean)

Weekend Masses
Sat.: 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Sun.: 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

Confessions
Wed. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 4:00-5:15 p.m. or by appointment.

Church of Christ

A&M Church of Christ
1901 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.
(979) 693-0400

Sunday Assemblies:
8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Sunday Night: 6 p.m.
College Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Week "Oasis" 7:30 p.m.



Call for on-campus pick-up info

Episcopal

St. Thomas Episcopal
906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX
696-1728
Summer services - 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
7:30 p.m. Evensong

Next door to Canterbury House, the Episcopal Student Center

Non-Denominational

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 10:00am @The Hilton
Small Groups meet weekly
260-1163
WWW.COMCHURCH.COM

Pentecostal

Cornerstone Church
• Mid Week Small Group Meetings
• Sunday Service at 4:30pm on George Bush, just across from campus at the College Station Conference Center.
485-8744

Presbyterian

Covenant Presbyterian Church
"A welcoming community of faith who reaches out, cares for one another & proclaims the love of Jesus Christ to all"
220 Rock Prairie Road
(979) 694-7700
G. Thomas Huser - Minister
Sunday Service: 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Aggie Classes: 9:45
fax: (979) 696-4334
www.covenantpresbyterian.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Helping Aggies grow in faith
New Fall Hours:
Worship 8:30, 11:00 a.m.
Church School 9:30
Fellowship on the Patio 10:30
1100 Carter Creek Parkway
www.fpcbryan.org

United Methodist

A&M United Methodist
417 University Dr. (on Northgate) • 846-8731
Church at 8:30, 9:45, 10:50
College Sunday School 9:30 & 10:45
Sr. Pastor Dr. Jerry Neff
am-umc.org

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