

## Citizens urged to vote today

### CS city council supports Proposition Nos. 2, 15

By ELIZABETH RAINES  
THE BATTALION

The College Station City Council is urging residents of Brazos County to vote for two propositions that will be included in today's statewide election. Proposition No. 15 and Proposition No. 2, both of which are designed to further funding Texas state roads, are being supported by the Transportation Excellence for the 21st Century (TEX-21) — a statewide coalition of cities and counties to improve the level of roads in Texas. The College Station City Council belongs to TEX-21.

Proposition No. 15 creates two additional funding methods for highways — the Texas Mobility Fund and the Toll Equity Act. The Texas Mobility Fund will allow for bonds to be issued to supplement the current Texas Highway "pay as you go" method, by allowing the Texas Transportation Commission to

issue bonds that will go into a special account to help roads to be built.

"Currently, only 36 percent of the highways needed are being built," said Ron Silvia, member of the council. "The [Texas Department of Transportation] needs funding."

The second part of proposition No. 15, the Toll Equity Act, allows for toll roads to be built with a mixture of state tax and toll revenue.

"The Toll Equity Act allows the state to help by giving money for the initial startup of toll roads and toll revenue to finish it," Silvia said.

Proposition No. 2 provides money for roads to be built in colonias, which are residential subdivisions outside the city limits but not big enough to be cities. Silvia said that typically these colonias are impoverished and do not have adequate roads.

"If we don't do something now then the situation the roads will deteriorate even fur-

ther," Silvia said.

He said that Texas has more than 800 colonias and 2,000 roads that need to be built or fixed.

Kelley Cole, public communications director for College Station said new roads in colonias would provide access for emergency medical services, school buses, mail and other necessary services.

**"We, as a city council, are giving our support in hopes that voters will vote 'yes.'"**

—Ron Silvia  
CS city council member

College Station Mayor Lynn McIlhenny said in a special editorial in *The Bryan-College Station Eagle* that she joined the

TEX-21 two years ago when Dell Computers announced that it was going to ship 10,000 jobs to Tennessee because Texas was not committed to providing the needed infrastructure.

McIlhenny said that besides having the roads built, the best thing about propositions No. 2 and No. 15 is "that we can have these roads now without raising taxes."

Silvia said that the road situation has become critical because 70 percent of traffic generated by the North America Trade Agreement (NAFTA) runs through Texas.

"We need better highways and more of them," Silvia said. "This may not solve the problem, but it will sure help."

Silvia said the city council showed its support through a resolution passed unanimously at its Oct. 25 meeting.

"We, as a city council, are giving our support in hopes that voters will vote 'yes,'" Silvia said.

## Election affects Harris county

AUSTIN (AP) — Nineteen proposed constitutional amendments are on the ballot Tuesday. The challenge for state officials is getting voters to the polls to weigh in on them.

Voter interest is typically low in a statewide election when there are no people running for state office.

"Every now and then we have something that will really put the numbers up there," such as past propositions legalizing a state lottery or gambling on horse racing, said Elizabeth Hanshaw Winn, legal division director for the Texas Secretary of State's Office.

But no single issue on the Tuesday ballot has attracted that level of attention.

Voter turnout statewide is projected to be about 10 percent. Early voting in the 15 most populous counties was only 1.9 percent, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

In Houston and Austin, where there are mayoral races Tuesday, local candidates and issues could figure deci-

sively in statewide balloting on the proposed constitutional amendments.

Turnout in Harris County is expected to be above 25 percent. Besides selecting a new mayor, voters there are being asked about the fate of light rail and whether the city of Houston should be banned in the future from deciding to offer health benefits to the same-sex and domestic partners of city employees.

Proposed constitutional amendments that have grabbed some attention include a proposition that would authorize \$175 million in bonds for building roads in colonias along the Texas-Mexico border and one that would create the Texas Mobility Fund, which could lead to new types of funding for road construction.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry has campaigned for both proposals.

Perry cites the state's population growth and increased traffic because of the North American Free Trade Agreement as reasons to branch out from the state's traditional "pay-as-you-go"

method of building highways.

Proposition 8 would authorize \$850 million for repairs and maintenance at 13 state agencies, including the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, which would put some of the money toward restoration of the San Jacinto Battleground.

Proposition 7 would allow the Veterans Land Board to sell up to \$500 million in bonds to finance additional home mortgage loans to veterans and to operate and improve veterans' cemeteries.

Some propositions are aimed at fixing a local problem or providing a local tax break.

Case in point: Proposition 3. It would authorize the Legislature to exempt green coffee and raw cocoa held in Harris County from property taxes. This would allow the county to qualify as an exchange port for coffee by the New York Board of Trade.

With the voter turnout anticipated in Houston, this amendment could be one of the biggest vote-getters on the statewide ballot.

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The Texas A&M University Student Media Board is accepting applications for

**Editor**  
**THE BATTALION**  
— Including radio and online editions —  
Spring 2002  
(The spring editor will serve from Jan. 7 through May 10, 2002)

Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester;
- Have completed JOUR 301 (Mass Communication, Law and Society), or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper,  
— OR —  
Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper,  
— OR —  
Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Francia Cagle, Student Media business coordinator, in room 014A Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: noon Monday, November 12, 2001. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Media Board Meeting beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, November 16, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

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