



Texas Universities need to be reminded that the students are their customers, not the faculty.

Proposition 4, if passed, will create a fund with the purpose of increasing the number of Tier-1 research universities in Texas. Texas voters should know the facts about Prop 4.

- *University focus on research harms educational quality and increases tuition.*
 - The key to preparing the next generation of Texans for more productive and meaningful lives is not more investment in higher education research, but to **return our colleges and universities to their original mission—educating students.**
 - Today, the majority of undergraduate classes in universities are taught by non-tenure track faculty, graduate teaching assistants, or part time adjuncts. Tenured faculty spend 78% of their time on research related activities. This lack of focus on teaching harms student learning.
 - In order to compensate for this lost time in the classroom, universities hire more staff. Hiring more staff impacts the budget in ways other than salary increases. With more staff comes more buildings, increased utilities, office supplies and thus, **higher tuition** for students.
- *University research is a poor investment for Texas taxpayers and university customers.*
 - Ohio University economist Dr. Richard Vedder has conducted studies showing states that over-invest in higher education have a *lower* growth rate than states that do not. *At best*, there is **no** evidence of a correlation between state higher education spending and economic growth.
 - Texas universities have spent about \$9 billion on research that has generated a mere \$8.3 million a year in income, **a rate of return of less than one tenth of 1 percent.** Had these funds instead been invested conservatively, earning 5% a year, the return would have been enough to provide a four-year college degree to about 50,000 more Texans a year.
 - When tenured faculty refer to “academic research,” they generally are referring not to work done in scientific laboratories, but esoteric scholarly articles written for obscure academic journals. Over two million of these articles are published each year, diverting tens of billions of taxpayer dollars that could be spent educating students.
- *There is no need for the government to subsidize research.*
 - 87 percent of the research and development work in the United States is done by private companies and independent laboratories, not by universities. **Profits and the drive to innovate in the market are a much better catalyst for sound and useful research than the self-promotion of academics.**

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