REFERENDUM HELD

UT Students Favor Integrated Athletics

By DEBBY ROMOTSKY

In a referendum held as part of the school-wide elections October 25, students at the University of Texas signified their approval of an integrated athletic program. The issue, a strongly debated one, has focused national attention on the Austin campus.

A 2,000 vote majority responded to the question, “Do you favor allowing participation of capable athletes of all races in the University’s intercollegiate program?” in the affirmative.

THE ISSUE of athletic integration has been actively contested at the University. A resolution of the Student Assembly as well as several petitions, signed by some 8,000 students, urged a desegregated program. These suggestions were presented to the Board of Regents, who in July stated that they planned no further integration at the time, but that they would accord careful consideration to the views of the faculty and student body on the subject.

AS OF NOW, Negro students are able to enroll in the university, but are unable to participate in extra-curricular activities because of their race. Many of the opponents of integrated athletics see the move as a preliminary to integration of all activities, as well as of dormitory facilities.

Supporters of the plan see integration as inevitable, and its peaceful progress as a credit to the University. They feel that failure to institute such a program will place the school in a

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position for criticism.

THE REFERENDUM will have no official effect upon the policy adhered to by the Board of Regents, but it still stands as a further expression of student opinion. Since it resulted in the largest vote in the history of the University, its import cannot be ignored.

As the “Daily Texan” commented: “The referendum was intended to answer questions as to just who represented the minority opinion. We think this question has been answered.”