



City of Austin

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DATE: April 24, 2013
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Betsy Spencer, Director *BJS*
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office
SUBJECT: Estimated Future Election Costs

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide estimated election costs should the City Council decide to move forward with a date related to a General Obligation bond election. Resolution No. 20130117-061 directed staff to take preliminary steps to authorize a General Obligation Bond Proposition for affordable housing; and review previous practices of the City of Austin and best practices of other cities to identify long-term sources of funding for affordable housing.

Legal requirements for future dates

The memorandum distributed to Council on February 14, 2013, presented three different election dates – November 5, 2013; May 10, 2014; and November 4, 2014 – for further Council consideration and/or discussion. In response to the Resolution, the following is provided related to timing of actions required to establish future bond elections for 2013 and 2014 dates; note that state law prevents bond elections from being called more than 90 days before election day.

- *November 2013:* Council may call a November 5, 2013 bond election as early as Wednesday, August 7, 2013 and as late as Monday, August 26, 2013. The last regularly scheduled council meeting before August 26 is Thursday, August 22, 2013. Council also has the option to call a special meeting for the purpose of calling an election.
- *May 2014:* Council may call a May 10, 2014 bond election as early as Sunday, February 9, 2014 and as late as Friday, February 28, 2014. The 2014 City Council meeting dates have not been set.
- *November 2014:* Council may call a November 4, 2014 bond election as early as Wednesday, August 6, 2014 and as late as Monday, August 18, 2014. The 2014 City Council meeting dates have not been set.

Estimated Costs

Preliminary cost estimates have been provided by the Office of the City Clerk in response to questions regarding potential costs associated with a future election date.

The estimate for November 2013 is \$350,000 to \$415,000 based on the November 2012 election cost.

Election costs projected for 2014 should be regarded as rough estimates since Travis County is unable to provide more firm estimates at this time. Travis County recommended basing the estimates on the previous elections. The preliminary estimate for May 2014 is \$350,000 to \$415,000. This amount could be higher if no other governmental entities are on the ballot.

There will be no fiscal impact to having a bond election with the City's Council Election November 2014. The preliminary cost estimates for the November 2014 election is \$500,000 to \$750,000. The Office of the City Clerk has included in its preliminary forecast for Fiscal Year 2014-15 (November 2014 election) \$1.2 million based on the 2012 May City Council Election. The additional \$450,000 is to accommodate potential costs associated with the initial Council Election following November of 2012 Charter Election.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions. I can be reached directly at 512.974.3182.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Elaine Hart, Chief Financial Officer
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