

City of Austin



Bond Election

**Tuesday
November 7, 2006**



This brochure is designed to provide general descriptions of the propositions on the November Bond Election ballot that will be considered by Austin voters.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.



The City of Austin has scheduled a bond election for Tuesday, November 7, 2006. The bond propositions will be considered in conjunction with the November General Election for State and County offices.
Early voting will be Monday, October 23, through Friday, November 3.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Citizens must have registered by Tuesday, October 10 in order to be eligible to vote in the November 7 election.

Travis County residents may register or update their voter registration on-line at <http://www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do> or by calling (512) 854-9473.

Williamson County residents may download voter registration forms on-line <http://wcportals.wilco.org/elections/index.html> or get information by calling (512) 943-1630.

ELECTION INFORMATION

City of Austin Voters will consider seven propositions on a variety of projects.

Propositions One through Seven would be funded through General Obligation Bonds. General Obligation Bonds are repaid by property taxes.

If all seven propositions are approved, what would this mean to taxpayers?

The City of Austin (the City) estimates that the \$567.4 million in tax-supported bonds, if authorized by voters, would fund capital improvement projects and programs for an estimated seven-year period. The City plans on selling bonds approved by voters beginning in September 2007. The resulting debt service on these bonds may necessitate property tax rate increases of approximately one cent for each of the first two years after the bonds are passed. The resulting operations and maintenance costs associated with new and expanded facilities in the bonds may necessitate a property tax rate increase of one-half cent in each of two consecutive years.

For the owner of the median-priced home, \$167,200 (the 2006 Austin certified tax roll median) the result of these phased-in tax increases would be an additional \$50 of property taxes per year.

Additional information about the November 7 City of Austin Bond Election can be found on the City's Web site at www.cityofaustin.org/bonds or call the City of Austin's Bond Information Hotline at 974-BOND (2663).

PROPOSITION ONE

Ballot Language:

“The issuance of \$103,100,000 in tax supported General Obligation Bonds and Notes for reconstructing roads and streets, constructing, reconstructing, and improving drainage facilities related to the roads and streets; constructing, reconstructing, and improving bicycle and pedestrian mobility infrastructure; improving traffic signal synchronization and controls systems, acquiring and installing traffic signals; and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.”

Description:

This proposition would provide funding for street reconstruction projects to rebuild the road surface, subgrade, and associated infrastructure including storm drains, sidewalks and bikeways where feasible in those streets selected for reconstruction. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Chicon Street from Hamilton Avenue to S L Davis Avenue
- Rosewood Avenue from Chestnut Avenue to Hargrave Street
- 51st Street from Manor Road to Pecan Springs Road
- Martin Luther King, Jr Boulevard from Pearl Street to Lamar Boulevard
- Balcones Drive from 35th Street to Edgemont Drive
- Payton Gin from Jamestown Drive to Parkfield Drive
- Parkfield Drive from Colony Creek Drive to Mearns Meadow Boulevard
- Stassney Lane from Berry Hill Drive to Manchaca Road
- Stassney Lane from George Street to Teri Lane
- Parker Lane from Mariposa Drive to Oltorf Street
- 7th Street from San Jacinto Avenue to West Avenue
- Roads throughout the Central Business District; and other roads, including residential streets, citywide.

This proposition would also provide funding for traffic signal system enhancements, including modifying and upgrading existing signals, installation of pedestrian signals, installation of vehicle detectors, the expansion of the computerized signal system and the installation of new signals on a priority basis throughout Austin.

Additionally, this proposition would provide funding for projects to repair, improve and install sidewalks, curb ramps and gutters and provide funding for bicycle facility improvements recommended as part of the City’s Bike Plan.

PROPOSITION TWO

Ballot Language:

“The issuance of \$145,000,000 in tax supported General Obligation Bonds and Notes for designing, constructing, and installing improvements and facilities for flood control, erosion control, water quality, and stormwater drainage, and acquiring land, open spaces, and interests in land and property necessary to do so, including, without limitation, acquisition of land including fee title and easements in the Barton Springs contributing and recharge zones to provide for the conservation of the region’s water quality; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.”

Description:

This proposition would provide funding for implementation of some of the drainage projects identified in the City’s Watershed Protection Master Plan. Projects would focus on improvements for creek flood control and erosion mitigation, localized flooding control, and water quality protection. Improvements may include the purchase and demolition of houses subject to severe flooding conditions, land acquisition, and the construction of structural controls. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- flood control projects in the Onion and Williamson Creek watersheds;
- storm drain improvements to address localized flooding in the Blunn Creek, Fort Branch, Williamson Creek, Shoal Creek and Town Lake watersheds;
- integrated flood control, erosion control and water quality projects for the Boggy Creek and Fort Branch watersheds;
- water quality projects in the Williamson Creek watershed to improve water quality in the Barton Springs recharge zone.

This proposition would also provide funding to allow the City to purchase land in the contributing and recharge zones of Barton Springs for water quality protection. The City would also work with landowners in this area to create water quality management areas by purchasing conservation easements. This proposition would preserve open space in perpetuity as well as providing funding for development of facilities for public access to the open space land where appropriate, including trails and trailheads.

Tracts of land targeted for purchase or watershed easements include those that would protect aquifer recharge waters, preserve critical baseflows, and provide a contiguous buffer where tracts are located next to existing protected land, habitat land and other public land.

PROPOSITION THREE

Ballot Language:

“The issuance of \$84,700,000 in tax supported General Obligation Bonds and Notes for constructing, renovating, improving and equipping public parks, recreation centers, natural areas, and other related facilities, including, without limitation, playgrounds, hike and bike trails, sports courts, and swimming pools; and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.”

Description:

This proposition would provide funding for major renovations and improvements at recreation centers, pools, trails, courts and other parks facilities located throughout the City. Recreation center improvements and renovations may include, but are not limited to, replacing roofs, replacing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, improving accessibility, and providing additional space and amenities. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- McBeth Recreation Center
- Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center
- Rosewood Recreation Center
- Dougherty Arts Center
- Dittmar Recreation Center
- Northwest Recreation Center
- Pickfair Park Recreation Center
- South Austin Recreation Center

Pool renovations and improvements may include, but are not limited to, replacing pool shells, replacing electrical systems, improving accessibility and bringing circulation and backwash water discharge systems into compliance. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Deep Eddy
- Bartholomew
- West Enfield
- Stacy
- Ramsey
- Kealing
- Garrison
- Northwest

This proposition would also provide funding for a new 18,000 square foot North Austin Recreation Center, north of U.S. 183 and west of IH-35. This 12 square mile area currently has no recreation centers and has approximately 62,000 residents.

This proposition would also provide funding for a new skate park and a new BMX park facility to be built on existing City-owned parkland.

This proposition would provide funding for the acquisition and development of parkland in areas throughout the City. This proposition would also provide funding for the continuing acquisition of land along Austin creeks for future greenways and trails, as well a destination park located near the City’s eastern boundary.

PROPOSITION FOUR

Ballot Language:

“The issuance of \$31,500,000 in tax supported General Obligation Bonds and Notes for constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping community and cultural facilities including, without limitation, the Zachary Scott Theater, an African American Cultural and Heritage Facility, an Asian American Resource Center, the Austin Film Studios, the Mexican American Cultural Center, a Mexic-Arte Art Museum, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.”

Description:

This proposition would provide funding for various community and cultural facilities throughout the City. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- a new 500-seat theater, to replace the existing 230-seat theater at the Zachary Scott Theatre Center, which currently has a public/private partnership with the City to operate the existing City-owned facility. The Zachary Scott Theatre Center would initially raise funds to build this new City-owned theater, with the City subsequently supplementing the funds raised with a portion of the bond proceeds.
- an African American Cultural and Heritage Facility, including the renovation of the historic Hamilton-Dietrich home at 912 East 11th Street and constructing an approximately 3,500 square foot cultural facility adjacent to the Hamilton-Dietrich home. The City-owned facility would house community non-profit organizations as well as provide information and exhibits on the proposed African American Heritage District.
- an Asian American Resource Center, including language book center/library, classrooms, community activity center, and cultural exhibition and display space. Community groups would initially raise funds to build the City-owned facility that would be operated by a community non-profit group, with the City subsequently supplementing the funds raised with a portion of the bond proceeds.
- renovation of the Austin Film Studios, including soundproofing, electrical upgrades, and fire suppression systems. Austin Film Studios are City-owned buildings on the Mueller redevelopment site that are leased and operated by the Austin Film Society as part of a public/private partnership. These improvements would allow the film studios to continue to operate and service film making projects in Austin and become a public resource for information about the local film industry.
- expansion and improvements to the City-owned and operated Mexican American Cultural Center, located at 600 River Street. The project includes additional classrooms, storage space, improvements to the plaza, and other site improvements.
- a contribution from the City towards a new Mexic-Arte Art Museum. The Mexic-Arte Art Museum would initially raise funds to build a new larger facility, potentially on another site or at its current location of 419 Congress Avenue, with the City subsequently supplementing the funds raised with a portion of the bond proceeds.

PROPOSITION FIVE

Ballot Language:

“The issuance of \$55,000,000 in tax supported General Obligation Bonds and Notes for constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping affordable housing facilities for low income persons and families, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so, and funding affordable housing programs as may be permitted by law; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.”

Description:

This proposition would provide funding for the creation, rehabilitation, and retention of affordable home rental and ownership opportunities. Rental housing development assistance programs would provide grants and loans to qualified entities for property acquisition; infrastructure design and development; and, construction and/or rehabilitation of rental housing, including special needs housing.

Home ownership programs would provide grants and loans to qualified entities for acquisition, design, construction, infrastructure development and improvements to develop or re-develop land for affordable homeownership, including community land trusts.

PROPOSITION SIX

Ballot Language:

“The issuance of \$90,000,000 in tax supported General Obligation Bonds and Notes for constructing and equipping a new Central Library facility and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.”

Description:

This proposition would provide funding for a new Central Library as part of the redevelopment of the current Green Water Treatment Plant site in downtown Austin. This project would replace the existing Faulk Central Library with a new, larger facility designed to provide services to both Central Library users and the users of the City’s branch library system. The new Central Library facility will feature, but is not limited to:

- increased library collection capacity
- an expanded library collection
- technology and computer access for the public
- dedicated youth and teen program space
- community meeting and program spaces
- an auditorium
- display and exhibition space
- additional parking
- access to public transportation

PROPOSITION SEVEN

Ballot Language:

“The issuance of \$58,100,000 in tax supported General Obligation Bonds and Notes for constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping public safety facilities, including, without limitation, a public safety training facility, police stations, emergency medical services buildings and facilities, a municipal courthouse, an animal shelter, and other related facilities and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.”

Description:

This proposition would provide funding for the City to expand the current public safety training facilities located on Shaw Lane. The expansion would add approximately 60,000 square feet of facility space and provide classrooms and training spaces for training of police officers and firefighters, as well as adding training space for Emergency Medical Services Department personnel.

This proposition would also provide funding for a police substation in the northeast area of the City. A new substation would provide dedicated operational and administrative space for the Northeast Area Command located within its geographic service area.

This proposition would also provide funding for an Emergency Medical Services station on Airport Boulevard to service the Mueller redevelopment project and surrounding central east area of the City.

This proposition would also provide funding for a new approximately 60,000 square foot municipal courthouse. A new municipal court facility would provide space for additional courtrooms and administrative staff, as well as parking for court users.

Finally, this proposition would provide funding for a new animal shelter located on the Health & Human Service Department campus at 601 Airport Boulevard. The approximately 40,000 square foot facility would replace the current Town Lake Animal Center.