



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

2017

CITY OF DALLAS  
BOND ELECTION

NON PARTISAN

# VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING • OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 3, 2017

ELECTION DAY • NOVEMBER 7, 2017 • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7 PM

## BE A TEXAS VOTER

### About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists the propositions that will be on the ballot for the November 7 City of Dallas Bond Election and provides a description and arguments for and against each. This *Voters Guide* is published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas (214.688.4125) which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

### Vote411.org

The on-line Voters Guide is at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

### Voter Identification: What to Take to the Polls

The 7 forms of approved photo ID are: (must not be expired more than 4 years)

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas Personal Identification Card
- Texas Handgun License
- U.S. Military ID Card containing the person's photograph
- U.S. Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport

OPTIONS: voters who are on the official list of registered voters and who do not have any form of approved photo ID may complete and sign a "reasonable impediment declaration" and vote a regular ballot if they present a:

- Valid Voter Registration Certificate
- Certified Birth Certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

ID address does not have to match voter registration address.

### Early Voting Times & Locations

Monday October 23 – Saturday October 28	8AM to 5PM
Sunday October 29	1PM to 6PM
Monday October 30 – Wednesday November 1	8AM to 5PM
Thursday November 2 – Friday November 3	7AM to 7PM

Bethany Lutheran Church	10101 Walnut Hill Ln	Dallas
Cedar Hill Govt Center	285 Uptown Blvd	Cedar Hill
Crosswinds High School	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie
Disciple Central Community Ch	901 N Polk St	DeSoto
<i>(replaces DeSoto Town Center Lib)</i>		
Duncanville Library	201 James Collins Blvd	Duncanville
Eastfield Col Pleasant Grove	802 S Buckner Blvd	Dallas
El Centro Col-West Campus	3330 N Hampton Rd	Dallas
Farmers Branch City Hall	13000 William Dodson Pkwy	Farmers Br
Fretz Park Library	6990 Belt Line Rd	Dallas
<i>(replaces Churchill Rec Center)</i>		
George L Allen Sr Ct Bldg	600 Commerce St	Dallas
<i>(replaces Records Bldg) MAIN LOCATION</i>		
Glenn Heights City Hall	1938 S Hampton Rd	Glenn Heights
Grauwylar Pk Rec Center	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	Dallas
Irving City Hall	825 W Irving Blvd	Irving
J Erik Jonsson Library	1515 Young St	Dallas
Josey Ranch Library	1700 Keller Springs Rd	Carrollton
Lakeside Activity Center	101 Holley Park Dr	Mesquite
Lancaster Vet Memorial Lib	1600 Vet Memorial Pkwy	Lancaster
Lochwood Library	11221 Lochwood Blvd	Dallas
Marsh Lane Baptist Church	10716 Marsh Lane	Dallas
Martin Luther King Jr Core Bld	2922 Martin Luther King Blvd	Dallas
Martin Weiss Rec Center	1111 Martindell Ave	Dallas
Mountain Creek Branch Lib	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	Dallas
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse	410 S Beckley Ave	Dallas
Our Redeemer Lutheran Ch	7611 Park Lane	Dallas
Paul L Dunbar Lan-Kiest Lib	2008 East Kiest Blvd	Dallas
Richardson Civic Center	411 W Arapaho Road	Richardson
Richland College-Garland Cam	675 W Walnut St	Garland
Rowlett City Hall Annex	4004 Main St	Rowlett
Sachse City Hall	3815 Sachse Road Bldg B	Sachse
Samuell Grand Rec Center	6200 East Grand Ave	Dallas
Valley Ranch Library	401 Cimarron Trail	Irving

### Election Day Times & Locations

Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM on November 7, election day. For election day locations see [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) or call 214.819.6300.

Voters Guides for the State Constitutional Amendments & Dallas County Schools Referendum available separately.

# PROPOSITION A STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$533,981,000 general obligation bonds for street and transportation improvements, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$724,650,750.

### DESCRIPTION

Projects include hundreds of traffic signal, alley reconstruction, bridge repair, railroad crossing, quiet zone, sidewalks, street reconstruction and street resurfacing projects throughout the city. The bond authorization does not include funding for pothole repairs, which is provided through the routine operating budget. The last street and transportation bond authorization was in 2012, a minor portion of which remains unissued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** All street projects will now comply with the Thoroughfare Plan and Complete Street Design Guide. Matching funds of \$138.95 million have been pledged by state, county or private entities for twelve of the projects. Alley projects will improve unpaved alleys with property owners sharing the cost. Cost of sidewalk repairs will be matched 50/50 by property owners.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years-to minimize impact on the debt ceiling. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

**Arguments Against:** The city of Dallas property tax rate is higher than that of most cities in Dallas County, and is significantly higher than that of Plano, somewhat higher than that of Arlington and slightly lower than that of Fort Worth. A relatively high tax rate means a city has to compete harder to attract and retain business.

# PROPOSITION B PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$261,807,000 general obligation bonds for parks and recreation facilities and improvements, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$355,610,250.

### DESCRIPTION

Projects include downtown parks, aquatics master plan, the Circuit Trail (The Loop), rehabilitation of recreation centers, trails and neighborhood park projects. The last parks and recreation bonds were authorized in 2006, a minor amount of which remains unissued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** Projects were ranked according to criteria including whether they are on an approved master plan, whether it is a subsequent phase of another project, or whether it will replace a facility that has reached its intended service life. Matching funds for an additional \$216.54 million are pledged by state, county or private entities for twelve of the projects. Projects are planned that will both increase the tax base and improve quality of life.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

**Arguments Against:** The city of Dallas property tax rate is higher than that of most cities in Dallas County, and is significantly higher than that of Plano, somewhat higher than that of Arlington and slightly lower than that of Fort Worth. A relatively high tax rate means a city has to compete harder to attract and retain business.

# PROPOSITION C

## Fair Park Improvements

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$50,000,000 general obligation bonds for fair park improvements, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$67,781,500.

### DESCRIPTION

Fair Park facilities needs assessment includes restoration, maintenance, exterior/interior painting, drainage, lighting, plumbing repairs, carpeting, ADA accessibility, electrical, heating/air conditioning requirements at the Hall of State, Music Hall, African American Museum, Texas Discovery Garden, Tower Bldg., and seven other buildings/areas essential to Fair Park. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** The Fair Park facilities are aging and badly in need of repair. Buildings in the National Historic Landmark park have cracked plaster, leaking roofs, faded murals and failing air conditioning systems. The Hall of State flooded recently. Some argue that regardless of the future role of the park, these basic repairs are needed.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

**Arguments Against:** The Fair Park proposition was carved out and enhanced as a late addition to the bond package. The future of the park remains unsettled as the selection of an operator and the exact role of the park going forward are still in process. Some argue that these decisions should be made before a bond program is adopted.

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# PROPOSITION D

## Flood Protection and Storm Drainage Improvements

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$48,750,000 general obligation bonds for flood protection and storm drainage improvements, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$66,088,750.

### DESCRIPTION

Includes nearly a hundred flood protection, storm drainage and erosion control projects throughout the city including the Vinemont Channel Improvement Project. Less than a third of the drainage bonds authorized in 2012 have been issued; however approximately \$200 million of the 2012 authorization is scheduled to be issued this December for a Mill Creek project. The previous authorization in 2006 has been mostly issued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** The majority of needs are associated with areas developed long ago to inadequate standards (1890s - 1940s with 0-5 year standards and 1940s - 1970s with 5 -100 year standards). Modern standard is for 100 years. The primary focus is public safety and erosion control.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

**Arguments Against:** The city of Dallas property tax rate is higher than that of most cities in Dallas County, and is significantly higher than that of Plano, somewhat higher than that of Arlington and slightly lower than that of Fort Worth. A relatively high tax rate means a city has to compete harder to attract and retain business.

# PROPOSITION E

## Library Facilities and Improvements

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$15,589,000 general obligation bonds for library facilities and improvements, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$21,124,500.

### DESCRIPTION

The proposition funds three projects - the replacement of the Forest Green Branch Library, the construction of the new Vickery Meadow Branch Library and roofing/plumbing improvements at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. The bonds authorized for library improvements in 2006 have all been issued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** This bond issue would enable the city to make progress towards completion of the 2000-2010 Library Master Plan and address current major maintenance needs.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

**Arguments Against:** The city of Dallas property tax rate is higher than that of most cities in Dallas County, and is significantly higher than that of Plano, somewhat higher than that of Arlington and slightly lower than that of Fort Worth. A relatively high tax rate means a city has to compete harder to attract and retain business.

# PROPOSITION F

## Cultural & Performing Arts Facilities & Improvements

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$14,235,000 general obligation bonds for cultural and performing arts facilities and improvements, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$19,294,500.

### DESCRIPTION

The city owns 20 cultural centers and venues such as the Performance Hall at Fair Park, Majestic Theatre, Meyerson Symphony Center, Latino Cultural Center and others. The proposition includes projects to rehabilitate these valuable facilities such as the Meyerson and the Dallas Museum of Art. The bonds authorized for cultural arts facilities in 2006 have been mostly issued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** Facilities such as the Bath House Cultural Center, Kalita Humphreys Theater and Dallas Museum of Art and others are aging and need repair so that they can continue to enhance the quality of life of citizens and attract economic development.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

**Arguments Against:** Many of these facilities are used by only a sliver of the population of the city. Others (eg. the Meyerson and Dallas Museum of Art) are more regional draws yet city of Dallas taxpayers are asked to foot the bill for improvements exclusively. Many of these facilities should raise ticket or entry fees vs. looking to Dallas taxpayers to pay for needed repairs.

The city of Dallas property tax rate is higher than that of most cities in Dallas County, and is significantly higher than that of Plano, somewhat higher than that of Arlington and slightly lower than that of Fort Worth. A relatively high tax rate means a city has to compete harder to attract and retain business.



# PROPOSITION G

## Public Safety Facilities & Improvements

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$32,081,000 general obligation bonds for public safety facilities and improvements, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$43,491,250.

### DESCRIPTION

The proposition includes security enhancements to the Jack Evans Police Headquarters and seven police substations, replacement of two fire stations, a new fire station, and rehabilitation of multiple fire stations throughout the city. The new station will add \$2.5 million cost annually to the operating budget. The previous authorization for public safety facilities improvements in 2006 has all been issued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** The city owns 58 fire stations, 19 of which are over 50 years old and many of which have shortcomings such as limited parking and short apparatus approaches. The aging buildings need repairs to foundations and roofs. In addition, growth in the area of Jim Miller and Loop 12 necessitates a new station to provide adequate public safety response time for the neighborhood.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

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# PROPOSITION H

## Repairs & Improvements to City Hall & to Various City Service & Administrative Facilities

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$18,157,000 general obligation bonds for repairs and improvements to city hall and to various city service and administrative facilities, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$24,608,750.

### DESCRIPTION

The proposition includes projects to conduct rehabilitation and major maintenance at City Hall and multiple city facilities. Also includes the expansion of the West Dallas Multipurpose Center. The majority of the bonds authorized for city hall and city facilities in 2006 have been issued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** City Hall needs a new roof, skylights and roof drains. In addition, water leaking into the garage needs to be stopped. The West Dallas Multipurpose Center expansion will provide space for a community court and also space to lease for additional services. Electrical upgrades and similar repairs are needed at a number of facilities

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

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# PROPOSITION I

## City's Economic Development Program

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$55,400,000 general obligation bonds for funding the city's economic development program, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$75,109,500.

### DESCRIPTION

The bond will provide funding to facilitate the revitalization of commercial corridors, transit oriented development, mixed income housing, mixed use development and neighborhood revitalization in the various council districts. Specific projects are not necessarily known in advance but should advance an established council priority or plan and meet parameters outlined in the approved proposition. Weights are given to projects based on enhanced activity and below median home value. The majority of the bonds authorized for economic development in 2012 have been issued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** The program provides flexibility to economic development efforts and the ability to leverage direct and indirect private and public investment. Since 2012, bond program funding has supported \$400 million of new and proposed commercial development with an associated 3,200 jobs.

The city's bond rating agency reports that the city's debt is manageable and some relief for the beleaguered police and fire pension fund was provided by the state legislature this spring, alleviating concerns about financial stability. The city will pledge to raise taxes sufficient to pay debt service but does not expect to need to increase property taxes for this authorization. Bonds will be issued over the next several years as needed. The portion of the tax rate used to pay off debt and the overall tax rate have declined slightly in recent years.

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# PROPOSITION J

## Permanent, Supportive and Transitional Housing for the Homeless

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$20,000,000 general obligation bonds for permanent, supportive and transitional housing facilities for the homeless, the estimated amount of repayment, including principal and interest based on current market conditions being \$27,115,750.

### DESCRIPTION

The proposition will fund \$20 million for transitional and permanent supportive housing to target chronic homelessness, rapid rehousing for the elderly, disabled and families with children and day centers for seamless wrap-around services. The bonds authorized for homeless assistance facilities in 2006 have all been issued. (For detail see [www.dallasbond.com](http://www.dallasbond.com)).

**Arguments For:** City leaders have expressed concern over the current level of homelessness in Dallas. A 2016 report by the Dallas Commission on the Homelessness cited a count of nearly 4,000 homeless in Dallas. Since counting methodology typically underestimates the true number, the number of homeless in Dallas may be much greater. It also reported that the five largest shelters in the city are at or near capacity. Therefore, the need for housing for the homeless is clear.

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