



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

ADDISON
2023

NON PARTISAN

VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING • APRIL 24, 2023 – MAY 2, 2023

ELECTION DAY • MAY 6, 2023 • POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM

BE A TEXAS VOTER

About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists items that will be on the ballot for the town of Addison May 6 election, which includes races for Addison Town Council and Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, which serves a portion of Addison. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Vote411.org & LWVDallas.org

You may also see all items on your ballot on-line at Vote411.org.
The LWV Dallas website at www.lwvdallas.org has a wealth of practical information for voters.

Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United State, registered to vote in the county of your residence 30 days prior to election day, and must be at least 18 years old on election day. You cannot vote if you have been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote or are a convicted felon who has not completed your sentence, probation and/or parole.

Polling Place Times & Dates

Monday April 24 – Friday April 28	8AM to 5PM
Saturday April 29	8AM to 5PM
Sunday April 30	12PM to 6PM
Monday May 1 & Tuesday May 2	7AM to 7PM
Saturday May 6 (ELECTION DAY)	7AM to 7PM

Polling Place Locations

Voters registered in Dallas County may vote in person at any of the Dallas County polling locations during early voting and on election day (“Dallas County Votes Anywhere”). For addresses of locations open during early voting and those open on election day, see www.DallasCountyVotes.org or call 469.627.8683.

Early Vote by Mail (Absentee)

Because of changes enacted by the state legislature in 2021, it is important that voters applying for mail ballots not use application forms issued before 2022. The new forms and also mail ballot envelopes ask voters to provide additional identification. We recommend voters provide BOTH a Texas Driver’s License or Texas Personal Identification Number AND the last four digits of their social security number on the new application form and ballot envelopes.

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are registered and:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Out of the county during the entire election including early voting
- Sick or Disabled
- Confined in jail but eligible to vote.

People voting by mail due to disability or age may use a single application to request ballots by mail for all elections in a calendar year. To do so, simply mark “Annual Application” on your application for a ballot by mail. **This option must be renewed every year.**

Once you have received and marked your ballot it can be returned.

- If hand delivered or if delivered by a common or contract carrier without a delivery receipt, it must be **RECEIVED** by the early voting clerk by **7 p.m. on election day**.
- If mailed and postmarked by 7 p.m. on election day or delivered by common or contract carrier and accompanied by a delivery receipt showing the voter submitted the ballot for delivery by 7 p.m. on election day, it must **ARRIVE** by **5 p.m. on the next business day after election day**.

Track your mail ballot at www.DallasCountyVotes.org.

Other Information

For more information on any of these topics or on provisional voting, limited ballots, photo ID, military or overseas voting, health protocols or any other voting topic see www.lwvdallas.org or www.DallasCountyVotes.org or call 469.627.8683.

A runoff election, if any is needed, will be held **Saturday June 10**.

Town of Addison	Page 3
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Trustee Race	Page 8
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Bond Election	Page 11

Helpful Information

Dallas County Elections Department
Texas Secretary of State
League of Women Voters of Dallas
League of Women Voters of Texas

DallasCountyVotes.org
VoteTexas.gov
LWVDallas.org
LWVTexas.org

Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department
Texas Secretary of State - Elections Division
League of Women Voters of Dallas
League of Women Voters of Texas

(469)627-8683
(800)252-8683
(214) 688-4125
(512)472-1100



TOWN OF ADDISON

Addison has a Council-Manager form of government. The mayor and 6 Town Council members are elected at large to staggered 2-year terms and can serve up to 3 successive terms. The 3 candidates with the most votes win. There are no runoff elections.

The mayor is elected separately from the Town Council members. The mayor does not run against Council Members. In each even-numbered year three (3) council members shall be elected. In each odd-numbered year, a mayor and three (3) council members shall be elected. Voters can vote for up to three council member candidates. The council member candidates with the most votes win. There are no runoff elections.

Council develops the overall vision for the Town, sets policy and passes ordinances. Day to day administrative duties are carried out by the City Manager who is appointed by the Council.

ADDISON MAYOR

BRUCE G ARFSTEN



Facebook: www.facebook.com/BruceforAddisonMayor

Campaign Email: bruce4addisonmayor@gmail.com

Website: liveloveaddison.com

Campaign Phone: 972-503-9895

Occupation: Real Estate Broker

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: The Town of Addison is a wonderful place to serve the community and I have been actively doing so for the past 15 years, including six years on the City Council. Our current mayor will leave office this May due to term limits and I believe I am well qualified to fill the vacant seat to continue the excellent work of the current council and our amazing staff. Having lived in Addison for 20 years, I have seen many changes and understand the challenges that lie ahead. I am able to work collaboratively with the council and staff, as well our neighboring communities as we take on those challenges. My goal is a unified, thriving Addison.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: We currently have a number of apartment complexes that are older and provide a relatively affordable housing option, as compared to many of the newer developments that are considerably more expensive. With a very small (4.4 sq miles) geographic footprint, finding an opportunity to create additional new affordable options is highly unlikely. For the same reason, there are very limited possibilities to build housing with ownership (non-rental) opportunities. When looking at redevelopment projects, it is important for us to put in the extra effort to seek out those opportunities to own residential property in Addison.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: The licensing and permitting process in Addison appears to be overall efficient and effective. As in all operations, there are likely areas for improvement and we need to be diligent about looking for those opportunities. The better we are when it comes to working with developers and builders, the more likely they are to look to Addison for their next project. We want to have a reputation in the development community as being extremely business friendly and easy to do business with.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: Public safety is certainly top priority for me. We can do everything else right, but if people feel unsafe when they come to Addison to work, for dining and entertainment, special events, then they will stop coming. Our residents need to feel safe at home and when they walk out of their home for a walk or visit our parks. We need to have an environment where public safety personnel want to stay long-term, as well as being compensated fairly and competitive with our neighboring cities. We need to work with the leadership of police and fire departments to ensure that we have that environment and make appropriate changes where we needed.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: Not having given this much consideration in the past, my preference would be to continue with the current schedule of holding our elections in May of each year. Even though the voter turnout is fairly low in May, I believe having a consistent process that voters can count on outweighs the possible benefits of alternating. It seems that the communication would need to be greatly increased so that each year the public would remember when we vote. It also seems inevitable that a percentage of voters would miss a May election, not receiving the communication as a reminder.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Like so many other cities, Addison is facing the financial challenges of an aging infrastructure. Costs for this work continue to skyrocket and it is very difficult to keep up with the need. Addison also has challenges around the aging of our police and fire stations, as well as other city facilities and all of these need to be addressed. We will need to prioritize in each of these areas and put together a workable long-range plan to address them.

J. P. VERCOLLONE



Campaign Email: jpVerc@USA.com
Education: Seton Hall University, Business
Occupation: Independent Filmmaker

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: My objective is to help as much as I can, and I would prefer doing so in a role that is not politically involved. I'm running for Mayor in hopes of spreading awareness of my message, and I welcome any and all inquiries. God bless Texas and God bless Addison. Please connect with me directly to delve more deeply into some of the ideas we share.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Yea - there are lots of housing issues and lots of solutions we should be considering.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: - no response -

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: - no response -

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: - no response -

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: - no response -

ADDISON TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

NANCY CRAIG



Occupation: Real Estate Development Executive

Education: Texas A & M Commerce, BBA (Accounting)

Campaign Phone: 214-415-0003

Campaign Email: nancy4addison@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090722335503&mibextid=LQQJ4d

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: I believe my experience on the Planning & Zoning Commission and as President of my neighborhood homeowners association has given me a good perspective on issues facing the Town of Addison. I received my CPA certification, so my financial and accounting background will also be helpful in the budgeting process and obtaining maximum value for taxpayers.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Addison has a wide range of housing options. In terms of future development, Addison is relatively landlocked and built out, which limits the Town's opportunities for additional development. The issue of affordable housing is one that could require a countywide solution.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: As a Planning & Zoning Commissioner, I have seen the development process firsthand. Addison has a significant commitment to customer service and is very responsive to all requests. Our staff does a thorough and effective job, so I have no changes to recommend at this time.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: Addison continually compares its police and fire compensation to other similar communities. Addison strives to provide a competitive compensation package to our police and fire personnel, along with a strong commitment to a positive work environment.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: No. Local elections are non-partisan. Separating them from state and national elections allows citizens to focus on local issues. Further, Addison Councilmembers serve two-year terms, so holding elections at different times every other year would be disruptive.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: A significant amount of Addison's development occurred in the 1980's and 1990's, which means that its infrastructure is aging. This presents budgetary and practical challenges that Addison continues to meet. Addison also has redevelopment opportunities that it is addressing with ongoing staff, Council and community input.

DAN LISCIO



Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: I have lived in this area for more than 20 years; watching Addison grow and change. In general, I believe we have a well-managed Town that has continued to invest in keeping up our infrastructure. With a daytime population of 125,000 but only 17,000 residents we have some unique challenges, particular with law enforcement. I'm attending the Addison Citizen's Academy so I'll be better prepared to respond to our Town's needs.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Affordable housing is difficult to find anywhere in this area so it is apparent more is needed. I need to learn more about this issue before proposing solutions.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: Our licensing and permitting process appears to run smoothly with a prompt and thorough review of submitted documents.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: The competition for police and fire personnel is intense with some cities paying huge signing bonuses to attract new personnel. To remain competitive, regular salary surveys are pursued with the promise to pay 1% above competitive cities. Given the current climate, this may not be enough to retain staff though, for some, the style of day-to-day management of the department may offer better working conditions than other departments.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: While voter participation might increase by moving to a new city and school elections to November; it would make such a long ballot that voters might give up before they reach city and school board choices. Just as they do now when electing judges. School and city elections would become partisan affairs and result in straight ticket voting those may result in Chicago-style politics.

Q. CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Redevelopment is the challenge that is facing our town with nearly no vacant land left. This will require rezoning and adaptive land uses may or may not be welcomed by longtime residents. Much of our infrastructure is nearing the end of its useful life and must be replaced. This will require not only funding sources, but disruption of daily routines for street and utility construction.

MARLIN WILLESEN



Occupation: Retired
 Education: Stephen F. Austin State University (1985-1987)
 Campaign Phone: (972)233-4222
 Website: www.AddisonProud.com
 Campaign Email: Marlin@AddisonProud.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/AddisonProud
 Campaign YouTube URL: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc_MNJKkkuPAVVRWrA5hvRA

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: My reason for running is quite simple. I want to help make a great community better. I've served as a Town of Addison City Council Member from 2018-2022 and believe that this experience will help our future team during our decision-making process. Before my City Council tenure, I was an owner/operator of a communications services business. This experience helped shape me to be an attentive listener, hard worker, fiscally responsible, research the subject matter and most importantly be one that solves problems. I have a deep passion for our community and dedicated towards delivering results at a very high level.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: There is a need for more housing but unfortunately, we don't have much more available land that is zoned for residential to develop. Residential is also restricted in our community due to FAA noise contour restrictions related to Addison Airport. Fortunately, we have a diverse stock of housing options. These range from affordable to some of the premier residential neighborhoods in the metroplex. We are lacking senior living housing, and this is a challenge I would like to solve. We only have a few sites remaining where a mid-rise senior living development would be suitable, and I would like to capitalize on this while the opportunity remains.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: I'm one that believes we can always do better. That said, our team at Development Services does solid work and the result for me as a past Council Member of four years is limited to two calls related to request for expedited commercial development permits.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: No. Our current Town election timing of the first Saturday in May of each year is ideal. It allows for our residents to only focus on local voting such as school propositions and City Council Member voting. For most Addison residents this is typically just an election for City Council. Also, it's important that this occur every year. We have a cycle in which a Mayor and three Council Members are re-elected/elected on odd years and three Council Members re-elected/elected on even years. The current timing of elections with our process helps us achieve stable leadership without major disruptions in our strategic planning.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: The greatest opportunity for Addison is establishing a major destination along the DART Silver Line. We have a vision that has been shaped by over thirty years' worth of planning. It's important that we create a premier transit center. Something much more than just rail, bus, auto and pedestrian traffic. We will also continue creating an environment all around Addison Circle Park that is revered as a top live, work and play destination. We will start to realize the benefits of our hard work and investment around the summer of 2026. That's when the Silver Line starts service and Phase 1 of the Transit Oriented Development gets completed.

VALERIE VAN PELT: NO RESPONSE

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD

School trustees make all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget to maintain and operate the schools, levy taxes, and submit bond issues to the citizens of the district to finance construction projects. Trustees serve without pay.

Trustees serve without pay for staggered overlapping terms of three years and do not represent any specific geographic area. Candidates are elected by cumulative voting which allows you to cast all your votes for one candidate or split them between candidates. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. There are no runoff elections.

The district serves a portion of Addison.

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD TRUSTEE

CAROLYN BENAVIDES – NO RESPONSE

WESLEY L NUTE JR



Occupation: School Attorney
 Education: Duke University, B.A.; University of Texas School of Law, J.D.
 Campaign Phone: (214)308-2755
 Website: wesleynuteforcfbisd.com
 Campaign Email: wesley@wesleynuteforcfbisd.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/WesleyNute

Q: EXPERIENCE: What qualifications and experience prepare you to be an effective member of the School Board?

A: As a practicing school attorney, I have had the privilege of representing school districts all over Texas, especially in North Texas. This means that I advise school boards and administrators on matters of policy, personnel, student discipline, and governance, including as to the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act. I have further advised school districts with respect to redistricting, superintendent searches, and bond issues. I also have experience in the classroom and generally in schools, serving as an America Reads tutor, an operations coordinator with Teach for America, and a substitute teacher. I aim to support educators.

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE: Is the desire for more school choice pressing in your community, or are current programs meeting its needs? Would you support more options for students and, if so, what would you support?

A: CFBISD fortunately has many programs of choice within the district. I support these options for students and especially believe strongly in the vision for our students' participation in career and technical education (CTE) programs of study. Ultimately, as a school board member, my role would be to support the experts and the data that point toward better student outcomes. We want our students to succeed in their postsecondary educations and/or in the workforce. Our students must be prepared for the global economy and the future of work.

Q: DECISIONS ABOUT CURRICULUM: Describe how ideally you would have parents involved in curriculum decisions vs school administrators, the school board and State Board of Education?

A: Parents are integral to curriculum in the sense that our representative government is designed to give them a voice in their child's education. To the extent allowable by law, local board policies should reflect the will of the community. For curriculum decisions that are made on the state level, parents should feel comfortable engaging in robust discussions with lawmakers and the experts who design curriculum in order to make their voices heard as key stakeholders. One way for parents--who are otherwise busy--to influence these decisions is by electing a school board trustee who will fight for them and amplify their voices.

Q: SCHOOL FINANCE: Discuss your approach to the competing needs of attracting and maintaining quality teachers and staff and moderating the tax burden

A: To address these issues, we need to more comprehensively solve school funding. We need great teachers in order to improve our student outcomes. And great teachers are attracted to districts through--among other means--competitive compensation, a positive workplace culture, and professional support. At the same time, CFBISD has its lowest total tax rate since 1992. While I do not support increasing the tax rate, we should be watching this legislative session closely as it pertains to school funding. We need a better approach to financing our schools by the state. For now, we can focus on passing the 2023 bond to overcome budget constraints.

Q: STUDENT SUPPORT: What should your district do to support students struggling with traumatic loss (ex. COVID), mental health issues or other complications that occur outside the classroom but profoundly affect school success?

A: Ensuring that external forces and environmental factors do not undermine our students' education is paramount. We can mitigate these conditions through presently available resources in the district, including counseling services and the use of data driven instruction based on MAP testing. These examples do not represent an exhaustive list. But with MAP testing, for instance, we are able to see a snapshot of student academic performance throughout the year and follow that data to pinpoint how students can improve in a targeted manner. We have some tools at our disposal to focus on the "whole child." Students should have these resources.

Q: OTHER ISSUES: What other issues of importance do you intend to address during your term?

A: Right now, parents and families want to know that their children are safe. School safety must be a determined and collective effort. I believe in focusing our efforts on preparation: with emergency operations plans, safety personnel training, and leveraging technology to identify credible threats. More specifically, there have been recent fentanyl poisoning incidents. All were tragic and preventable. We need to help educate our parents about this dangerous drug and rely on our partners in law enforcement to root out those who would supply our children. Our students deserve to feel safe in our schools. We can address these concerns.

RANDY SCHACKMANN



Occupation: retired
 Education: A.A., B.A., M.S.
 Campaign Phone: 214-620-0138
 Website: www.randyforcfbisd.com
 Campaign Email: randy@randyforcfbisd.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/RandyforCfbisd

Q: EXPERIENCE: What qualifications and experience prepare you to be an effective member of the School Board?

A: I bring major board experience to this race. This includes nine years of school board specific training and practice in Texas school finance, policy making, governance, community engagement, executive management, and all the duties prescribed for board members. Additionally, I was a professional nonprofit board trainer during my career and have developed over 200 board throughout the U.S. In

many ways I am considered an expert in "boardsmanship." Currently, over half of the CFB board has less than 18 months experience, and several have asked me to run and bring experience to CFB (after last year's election where I was left off the ballot).

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE: Is the desire for more school choice pressing in your community, or are current programs meeting its needs? Would you support more options for students and, if so, what would you support?

A: School choice is a concern. The question asks if I would support more options for students. There are only 4 major choices: public, private, charter, and home schooling. CFB increases choice by adding options from CTE courses, industry certifications, etc. The other part of the question concerns 2 things: [a] how dollars are to be disbursed (vouchers, etc.); and [b] who is empowered to make the choice. Parents should be making decisions choosing the best fit for their family. Funding is more challenging. When tax dollars are being used, there must be assessment(s) to ensure that learning goals are met. Such programs must be accountable.

Q: DECISIONS ABOUT CURRICULUM: Describe how ideally you would have parents involved in curriculum decisions vs school administrators, the school board and State Board of Education?

A: State standards (TEKS) establish all curriculum. It is approved by the SBOE. Subjects are covered in an established rotation. During each review there is time for parental participation in the approval processes. And remember, local SBOE members are elected positions, voted in or out. Parents must be aware of curriculum, classroom materials, and library resources. Districts have some limited supervisory roles in these matters. There needs to be effective, on-going dialog in which parents feel valued, heard, and involved; and educators compassionately listen and follow-through to support best teaching practices. It should be a partnership.

Q: SCHOOL FINANCE: Discuss your approach to the competing needs of attracting and maintaining quality teachers and staff and moderating the tax burden

A: This question has two parts. First is recruiting and maintaining quality staff, and how can this be done with moderate taxes. To start, districts must practice effective management, not focus only on salaries. This includes maximizing teacher support, providing adequate supplies, delivering technology, offering quality professional development, and maintaining a culture that empowers teachers to be part of the process, understanding teacher efficacy. Next, is compensation. Districts must offer competitive salaries, appropriate stipends, and payroll enhancements. Examples include longevity bonuses and quality, cost-effective benefit.

Q: STUDENT SUPPORT: What should your district do to support students struggling with traumatic loss (ex. COVID), mental health issues or other complications that occur outside the classroom but profoundly affect school success?

A: Mental health is a district and board focus. Funding is essential. We've added professional nurses, increased the number of counselors to support discipline and student mental health, and even added a counselor to serve staff. Professional development is being targeted at student mental health support, and finally there is attention to social needs: food, clothing, and basic living supplies. Our district is working to support the whole child to maximize learning and growth. The question also asks about learning loss. We follow the state's recommendations by implementing HB4545 tutorials. December recapture rates were above state averages.

Q: OTHER ISSUES: What other issues of importance do you intend to address during your term?

A: Safety. There will be little learning if safety is not at the heart of everything schools do. CFBISD facilities are safe for all students. We have updated campus vestibules with creating secure entry zones with updated ID systems, increased camera locations in our facilities, installed improved traffic patterns and safety bollards, instituted new procedures, and upgraded technology in the district's security office. We have brought back random-use drug detecting dogs, increased use of badges for all on-campus persons, reduced campus entrance locations, and increased teaching and learning strategies for students on topics of safety.

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD BOND ELECTION

Proposition A

"THE ISSUANCE OF \$716,440,000 OF BONDS BY THE CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSES OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, IMPROVING, UPGRADING, UPDATING, ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE."

Vote "For" or "Against"

Description

The Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD (CFBISD) serves 25,000 students on 38 campuses. The district seeks authorization to issue \$716.4 million in bonds to fund improvements in five areas.

- **Safety & Security (5%)** – door locks, access control, cameras, perimeter fencing, security film, Improvements on all campuses
- **Student Support Facilities (18%)** – special education improvements, early childhood classroom improvements, outdoor learning center/ag site renovations, CTE classroom renovations, fine arts renovations, gym updates
- **Replacement Schools (28%)** – replace the three oldest elementary schools in CFBISD, construct a new combined campus
- **Renovations & Updates (49%)** – new fiber & critical technology infrastructure, restroom updates, front office updates, library renovations, cafeteria updates, classroom renovations, kitchen equipment, building systems roof, mechanical and electrical updates

As required by state law, the ballot language states “THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.” However, the city’s financial advisors and finance officer indicate this election will NOT cause a property tax increase because bonds will not be issued all at once but only over time as needed and as old bonds are retired. In addition, the CFBISD tax base has grown providing more capacity in the tax rate. In February the Board publicly stated they do not plan to increase the tax rate.

CFBISD tax rates have dropped steadily in recent years. Tax rates for CFBISD and nearby districts are:

Richardson ISD	1.3146
Grand Prairie ISD	1.3070
Plano ISD	1.2598
Coppell ISD	1.2173
Dallas ISD	1.1849
Garland ISD	1.1725
Irving ISD	1.1474
CFBISD	1.1429

The district’s bond ratings is AA1 from Moody’s and it has a B rating from TEA. Voters in CFBISD last approved a bond package in 2018. The projects funded with bonds authorized in 2018 are nearly all complete. The list of projects and financing was developed by a diverse 60 member Citizen’s Bond Planning Committee that met nine times over a six month period and toured facilities. The package was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees in January.

See details at <https://www.cfbisd.edu/departments/facility-support-services/construction-bond/bond/bond-2023>

Reasons to vote “For” and “Against”

REASONS TO VOTE FOR	REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST
1. Several CFBISD elementary schools were built in the 1950s and 1960s and are due for replacement. Others were built in the 1970’s and 1980’s and need upgrades. Roofs, bathrooms and structures are worn and outdated. Our students deserve better.	1. Major reconstruction and renovation of facilities is disruptive to students and teachers. The district should seek simpler improvements to avoid disruption.
2. There is an increased need for safety and security in schools which this bond package will address.	2. The Texas legislature may provide some funding for safety and security in schools, making bonds unnecessary.
3. Educational needs have changed. There is a greater need for education in technology and students will benefit from the efficiencies brought to classrooms by modern technology as provided by this package.	3. Young people today are already too immersed in technology such as cell phones and social media. We do not need to encourage this trend in the schools.
4. The improvements can be completed without any change in the district’s tax rate. CFBISD’s tax rate is among the lowest in the area.	4. If we experience a severe recession in the future, debt from this authorization could stress the district financially.
5. The district’s high bond rating and good TEA rating indicate third party experts’ favorable assessment of district management and financial condition.	5. Third parties such as bond rating agencies and TEA are not as familiar with our district as residents are. Residents should decide for themselves if our district is well managed.