

2018 BOND

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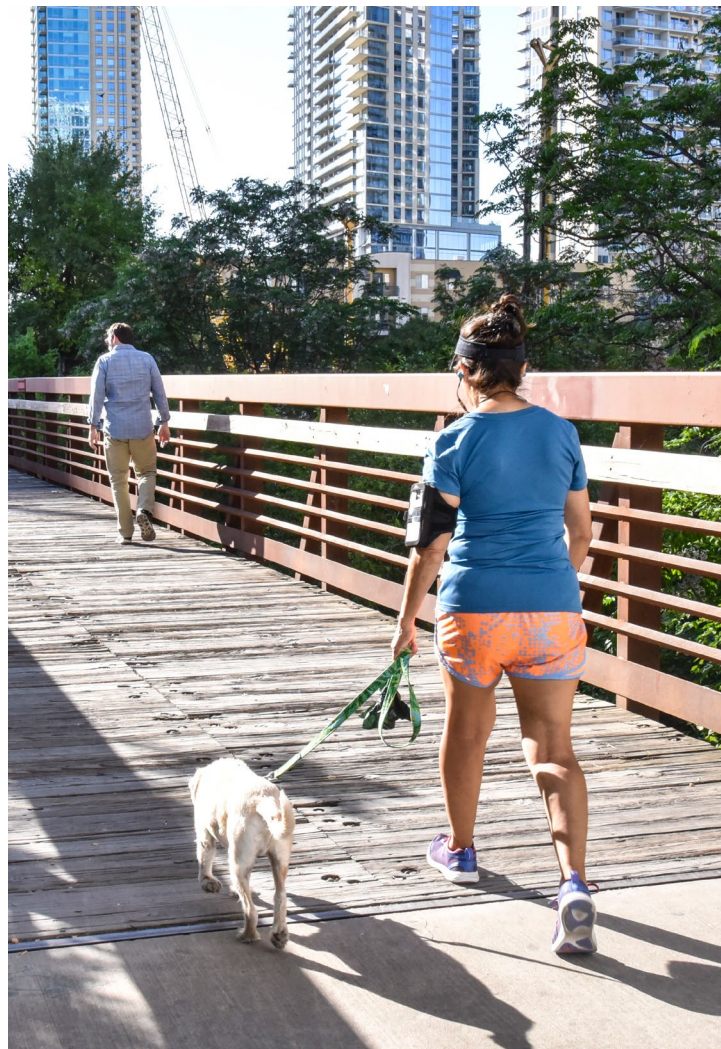
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Basic Information

The City of Austin has called a bond election for Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Voters will consider seven bond propositions on a variety of projects and programs, City of Austin council member elections, two proposed amendments to the City Charter, and two proposed citizen-initiated City ordinances. These elections are being held in conjunction with the November General Election for Federal, State, and County offices and propositions for other taxing entities. The total amount of the bonds for which voter approval is sought is \$925 million, split among Propositions A-G.

This brochure is designed to provide a general description of the City of Austin Bond Election. It does not advocate passage or defeat of the measure and is intended only for informational purposes. It does not discuss any of the other matters that also are to be voted on at the November 6, 2018 election.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal access to communications will be provided upon request by calling 512-974-7840.



Bond Background

In 2016, the Austin City Council formed a citizen-led Bond Election Advisory Task Force to identify, study, prioritize, and propose various projects for consideration of bond funding in a potential 2018 election. The Bond Election Advisory Task Force, comprised of 13 Austin residents, convened 13 full task force meetings and 66 working group meetings. In total, approximately 140 hours of public meeting time occurred, with nearly 300 Austin residents participating in in-person and online bond-simulator exercises. Additionally, 12 community engagement sessions, reaching all 10 council districts, were held, and more than 900 online bond surveys were submitted and reviewed.

For nearly two years, the task force met with stakeholders, gathered input, and developed a proposal, focusing its recommendation to the City Council on reinvestment in current city infrastructure. In August 2018, the Austin City Council passed an ordinance calling for a \$925-million bond election on November 6, 2018, and set ballot language for seven different bond propositions.

These propositions include: \$250 million for affordable housing; \$128 million for libraries and cultural centers; \$149 million for parks and recreation; \$184 million for flood mitigation and open space; \$16 million for health and human services; \$38 million for public safety; and \$160 million for transportation infrastructure.

Voter Information

Citizens must be registered to vote in the City of Austin (Travis, Williamson, or Hays County) in order to be eligible to vote in the November 6, 2018 bond election.

Important Election Dates:

- **October 9** – Last day to register to vote
- **October 22** – First day of in-person early voting
- **October 26** – Last day to apply for a ballot by mail
- **November 2** – Last day of in-person early voting
- **November 6** – Election Day

Travis County residents can download voter registration forms online at: <https://www.votetravis.com/>

Williamson County residents can download voter registration forms online at: <http://www.wilco.org/departments/elections>

Hays County residents can download voter registration forms online at: <http://www.co.hays.tx.us/elections.aspx>





Proposition A: Affordable Housing

Proposition A Total: \$250 million

This proposition would provide funding for the creation, rehabilitation, and retention of affordable rental and ownership housing.

The types of projects and programs to be undertaken as part of this bond proposition, if approved, may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Land Acquisition \$100 million

Funding for the Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) to acquire and hold land, including acquisition of publicly owned land, for future use, with the potential to achieve multiple community goals, including affordable housing development. The land can be developed by AHFC or be offered to nonprofit or private, for-profit affordable housing developers.

Rental Housing Development Assistance Projects \$94 million

Funding for the Rental Housing Development Assistance (RHDA) program, which increases or maintains the supply of affordable rental housing by addressing the rental housing needs and priorities identified by the City of Austin's Strategic Housing Blueprint, including Permanent Supportive Housing and other affordable housing facilities.

Acquisition & Development (A&D) Homeownership Program \$28 million

Funding for the A&D Homeownership Program, which addresses the need for affordably priced ownership housing within the city. Housing developed through this program is to be owned and occupied by income-qualified households.



Home Repair Program \$28 million

Funding to carry out minor home repairs and rehabilitation throughout the community. Through the GO Repair! program, the City contracts with qualified nonprofit organizations that provide repairs to income-qualified homeowners' homes.

Ballot Language:

The issuance of \$250,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping affordable housing facilities for low income and moderate income persons and families, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so, funding loans and grants for affordable housing, 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.



Proposition B: Libraries, Museums & Cultural Arts Facilities

Proposition B Total: **\$128 million**

This proposition would provide funding for renovations at various branch libraries, museums, cultural centers, including creative spaces, and the replacement of the Dougherty Arts Center.

The types of projects and programs to be undertaken as part of this bond proposition, if approved, may include, but are not limited to, the following:



Cultural Center Improvements **\$56.5 million**

Funding for major renovations and improvements to the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), Asian-American Resource Center (AARC), George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center, and the Mexic-Arte Museum.

Branch Library Renovations **\$34.5 million**

Funding for rehabilitation and renovations to branch libraries as well as funding for the first phase of the conversion of Faulk Library for archival use by the Austin History Center.

Dougherty Arts Center Replacement Facility **\$25 million**

Funding for the replacement of the existing Dougherty Arts Center facility.

Creative Spaces **\$12 million**

Funding for the acquisition and improvements of creative spaces.

Ballot Language:

The issuance of \$128,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping community and cultural facilities, libraries, museums, and cultural and creative arts 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.



Proposition C: Parks and Recreation

Proposition C Total: \$149 million

This proposition would provide funding for improvements, renovations, and upgrades to various Parks and Recreation assets, as well as for the acquisition of new parkland.

The types of projects and programs to be undertaken as part of this bond proposition, if approved, may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Parkland Acquisition \$45 million

Funding for the acquisition of land, including publicly owned land, to dedicate as parkland, such as a destination park in the Oak Hill area and Lions Municipal Golf Course, infill parks, and greenbelts.

Aquatics \$40 million

Funding for a new Colony Park Pool and major renovations or replacements of existing City pools.

Parkland Improvements \$25 million

Funding for development of existing City parks, including greenbelts, neighborhood parks, district parks, metro parks (such as Roy G. Guerrero Park and John Trevino Jr. Park), and the downtown squares.

Building Renovations \$21.5 million

Funding for renovations/rehabilitation of existing Parks and Recreation facilities and assets, including ADA and safety improvements.

Infrastructure \$17.5 million

Funding for improvements to playscapes, trails, parking lots, and roadways, athletic fields and facilities, and City cemeteries.



Ballot Language:

The issuance of \$149,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, acquiring, 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.





Proposition D: Flood Mitigation, Open Space, and Water Quality Protection

Proposition D Total: \$184 million

If approved, this proposition would allow the City to fund drainage improvement projects as well as to acquire land for water quality protection.

The types of projects and programs to be undertaken as part of this bond proposition, if approved, may include, but are not limited to, the following:



Drainage/Stormwater Projects \$112 million

Funding for projects to reduce flood and erosion risks, such as storm drain improvements, streambank stabilization, low-water crossing improvements, and buyouts in flood-prone areas.

Acquisition of Water Quality Protection Land \$72 million

Funding to purchase land and conservation easements on properties in Austin's southern watersheds that feed the Edwards Aquifer, Barton Springs, and the Colorado River. The purpose of this open space land is to protect the quality and quantity of water in Austin's aquifers, springs, greenbelts, and parks; mitigate flooding; and preserve open space in perpetuity.

Ballot Language:

The issuance of \$184,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for flood mitigation, open space and water quality and quantity for planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and installing improvements and facilities for flood control, erosion control, water quality, water quantity, and storm-water drainage, and acquiring land, open spaces, and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.



Proposition E: Health and Human Services

Proposition E Total: **\$16 million**



If approved, this proposition would provide funding for the design, construction, and equipping of a new neighborhood public health and human services facility in the Dove Springs area.

The types of projects and programs to be undertaken as part of this bond proposition, if approved, may include, but are not limited to, the following:

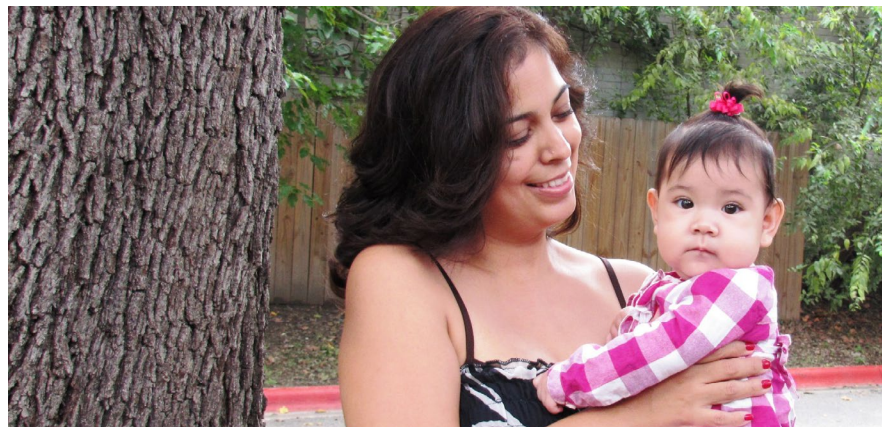


Dove Springs Neighborhood Health Services Center **\$16 million**

Funding for the design, construction, and equipping of a new neighborhood public health and human services facility in the Dove Springs area. Services proposed to be provided at the center include Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), immunizations, child care, and a neighborhood center.

Ballot Language:

The issuance of \$16,000,000 in tax supported general obligations bonds and notes for planning, constructing, reconstructing, improving, and equipping a neighborhood public health and human services facility in the Dove Springs area; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.





Proposition F: Public Safety

Proposition F Total: **\$38 million**



If approved, this proposition would provide funding to renovate various existing public safety facilities in the City, including, but not limited to, fire stations and emergency medical services stations.

The types of projects and programs to be undertaken as part of this bond proposition, if approved, may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Emergency Medical Services Station Renovations **\$25 million**

Funding for renovations at existing City emergency medical services stations.

Fire Station Renovations **\$13 million**

Funding for renovations at existing City fire stations.

Ballot Language:

The issuance of \$38,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, renovating, improving, and equipping existing public safety facilities, specifically fire and emergency medical services stations, buildings, and other related facilities; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.





Proposition G: Transportation Infrastructure

Proposition G Total: \$160 million

If approved, this proposition would provide funding for the City to address issues with the City's existing transportation infrastructure, including, but not limited to, street and sidewalk reconstruction and rehabilitation; bridge and structure rehabilitation and replacement; traffic signal upgrades; pedestrian safety improvements; intersection safety projects; and improvement of public spaces through approved Neighborhood Partnering Program projects.

The types of projects and programs to be undertaken as part of this bond proposition, if approved, may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Street Reconstruction \$66.5 million

Funding to allow the City to rehabilitate and reconstruct existing streets that are in poor or failing condition, including associated sidewalks, curb ramps, and drainage.

Bridges and Structures \$50 million

Funding to allow the City to replace the Redbud Trail/Emmet Shelton Bridge over Lady Bird Lake, which is beyond its functional design life. This bridge replacement will provide enhanced roadway/pedestrian safety and improved accessibility. Funding may allow for rehabilitation or replacement of Austin's other high-priority bridges and structures.

Sidewalk Rehabilitation \$20 million

Funding to allow the City to rehabilitate or replace existing sidewalk infrastructure, intended to enhance connectivity within Austin's sidewalk network. Projects will utilize the 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan/ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan, with a focus on sidewalks rated as "very high" or "high" priorities.

Vision Zero/Transportation Safety

\$15 million

Funding for intersection and pedestrian safety improvements.

Signals and Technology \$4.5 million

Funding for safety and mobility improvements; upgrades to signals, controllers, and firmware; expansion of communications systems; and new signal installations.

Urban Trails \$3 million

Funding to allow the City to enhance its current network of urban trails and their inclusion into the City's public mobility infrastructure system. Austin's existing network of urban trails feature multi-use pathways that provide accessible routes for transportation for all ages and abilities.

Neighborhood Partnering Program

\$1 million

Funding for the Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP), which allows citizens to partner with the City to propose small- to medium-scale projects on City-owned property, the purpose of which is to improve the places in which citizens live, work, and play.

Ballot Language:

The issuance of \$160,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, constructing, reconstructing, and improving roads, streets, intersections, sidewalks, bridges, urban trails and related utility and drainage infrastructure for the roads and streets; improving traffic signal synchronization and control 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.



Financial Information

The \$925 million (\$925,000,000) of project expenditures authorized by City of Austin Propositions A through G would be funded by general obligation bonds, which are repaid by property taxes. If approved, the City expects to issue bonds in installments beginning in 2019. If all seven propositions pass, the City anticipates raising the property tax rate by 2 cents per \$100 of valuation during the lifecycle of these bonds. No increase in the 2018 property tax rate is anticipated as a result of passage of these propositions.

Anticipated tax bill impact when tax rate is fully implemented from passage of all seven bond propositions

Taxable Property Value	Anticipated Annual Tax Bill Impact	Anticipated Monthly Tax Bill Impact
\$100,000	\$20	\$1.67
\$200,000	\$40	\$3.33
\$300,000	\$60	\$5
\$400,000	\$80	\$6.67
\$500,000	\$100	\$8.33
\$600,000	\$120	\$10
\$700,000	\$140	\$11.67
\$800,000	\$160	\$13.33
\$900,000	\$180	\$15
\$1,000,000	\$200	\$16.67

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the 2018 City of Austin Bond Program?

On August 9, 2018, the Austin City Council passed an ordinance calling for a \$925-million bond election to be held on November 6, 2018, and set ballot language for seven different propositions. These propositions include: Prop A – \$250 million for affordable housing; Prop B – \$128 million for libraries, museums and cultural centers, including creative spaces; Prop C – \$149 million for parks and recreation; Prop D – \$184 million for flood mitigation, open space, and water quality protection; Prop E – \$16 million for health and human services; Prop F – \$38 million for public safety; and Prop G – \$160 million for transportation infrastructure.

2. How did the City of Austin decide which items to include in the proposed bond program?

In 2016, the Austin City Council formed a citizen-led Bond Election Advisory Task Force (Task Force) to identify, study, prioritize, and propose various projects for consideration of bond funding in a potential 2018 election. The Task Force, comprised of 13 Austin residents, convened 13 full task force meetings and 66 working group meetings. In total, the task force spent approximately 140 hours of public meeting time, with nearly 300 Austin residents participating in in-person and online bond-simulator exercises. Additionally, 12 community engagement sessions, reaching all 10 council districts, were held, and more than 900 online bond surveys were submitted and reviewed.

For nearly 24 months, the task force met with stakeholders, gathered input, and developed a proposal, focusing its \$850-million recommendation to the City Council on reinvestment in current city infrastructure.

Following the conclusion of the work of the Task Force, taking into account the City Manager's update to that recommendation and testimony received from the public at Council meetings, the City Council proposed amendments to the Task Force recommendation, ultimately voting on a \$925-million bond program to go before the voters on November 6, 2018.

3. How much money would the 2018 bond generate if all seven propositions pass?

If all seven propositions pass, the City would be authorized to issue bonds for such purposes in the maximum principal amount of \$925 million. These seven separate propositions address affordable housing; libraries and cultural centers; parks and recreation; flood mitigation and open space; health and human services; public safety; and transportation infrastructure.

4. If the bond propositions pass, how might my taxes be impacted?

If all seven bond measures pass, the City anticipates raising the property tax rate by 2 cents per \$100 of valuation during the lifecycle of these bonds. Applying this to a homeowner, if you own a home with a taxable assessed value of \$300,000 in Austin, that would equate to an estimated increase in your property taxes of \$60 annually, once the 2-cent tax rate increase is fully implemented. The City anticipates that, economic conditions permitting, the bond's lifecycle would be 6 years.



Frequently Asked Questions

5. Do I have to vote for or against all seven of the propositions?

No. Each proposition is a separate item on the ballot. You can vote on each bond proposition independently. You do not have to vote the same way on all seven propositions.

6. When is Election Day?

Election Day is November 6, 2018. Early voting runs from October 22nd to November 2nd. For a list of early voting locations, please visit:

- Travis County: traviscountyclerk.org
- Williamson County: wilco.org/Departments/Elections
- Hays County: co.hays.tx.us/elections.aspx

7. Am I eligible to vote in this election?

In order to cast a ballot in the bond election, you must be both registered to vote in and be a resident of the city limits of the City of Austin. If you're unsure of whether you are eligible to vote, or would like to learn more, visit votetexas.gov.

You are eligible to register to vote if:

- You are a United States citizen;
- You are a resident of the county in which application for registration is made;
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old (your registration will be effective 30 days after you submit your voter registration application or on your 18th birthday, whichever is later. In order to be eligible to vote, you must turn 18 on or before election day);
- You are not a convicted felon, or, if convicted you have been pardoned or fully discharged your sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or probation; and
- You have not been declared by a court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

8. How can I register to vote?

You must be registered to vote 30 days prior to election day in order to participate. For more information on voter registration visit austintexas.gov/vote.

9. Where can I get more information?

For more information about the November 6, 2018 City of Austin bond election, visit austintexas.gov/2018bond.



For more information, visit our website: austintexas.gov/2018bond.

Be a part of the conversation online by following and using #2018Bond on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.