



PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES BONDS EXPLANATION

Ballot Question

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES BONDS

Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$151,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from public safety facilities bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of public safety facilities, including the construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovation and equipment of civil and criminal justice facilities, police training facilities and stations, fire and rescue training facilities and stations, including fire and rescue stations owned by volunteer organizations, and the acquisition of necessary land?

Explanation

Virginia law permits the Fairfax County government to borrow money to buy land and construct projects by issuing general obligation bonds. General obligation bonds are sold to investors, and the bonds are repaid over time with future County revenues. The money received from the sale of the bonds is used as a source of funding for many County facilities. Bond financing permits the costs of those County facilities to be repaid over a period of years. However, prior to incurring such a County general obligation debt, the voters of the County must authorize the County to borrow those funds.

The question being presented in this referendum asks Fairfax County voters whether the County government should be authorized to contract a debt and issue bonds in the maximum amount of \$151,000,000 to fund the construction, reconstruction, improvement and acquisition of public safety facilities. If a majority of voters approves the question, the County would be allowed to issue bonds to fund public safety facilities as described herein. The County's current plans for the proceeds of bonds that may be authorized by this referendum are set forth below. The County may in the future alter these specific plans, but in such a case the County would have to use the funds for a purpose described in the ballot question.

For the Fire & Rescue Department, plans include \$51 million to renovate or replace five aging fire stations: Merrifield (Fire Station 30), Reston (Fire Station 25), Penn Daw (Fire Station 11), Woodlawn (Fire Station 24), and Edsall (Fire Station 26). These fire stations are between 36 and 48 years old and require the replacement of major building subsystems, larger equipment bays, and enhanced bunkrooms and locker facilities for male and female personnel.

For the Police Department, plans include \$100 million for two police stations and three specialized operational facilities. A new co-located police facility and Animal Shelter in the South County would allow the department to organize smaller patrol areas and decrease response times throughout the County. The Franconia District Station is over 20 years old, in need of building system replacements, and has reached its operational and personnel capacity limits for areas such as locker rooms, and crime scene processing.

Bond funds would provide for the renovation and expansion of the following three specialized operational facilities. First, the Heliport facility faces limitations such as undersized bays, office, training and maintenance space, and a slope on the landing pad that causes problems in winter conditions. Second, the Operations Support Bureau houses the Police Department's specialty units and the current layout creates inadequate space for operations and training and limited storage for specialty equipment. In addition, the Motorcycle Squad facility is currently in a temporary warehouse building. Third, the Emergency Vehicle Operations and K9 Center were first built in 1995 as temporary structures, and have limited space for staff training and locker rooms.

**This explanation was prepared, printed, and made available at
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