



HUMAN SERVICES/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES BONDS EXPLANATION

Ballot Question

Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$85,000,000 to provide funds to finance the cost of human services facilities and community development facilities, including the construction and reconstruction of community centers and shelters and the acquisition of land and equipment or interests therein?

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 are repaid over time with County revenues. Money received from the sale of 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, before incurring such a County general obligation debt, the voters of the County must authorize the County to borrow those funds.

This referendum asks Fairfax County voters whether the Board of Supervisors should be authorized to contract a debt and issue bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$85,000,000 to finance the cost of human services facilities and community development facilities. If a majority of voters approves the question, the County would be allowed to issue bonds to fund such 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.

The County currently plans to use \$48 million of bonds from this referendum to renovate or replace four of the County's Shelters. The Patrick Henry, Embry Rucker, Eleanor Kennedy and Bailey's Shelters are all aging facilities with building subsystems beyond their intended life-cycles. The facilities were each built or last renovated approximately 30 years ago. All of them are highly utilized and experience 24/7 wear and tear. Additionally, these Shelters can no longer meet "crisis/emergency" needs of homeless individuals and families. The County would use the bonds to finance emergency housing services and permanent housing solutions in one location. The County Shelters are full to capacity every night of the week throughout the year.

The County currently plans to use the remaining \$37 million of bonds from this referendum to replace the Sully Senior Center and to construct a new Lorton Community Center. The existing Sully Senior Center, which provides social, recreational, and health/wellness activities and programs for older adults, must be relocated because the current site is in a right-of-way that is currently being designed for a new interchange. The existing Lorton Senior Center, which similarly provides programs for older adults, is currently housed in leased space that is scheduled to expire in 2018. The bonds would finance the construction of the Sully and Lorton Community Centers, to replace the existing facilities. These two new Community Centers would continue to provide programming for older adults, while also having the capacity to meet other community needs, such as after-school programming for children and teens, and health and wellness programs for youth and adults. Consolidating the provision of these services in the Sully and Lorton facilities aligns with the County's efforts to promote multi-service sites.

This explanation was prepared, printed, and made available at election polling places in accordance with Virginia Code § 24.2-687.