



TRANSPORTATION BONDS EXPLANATION

Ballot Question

Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds, in addition to bonds previously authorized for transportation improvements and facilities, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$120,000,000 to finance Fairfax County's share, under the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact, of the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving and acquiring transportation improvements and facilities, including capital costs of land, transit facilities, rolling stock and equipment in the Washington metropolitan area, and to finance improvements to primary and secondary State highways and ancillary related improvements and facilities?

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 \$120,000,000 to finance Fairfax County's share, under the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) Compact, of the cost of transportation improvements and facilities in the Washington metropolitan area, and to finance improvements to primary and secondary State highways and ancillary related improvements and facilities. If a majority of voters approves the question, the County would be allowed to issue bonds to fund transportation 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 the proceeds from this \$120,000,000 bond referendum to finance Fairfax County's share of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (Metro's) Capital Improvement Program.

The goal of that Capital Improvement Program is to provide safe and reliable public transit service, and it includes expenditures in the following eight categories: vehicles and vehicle parts; rail system infrastructure rehabilitation; maintenance facilities; rail power systems and technology; track and structure; passenger facilities; maintenance equipment; and other transit-related facilities. The highest priority in that Capital Improvement Program is placed on improving the safety of the system, including but not limited to, fixing the track signal system, replacing the oldest railcars and buses, buying equipment to improve trackside worker protection, and adding new safety features to existing railcars and buses.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (Metro's) Capital Improvement Program is a \$6.0 billion six-year program, which includes \$950 million in Fiscal Year 2017. The six-year program includes the purchase of 300 replacement railcars, 250 buses, and the construction of new bus garages (including one in Fairfax County). Fairfax County's share of the current six-year Capital Improvement Program is \$182 million. Fairfax County plans to use the bonds authorized by this referendum, along with state funding and other local funds, to fund the County's share of the six-year Capital Improvement Program.

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