



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FACILITIES BONDS EXPLANATION

Ballot Question

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BONDS

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds, in addition to the human services facilities bonds previously authorized, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$79,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, to finance the cost to provide community health and human services facilities, including the construction, reconstruction, enlargement, and equipment of existing and additional community health and human services facilities and the acquisition of necessary land?

Explanation

This referendum asks voters whether Fairfax County should be authorized to contract a debt and issue bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$79,000,000 for community health and human services facilities. The County's current plans for the proceeds of bonds that may be authorized by this referendum are set forth below. These specific plans may be altered, but in any case the bonds can only be issued for purposes described in the ballot question.

Virginia law permits the County government to borrow money to buy land, purchase capital equipment, and construct or improve facilities by issuing general obligation bonds, which are sold to investors and repaid over time with County revenues. Money received from the sale of bonds provides funding for many County facilities. Bond financing permits the costs of those County facilities to be repaid over a period of years. However, before the County may incur a general obligation debt, a majority of the County voters must authorize the County to borrow those funds.

The County currently plans to use \$58,000,000 of bonds from this referendum to renovate or relocate the Joseph Willard Health Center, built in 1954 and partially renovated in 2010. The Joseph Willard Health Center is a licensed medical, nursing, dental, pharmacy, speech and hearing, and X-ray service facility, which also includes Health Department vital records and administrative spaces. Also located at the Joseph Willard Health Center are programs and services supporting the health and well-being of infants, children, women, and families. Over 15,000 individuals are served each year at the Joseph Willard Health Center facility. Building upgrades would allow the Health Department to provide essential services during emergencies or operational interruptions. Renovation or relocation would also include space reconfiguration, modification, and expansion to support current and future needs.

Also, the County currently plans to use \$21,000,000 of bonds from this referendum to renovate the Crossroads facility, built in 1989 and last renovated in 1994. The Crossroads facility is a residential substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation facility serving individuals with substance use disorders or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. The Crossroads facility provides substance abuse education, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, psychiatric services, medication monitoring, drug testing, case management, and transition support toward independent living. Individuals typically participate in programs at the Crossroads facility for a duration of four to six months in the primary treatment phase and three to four months in the supervised living phase, which is also housed in the Crossroads facility. Typically, there are 50-60 individuals on the wait list to receive substance use or mental health treatment at the Crossroads facility. The Crossroads facility renovation plans currently include space reconfiguration, modification, and expansion to meet changing care standards with flexible space for admissions, visitors, and therapeutic services. The current plan would also support more efficient use of existing space to reduce waiting lists and provide updates to outdated equipment, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems.

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