



## **PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES BONDS EXPLANATION**

### **Ballot Question**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY BONDS**

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$182,000,000 to provide 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 and operational 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. Money received from the sale of the bonds is 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, County voters must authorize the County to borrow those funds.

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 \$182 million 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. 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 and Rescue Department, plans include \$73 million to renovate or replace five aging fire stations: Mount Vernon (Fire Station 9), Fairview (Fire Station 32), Gunston (Fire Station 20), Seven Corners (Fire Station 28), and one station operated by volunteers.

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These fire stations are between 37 and 49 years old and require building systems and infrastructure upgrades to replace equipment that is beyond the end of its life cycle. In addition, apparatus bays are undersized, living facilities for firefighters are inadequate, and space is needed to conduct field operations, management, and support functions.

For the Police Department, plans include \$59 million to renovate, upgrade, or replace one police station and two specialized operational facilities. Bond funds would enable the renovation and upgrading of the Mason District Police Station, which is 43 years old and does not have adequate office, storage, workout, or interview spaces. This facility must operate 24/7 and does not currently support operations. Bond funds also would provide for the renovation/expansion or replacement of the Police Evidence Storage Annex, built 58 years ago, and the renovation and upgrade of the Criminal Justice Academy, which the County acquired in 1995. The Police Evidence Storage Annex houses the Warrant Desk, the Victim Services Section, and the main Property and Evidence Section. The Criminal Justice Academy provides training for 2,300 recruits annually, as well as for current employees from the Fairfax County Police and Sheriff, and the Police Departments for the towns of Herndon and Vienna.

For the Courts and the Adult Detention Center, plans include \$5 million to complete the next set of courtroom renovations at the Jennings Judicial Center, and \$45 million to support infrastructure replacement/upgrades and a full renovation of the Adult Detention Center.

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