



PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES BONDS EXPLANATION

Ballot Question

PUBLIC LIBRARY BONDS

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds in addition to the public library facilities bonds previously authorized, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$90,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, to finance the cost to provide public library facilities, including the construction, reconstruction, enlargement, and equipment of existing and additional library 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 \$90,000,000 for public library facilities. The County's current plans for the proceeds of bonds that may be authorized by this referendum are described 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 the \$90,000,000 of bonds from this referendum to renovate and upgrade the Patrick Henry Community (\$23,000,000), Sherwood Regional (\$18,000,000), and George Mason Regional (\$15,000,000) Libraries; and to relocate the Kingstowne Regional Library (\$34,000,000). The George Mason Regional Library was constructed in 1967 and last renovated in 1997; the Sherwood Regional Library was constructed in 1969 and last renovated in 1992; and the Patrick Henry Library was constructed in 1971 and last updated in 1995.

The Kingstowne Regional Library is proposed to be moved from a rental location to a new, County-owned facility. The new facility would increase library space from 15,000 to 30,000 square feet and includes additional meeting rooms and increased space for library collections. Current plans for the bonds would fund the Kingstowne Regional Library facility, and current conceptual designs co-locate the library with the Franconia Police Station, Lee District Supervisor's Office, Franconia Museum, an active adult center, and a childcare center within one comprehensive facility with garage parking and a County fueling station.

Funding for the Patrick Henry Library provides building replacement and adds structured parking. The new building will increase library space by roughly 7,000 square feet to 21,000 square feet. The new library will feature additional public seating and a larger children's section. The County is working with the Town of Vienna for the design and construction of the parking facility, including approximately 125 library parking spaces and 88 downtown Vienna parking spaces.

The George Mason and Sherwood Regional Library renovations will prolong existing building life, provide new HVAC systems, update restrooms, and make additional capital repairs. For all four libraries, renovations and new construction will upgrade building systems and infrastructure for operational and energy efficiency; update power and technology capacity for more public access to the internet, computers, online resources, and wireless networking; and provide efficient layouts of available space supporting possible additional meeting rooms, enlarged children's areas, or increased general capacity.

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