



## **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 \$126,000,000 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 County government to borrow money to buy land and construct projects 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, aligning the costs with the useful life of the assets acquired or improved through the bond financing. However, before the County may incur a general obligation debt, a majority of the 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 \$126 million to fund the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of public safety facilities and acquisition of necessary land. The County's current plans for the proceeds of bonds that may be authorized by this referendum are described 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 \$56 million to renovate or replace three aging fire stations: Tysons (Fire Station 29), Fox Mill (Fire Station 31), and Oakton (Fire Station 34). These fire stations are between 41 and 46 years old and major building systems, such as HVAC and electrical systems, have reached the end of their useful lives and are due for replacement. Funds would also be used for

constructing, among other things, additional and expanded apparatus bays, gender neutral living facilities, physical fitness areas, and spaces for storage and support functions.

For the Police Department, an amount of \$70 million is planned to replace the Criminal Justice Academy with a consolidated Police Training Center, combining it with the Emergency Vehicles Operations Center. The Criminal Justice Academy currently provides training for 2,300 annual recruits and incumbents from the Fairfax County Police Department, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and the Town of Vienna Police Department. A feasibility study determined that consolidating the Criminal Justice Academy with the Emergency Vehicle Operations Center together in one facility creates both spatial and operational efficiencies, reducing the overall footprint of the building by utilizing shared spaces. Relocating to the secure drivers' training area alleviates security concerns and allows private outdoor training that cannot be accomplished at the current site. The new facility will also be able to meet the County's energy and sustainability goals.

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