



Public Information Office Bond Election FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions November 5, 2019 County Bond Election

What is a bond election and why are they held? Bond elections allow voters to decide whether or not to use long-term financing through the sale of bonds for major capital improvement projects such as new construction and expansion of roads, parks and trails. The Road and Bridge tax rate generally only covers maintenance and operation for existing roadways. So, bonds are needed in order to construct new safety and mobility projects.

How are county bond projects proposed? On March 5, the Williamson County Commissioners formed a Citizens Bond Committee to discuss future needs for county roads and parks. The purpose of the Williamson County Citizens Bond Committee was to review and analyze the infrastructure needs of Williamson County to determine if the county should consider a bond election and to propose projects for potential funding with the bonds. The Committee met six times from March through June at locations across the county. They asked for input from cities, MUDs, school districts and the public on what projects to consider. A total of \$2,789,830,050 in road projects and \$106,368,485 in parks projects was submitted for consideration. On June 6, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend holding a bond election and compiled a list of road projects totaling \$573,335,300 and parks and trails projects totaling \$67,594,960 for the Commissioners Court to consider.

How does the county set priorities on which projects it would like to see included in the bond propositions? The Commissioners Court considers public input, safety, mobility, matching funds provided by Williamson County cities, and how the proposed projects fit into the county's roadway and parks long-range plans. The Commissioners Court, after careful study and deliberations, reduced the proposed road bond amount not to exceed \$412 million and the proposed park bond amount not to exceed \$35 million.

What will happen to the projects that were not selected? Projects not initially selected will remain on the long-range transportation plan and parks master plan until funding is available.

Will the passage of the bonds affect my tax rate? Williamson County estimates that passage of the two bond propositions will not result in an increase in the county's debt service tax rate. For tax year 2019, the Commissioners Court reduced the debt service tax rate to \$0.16719.

If the bond election is approved by voters, how quickly will projects begin? The county would begin the process immediately of moving projects forward into design or into construction as staffing allows.

When would the county issue the bonds? If the bond election is approved in November, the county will not issue all of the bonds at one time. New bonds will be issued in multiple series over time as needed to support the cash flow required to implement the projects.

Why does the county invest in roads? Safety and mobility are a primary responsibility of the County. Williamson County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the state for the past two decades and is projected to be in the future.

Will inflation impact how many of the projects are completed? In past bond programs, Williamson County has been able to manage the program budgets to design and/or construct all expected projects, as well as additional improvements, and has not been impacted by inflation.

For more information, go to www.wilco.org/bondelection

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