



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 23, 2024

DATE: July 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Resolutions and Questions to be included in the 2024 Bond Referenda

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt the resolutions in Attachment A, as summarized below, and the explanation of the referendum questions to appear in publications, at voter registration sites, and polling places as detailed in Attachment B, in order to initiate and facilitate the November 5, 2024, bond referenda.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Rows include Metro and Transportation (\$72,405,000), Local Parks and Recreation (25,770,000), Community Infrastructure (76,150,000), Utilities (14,220,000), and a TOTAL of \$188,545,000.

2. Adopt the Schools referendum resolution in Attachment C, as summarized below, and the explanation of the referendum question to appear in publications, at voter registration sites, and polling places as detailed in Attachment D, in order to initiate and facilitate the November 5, 2024, bond referenda.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Row includes Arlington Public Schools (\$83,990,000).

3. Request that the Electoral Board list the referenda on the ballot in the order detailed in this report as shown in the Ballot Layout section on page 2.

4. Direct the County Manager to take all the steps necessary to ensure that the information provided to voters by the County is printed in both English and Spanish.

ISSUES: This is a request for approval for the placement of capital projects, consistent with the County and Schools' Adopted Capital Improvement Programs (CIP), on the November 2024 ballot for consideration by the voters for general obligation bond funding.

SUMMARY: The County Board will approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – FY 2034 CIP at the July 22, 2024 County Board Meeting, which includes the Schools' bond referendum request, adopted by the School Board on July 8, 2024. The County's Adopted CIP includes various projects

County Manager: MJS / MHC
County Attorney: MNC
Staff: Jason Friess, Department of Management & Finance

to be considered for a November 2024 County government referenda of \$188,545,000 and a Schools’ referendum of \$83,990,000.

**BACKGROUND:** The County government’s proposed bond totals are derived from a compilation of individual projects contained in the adopted CIP. These projects are classified into separate categories. If the bond referenda questions are approved by the voters, the County is legally prohibited from reallocating funding from one referenda category to another. Within the referenda categories, however, the County Board may make changes to specific projects to the extent permitted under the language; this flexibility is necessary because of potential rapid changes in construction pricing or other uncontrollable factors. The County Board also has the option of issuing a lesser amount of bonds than that approved by the voters or revising the specific projects, within the proposed authorizing language, to be funded with bond proceeds. Attachment B is a draft of the bond questions and explanations that would appear on the ballot and in informational publications.

**DISCUSSION:** The County and Schools’ Adopted CIPs, which set the parameters for the County and Schools bond referenda requests, reflect a balance of strategic investments and maintaining our existing infrastructure. The adopted referenda requests, which are summarized below, are consistent with the County’s financial and debt management policies.

<u>REFERENDUM QUESTION</u>	<u>PRIMARY PROJECTS / PROGRAMS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Metro and Transportation	Metro Capital Improvements, Paving, Bridge Maintenance, Street Lighting, Neighborhood Complete Streets, Curb & Gutter Missing Links, Street Safety Improvements, Sidewalk, Curb, Gutter Proactive Zone Maintenance, WalkArlington, Signals & ITS Maintenance	\$72,405,000
Local Parks & Recreation	Parks Maintenance Capital, Three Urban Parks, Drew Park, Parks Land Acquisition and Open Space, Synthetic Fields, Trail and Bridge Modernization, Nature Resiliency Program, Emerging Uses Program	25,770,000
Community Infrastructure	Arlington Neighborhoods Program, Facilities Maintenance Capital, Courts/ Police Building Improvements, Carlin Springs Site, Detention Facility Comprehensive Study, Lee Community Center, Commonwealth Attorney and ASAP Renovation, Office Space Utilization and Systems Furniture, Situational Awareness, EOC, and DPSCM Consolidation, Trade Center Optimization Plan, ConnectArlington, Fire Logistics	76,150,000
Arlington Public Schools	Refresh Legacy Career Center Building to house Montessori Public School of Arlington, Major Infrastructure Projects, Kitchen & Entrance Renovations, Kenmore Synthetic Turf Field	83,990,000
Utilities	Washington Aqueduct Capital, Water-Main Replacement Program, Trade Center Equipment & Improvements,	14,220,000

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Activated Sludge Effluent Pump Station 1 (ASE1),  
Finished Water Reliability & Interconnections

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**TOTAL**     \$272,535,000

More detail on each of the programs and projects can be found in the CIP documents on the County's and Schools' websites. The summary of County projects included in the 2024 bond referenda can be found in the Appendix of the County's Adopted FY 2025 - FY 2034 CIP, with additional details in the remainder of the County's CIP document. The Adopted CIP document will be published on the County's website no later than October 2024.

Attachment B includes the proposed bond questions and explanations as they would appear in informational publications distributed by the County at polling places, other County facilities, and on the County's website. Limitations on the explanations are imposed by state law, including that the explanations must be neutral and not present arguments in favor or against the bond questions. Consistent with state law, the actual ballot will reflect only the proposed bond question.

### BALLOT LAYOUT

It is recommended that the following five bond referenda questions be on one or more rows or windows on the ballot in the following order:

- a. Metro and Transportation
- b. Local Parks & Recreation
- c. Community Infrastructure
- d. Arlington Public Schools
- e. Utilities

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:** Community input on the CIP was sought primarily through online channels of communication. During the CIP development process between March and April, staff conducted an online CIP engagement survey and conducted several pop-up events throughout the County to reach residents who do not typically engage online. A significant portion of the CIP engagement and outreach strategy leveraged social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), press releases, County emails, and other communication methods to promote and encourage participation.

In addition to the on-line engagement survey, program specific information was discussed at CIP work sessions on June 4, June 6, June 11, and June 25; an in-person and on-line CIP public hearing held on July 10, and a final Board wrap-up work session on July 16.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The estimated impact on the County's General Fund, Stormwater fund, and Utility fund from the proposed bond financing plans included in the adopted CIP and the proposed referenda are shown below for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026. The table below includes all outstanding general obligation and subject to appropriation bonds, planned bond issuance from previously approved referenda, and the planned bonds and associated debt service to be approved as part of the 2024 Bond Referenda. All bonds planned in the CIP comply with the County's financial and debt management policies.

PROJECTED COUNTY, SCHOOLS, STORMWATER and UTILITIES DEBT SERVICE  
 FY 2025 and FY 2026 Estimates  
 (In Millions of \$)

	PROJECTED FY 2025	PROJECTED FY 2026
County	\$86.9	\$91.8
<u>Schools</u>	<u>67.2</u>	<u>69.8</u>
 TOTAL	 \$154.1	 \$161.6
 Stormwater	 \$1.1	 \$2.7
Utilities	\$10.7	\$13.1

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - 2024 County Bond Referenda Resolutions

Attachment B - 2024 County Bond Referenda Questions and Explanations (as they will appear in publications)

Attachment C - 2024 School Bond Referendum Resolution

Attachment D - 2024 School Bond Referendum Question and Explanations (as it will appear in publications)