

CITY OF LITTLE ROCK

Public Meeting regarding Special Election on Tuesday, August 9, 2022

SPECIAL ELECTION

- On May 17, 2022, the City Board of Directors voted unanimously to call a special election to ask the voters of the City of Little Rock whether to continue an existing tax of three mills for capital improvements and issue up to \$161.8 million in bonds for six categories of work.
- The special election will take place on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL ELECTION

- Early Voting will be available Tuesday, August 2 through Friday, August 5, and also on Monday, August 8, from 8 am to 5 pm at the Pulaski County Regional Building located at 501 W. Markham.
- Early Voting will also be available Tuesday, August 2, through Friday, August 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following sites:
 - Sue Cowan Williams Library at 1800 S. Chester
 - Adolphine Fletcher Terry Library at 2015 Napa Valley Drive
 - Dee Brown Library at 6325 Baseline Road
 - Sidney McMath Library at 2100 John Barrow Rd.
 - Roosevelt Thompson Library at 38 Rahling Circle
 - John Gould Fletcher Library at 823 N. Buchanan

SPECIAL ELECTION

- The ballot will consist of six questions:
 1. Street Improvement Bonds
 2. Drainage Improvement Bonds
 3. Fire Apparatus Improvement Bonds
 4. Park and Recreational Improvement Bonds, including the Little Rock Zoo
 5. District Court Facility Improvement Bonds
 6. Port Industrial Park Improvement Bonds
- Voters will be able to vote “for” or “against” each question separately.

STREET IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Question One: Street Improvements Bonds

- Vote FOR or AGAINST the issuance of bonds by the City of Little Rock in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$40,500,000 to finance Street Improvements.
- \$40,500,000 for Street Improvements
 - 10%, or \$4,050,000 for projects of Citywide significance
 - 90%, or \$35,950,000 for improvements in the City's 7 wards
 - \$5,200,000 for improvements in each Ward

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT BONDS

- Question Two: Drainage Improvement Bonds
- Vote FOR or AGAINST the issuance of bonds by the City of Little Rock in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$40,500,000 to finance Drainage Improvements.
 - \$40,500,000 for Drainage Improvements
 - 10%, or \$4,050,000 for projects of Citywide significance
 - 90%, or \$35,950,000 for improvements in the City's 7 wards
 - \$5,200,000 for improvements in each Ward

PREVIOUS BOND & SALES TAX CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: 2013-2021*

WARD	ORIGINAL ALLOCATION	CURRENT ALLOCATION**	TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS***
Ward 1	\$21,160,000	\$19,877,179	35
Ward 2	\$20,700,000	\$18,760,380	32
Ward 3	\$20,970,000	\$18,876,375	34
Ward 4	\$20,840,000	\$20,975,591	32
Ward 5	\$20,220,000	\$19,471,494	31
Ward 6	\$19,715,000	\$19,969,093	26
Ward 7	\$21,450,000	\$20,819,601	34
TOTAL	\$145,055,000	\$138,749,715	224
*All projects **Amounts include actual & estimated costs (not finalized). ***Numbers include three resurfacing projects per Ward (2013, 2016, and 2019)			

FIRE APPARATUS IMPROVEMENT BONDS

- Question Three: Fire Apparatus Improvement Bonds
- Vote FOR or AGAINST the issuance of bonds by the City of Little Rock in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$19,500,000 to finance Fire Apparatus Improvements.
- With these funds, LRFD will be able to purchase:
 - 5 aerial trucks and
 - 14 pumpers.

PARK & RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS

- Question Four: Park and Recreational Improvement Bonds
- Vote FOR or AGAINST the issuance of bonds by the City of Little Rock in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$37,000,000 to finance Park and Recreational Improvement Bonds.
- Eligible improvements include acquisition, construction, furnishing, equipping, and improving park and rec facilities including the Little Rock Zoo, and any necessary land and easement acquisition and drainage improvements
- Parks and Recreation Department will receive approximately \$24.6M, or 2/3, of the total.
- LR Zoo will receive approximately \$12.3M, or 1/3 of the total.

PARK & RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS

- Possible Projects for Parks and Recreation Department include:
 - Neighborhood Park Improvements
 - War Memorial and Hindman Park Improvements
 - River Market and Riverfront Park Improvements
 - Establishment of Downtown I-30 Park
 - Community Center Upgrades
 - Sport Facility Improvements, including golf and tennis
 - Upgrades at Jim Dailey Fitness Center
 - Trail Upgrades

PARK & RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS

- Possible Projects for Little Rock Zoo include the following:
 - Master Plan Implementation
 - Replace and Update Infrastructure
 - Improve Outdated Animal Habitats
 - Improve Guest Facilities
 - Ensure Accreditation

DISTRICT COURT FACILITY IMPROVEMENT BONDS

- Question Five: District Court Facility Improvement Bonds
- Vote FOR or AGAINST the issuance of bonds by the City of Little Rock in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$8,500,000 to finance District Court Facility Improvement Bonds and related uses.
- Little Rock District Court has the largest volume of district court cases in Arkansas.
- Current facility was built in 1979 and only has two courtrooms for three judges.
- The Courthouse Building Project was approved by the voters of the City as part of the 2011 ten-year 3/8-cent sales tax, which expired at the end of 2021. However, due to revenues not meeting forecast, this is the only project that was not funded before the sales tax expired.
- Substantial maintenance projects have been deferred, including structural, mold, leaks, and ventilation issues.
- Conference rooms and room for lawyer-client discussions are also needed.

PORT INDUSTRIAL PARK IMPROVEMENT BONDS

- Question Six: Port Industrial Park Improvement Bonds
- Vote FOR or AGAINST the issuance of bonds by the City of Little Rock in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$15,800,000 to finance Port Industrial Park Improvement Bonds.
- The Port of Little Rock was created by the City in 1959 to create high paying jobs for the community.
- Today, the Port is home to 45 businesses that employ more than 8,000 people.
- The businesses at the Port of Little Rock contribute over \$500 million each year to the local economy.
- These funds will be used to purchase land in order to allow the Port to continue attracting industry from around the world.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Street Improvements
- Drainage Improvements
- Fire Apparatus Improvements
- Park and Recreational Improvements
- District Court Facility Improvements
- Port Industrial Park Improvements