



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 10, 2010**

DATE: June 25, 2010

SUBJECT: Approval of Resolutions and Questions to be included in the 2010 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 2 bond referenda.

a.	Metro and Transportation	\$ 34,100,000
b.	Local Parks and Recreation	5,975,000
c.	Community Infrastructure	18,065,000
d.	Arlington Public Schools	<u>102,888,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$161,028,000

2. 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.
3. 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.

ISSUE: Should the County Board approve the placement of capital projects, consistent with the County and Schools' Adopted Capital Improvement Programs (CIP), on the November 2010 ballot for consideration by the voters for general obligation bond funding?

SUMMARY: The County Board approved the FY 2011 - 2016 CIP on June 15, 2010 which included the Schools' Adopted CIP, adopted by the School Board on June 3. The County's Adopted CIP includes various projects to be considered for a November 2010 County government referendum of \$58.140 million and a November 2010 School referendum of \$102.888 million.

DISCUSSION: The adopted CIP, which sets the parameters for the County's voter referenda, focused on completing our existing commitments – while at the same time maintaining our

County Manager: <u>MB/CMW</u>	45.
County Attorney: <u>SM</u>	
Staff: Michelle Cowan, Department of Management and Finance Jason Friess, Department of Management and Finance	

infrastructure and investing in critical new projects. More specifically, it focused on maintaining what we have in technology, paving, facilities and parks. The CIP was based on relatively conservative average revenue growth and complied with Board debt policies

<u>REFERENDA QUESTION</u>	<u>PRIMARY PROJECTS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Metro and Transportation	Metro Improvements, Traffic Calming, WalkArlington, Transportation Match, BikeArlington, Paving	\$34,100,000
Local Parks & Recreation	Parks maintenance capital, Land acquisition & Open Space, Herndon & 13 th Park, Rocky Run Park	5,975,000
Community Infrastructure	Neighborhood Conservation, Facilities maintenance capital, Facilities Infrastructure & Land acquisition	18,065,000
Arlington Public Schools	Design – Construction of Wakefield High School and various School facility projects	<u>102,888,000</u>
	TOTAL	\$161,028,000

Extensive information on the details of each of these projects can be found in the CIP document on the County’s and Schools’ websites.

Attachment B includes the proposed bond questions and explanations as they would appear in publications.

BALLOT LAYOUT

It is recommended that the following four bond referenda questions be on one or more rows or windows on the voting machines in the following order:

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

BACKGROUND: The County government’s proposed bond totals are derived from a compilation of individual projects contained in the proposed CIP. These projects are classified into separate categories. If the bond issues are approved by the voters, the County is legally prohibited from reallocating funding from one category to the other. Within the categories, however, the County Board and the School Board may make changes to specific projects; this flexibility is necessary because of the rapid change 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 in publications. This information is also provided at voter registration sites, posted at each individual polling place and the County’s website. Staff has worked with bond counsel on the bond referenda language.

During the CIP process, a significant amount of community input was sought. During the CIP development and consideration process, staff met with 12 Commissions and Committees and provided information at 5 County Board work sessions. The CIP was published in hard copy (over 80 hard copies were distributed) and is available on the County website. Additionally, a CIP Public Hearing was held on May 22, 2010.

FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated impact on the County’s General Fund from the general obligation bond financing plan for the next two fiscal years is shown below. It should be noted that the amount of debt service to be budgeted in FY 2012 and FY 2013 will be determined after future project cash flow needs (and thus actual bond issue amounts) are completed. In addition, this table does not include subject to appropriation debt.

PROJECTED GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT SERVICE

FY 2011 Adopted Budget and FY 2012 – 2013 Estimated
(In Millions of \$)

	BUDGETED FY 2011	PROJECTED FY 2012	PROJECTED FY 2013
County	56.0	57.9	60.9
Schools	<u>36.1</u>	<u>39.3</u>	<u>43.3</u>
TOTAL	\$92.1	\$97.2	\$104.2

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A 2010 Bond Resolutions
- Attachment B 2010 Bond Questions and Explanation (as they will appear in publications)

ATTACHMENT A

METRO AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to support construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of facilities by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA/Metro) at an estimated cost of \$20,000,000 and other transportation projects as described below at an estimated cost of \$14,100,000; and

WHEREAS, it appears that such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum amount of \$34,100,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of WMATA/Metro facilities by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and to pay the costs of other transit, transportation, road and pedestrian enhancement projects across the County (the "Projects").

2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 2, 2010, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.

3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.

4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

LOCAL PARKS & RECREATION

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to undertake local parks & recreation projects as described below at an estimated cost of \$5,975,000; and

WHEREAS, it appears that such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum amount of \$5,975,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of public improvements for Arlington County local parks & recreation, open space and land acquisition projects (the "Projects").
2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 2, 2010, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.
3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.
4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to undertake neighborhood conservation projects and infrastructure improvements, as described below, at an estimated cost of \$18,065,000; and

WHEREAS, it appears that such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation capital improvement bonds in the maximum amount of \$18,065,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of public improvements for Arlington County, including neighborhood conservation projects and County's facilities needs including facilities infrastructure, land acquisition and facilities maintenance capital (the "Projects").

2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 2, 2010, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.

3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.

4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, has determined that it is advisable to undertake certain capital projects for Arlington Public Schools, as described below; and

WHEREAS, it appears that \$102,888,000 of such improvements cannot be financed from current revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington County School Board has requested by resolution adopted June 3, 2010, that the County Board request the Circuit Court of Arlington County to order an election on the question of the proposed issuance of bonds to finance such projects;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. It is hereby determined that it is advisable for Arlington County to contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$102,888,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, to finance, together with other available funds, the design and construction costs for replacement of Wakefield High School and various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools (the "Projects").

2. The Circuit Court of Arlington County is hereby requested to order an election to be held on November 2, 2010, provided that such date is at least 81 days after the date on which the Court enters its order, upon the question of contracting such debt and issuing bonds for such purposes. The question on the ballot shall be in substantially the form shown in Attachment B.

3. The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the Circuit Court of Arlington County.

4. The County Board adopts this declaration of official intent under the Treasury Regulations Section 15.150-2. The County Board reasonably expects to reimburse advances made or to be made by the County to pay the costs of the Projects from the proceeds of its bonds.

5 This resolution shall take effect immediately.

2010 Bond Referenda

1. Metro and Transportation

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$34,100,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and other transit, pedestrian, road or transportation projects?

EXPLANATION:

This proposal would fund a variety of transportation, road, pedestrian enhancement and transit projects across the County. The largest component of this proposal would fund Arlington County's share of WMATA/Metro's capital improvement program, including the Metro Capital Funding Agreement to improve regional mobility and accessibility and reduce traffic congestion. This proposal would also provide matching funds for certain transportation projects that receive state and federal funding, including but not limited to transit improvements in Ballston, Columbia Pike, Pentagon City and other areas across the County. Proceeds of this proposal would also fund a portion of the costs for paving local streets and roadways, as well as the WALKArlington, BikeArlington, and Neighborhood Traffic Calming programs. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

2010 Bond Referenda

2. Local Parks and Recreation

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$5,975,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation, and land acquisition for open space?

EXPLANATION:

The proposed Local Parks & Recreation program would fund parks improvements and enhancements, and land acquisition for parks and open space. The \$2.0 million for the Land Acquisition and Open Space programs is expected to fund strategic park acquisitions based on the Public Spaces Master Plan or other parks related needs. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

2010 Bond Referenda

3. Community Infrastructure

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$18,065,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for County facilities, land acquisition and infrastructure?

EXPLANATION:

This proposal will provide funding for Board-approved Neighborhood Conservation projects. The Neighborhood Conservation Program provides funding for a variety of neighborhood-identified capital improvement projects including street improvements (sidewalk, curb and gutter, drainage, paving), traffic management and pedestrian enhancements, park improvements, street lighting, recreational facilities, landscaping, and beautification.

This proposal will also provide funding for the County's facilities needs including facilities, infrastructure, land acquisition and facilities maintenance capital. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.

2010 Bond Referenda

4. Arlington Public Schools

QUESTION: Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$102,888,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the costs of various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools?

EXPLANATION:

This proposal would make funds available for the Arlington Public Schools' ongoing capital improvement program. This funding would be a primary part of the next major phase of the Schools' multi-year capital program initiatives.

The Schools' capital proposal was developed after a review of the physical conditions at school facilities, an analysis of existing and future facility needs and project affordability. The 2010 bond will fund the design and construction for the replacement of Wakefield High School, and various School facility projects as approved by the School Board. The School Board may reallocate bond funds among the various projects to the extent necessary or desirable.