



Bonds would fund wide variety of projects

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This is the final week to request that an early ballot be sent to your home instead of going to the polls for Glendale's May 15 special bond election.

For those voting the old-fashioned way, the polling sites will be open around the city on May 15.

A third option is early voting.

Through May 11, voters can cast a ballot at the City Clerk's Office on the fourth floor of City Hall, 5850 W. Glendale Ave., or at any of three Maricopa County offices, at 111 S. Third Ave. and 510 S. Third Ave., Phoenix, or 222 East Javelina, Mesa.

The city is asking voters to authorize \$270 million in general obligation bonds.

Cities use municipal bonding much like homeowners get a mortgage. The bonds fund projects with at least a 10-year lifespan that typically cost more than \$50,000.

The repayment, from revenue streams like property taxes and development impact fees, is made over time.

City bookkeepers say approval would not increase the property tax rate. They say it boils down to timing.

Approval of the bonds would not mean the city immediately spends the full amount. Rather, projects would be spread over five years in a planned way that requires City Council approval and allows the city to maintain an agreed-upon tax rate.

The city is expected to lower the tax rate this year by 10 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

The bond requests are broken into five categories and voters can vote each up or down.

The projects within each category are outlined in the city's capital improvement plan. While the money is earmarked for certain projects, those projects are subject to reshuffling each year during budgetmaking.

Following is a list of the proposed projects:

Street construction

- Petition lighting program, \$767, 640 from 2007 to 2016. This project installs additional street lighting in areas

that have been determined to be inadequate.

- Street scallop, \$9.5 million from 2007 to 2016. A program to widen collector streets to city standards in areas where sections remain unimproved. Includes curb, gutter, sidewalk and street lighting.
- Street beautification, \$4.5 million from 2007 to 2016. Installation of streetscape and aesthetic improvements along various streets throughout the city in accordance with the Arterial Street Landscape Program.
- Downtown parking structure, \$16.4 million from 2007 to 2016. Build a downtown parking structure that promotes redevelopment.

Highway User Revenue Fees (HURF)

- 67th Avenue, \$5.3 million from 2007 to 2009. Widen 67th Avenue to four lanes with a continuous left turn lane from Cactus Road to ACDC. Project will include curb, gutter, sidewalk, street lighting, underground utility conversion and landscaping.
- 91st Avenue, \$1.7 million from 2006 to 2007. Widen 91st Avenue from Camelback to Maryland.
- 59th Avenue, \$759,121 from 2006 to 2007. Street improvements on 59th Avenue between Olive and Mountain View Road. Construction to be partially funded with federal funds (\$917,500).
- 83rd Avenue, \$2.7 million from 2008 to 2010. Street improvements on 83rd Avenue from Glendale to Northern avenues.
- 99th Avenue, \$6.4 million from 2008 to 2010. Street improvements on 99th Avenue from Camelback to Northern.

Parks and Recreation

- Park redevelopment, \$20 million from 2007 to 2016. Renovate older parks over the next 10 years per Parks and Recreation Commission and staff recommendation. Renovations include ramadas, turf, irrigation, playgrounds, sport courts and ball field, security lighting and landscaping.
- 63rd Avenue and Northern Park development, \$2.7 million from 2007 to 2016. Community park includes playground, restroom, ramada, open turf area, parking, landscaping and meandering concrete path. Phase II includes parking expansion, looped concrete pathway/trail, native grass, landscaping and low flow crossing.

- Park enhancements, \$7.3 million from 2008 to 2016. Improve existing park sites.
- Facilities renovation, \$7 million from 2008 to 2016. Restore existing sport courts, fields, parking, restrooms and park facilities.
- Thunderbird Park, \$2.5 million from 2008 to 2016. Enhance Thunderbird Conservation Park.
- Apollo pool, \$253,823 in 2008. Re-plaster pool and restore deck.
- Historic Sahuaro Ranch Park improvements, \$4.8 million from 2008 to 2016. Renovate aging infrastructure and add new amenities.
- 79th Avenue and Orangewood, \$755,837 in 2008. Develop a neighborhood/school joint use park to serve one-mile radius as per Glendale Elementary School District and Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Barnyard additions, \$317,902 in 2008. Complete a farm implement building, tractor/vehicle maintenance shed and additional restrooms. The facility will be used for housing museum collections and staging special events.
- West area pool, \$9.8 million from 2008 to 2016. Build a new aquatic center to accommodate growth in the western section of the city.
- Historic Sahuaro Ranch Visitor Center, \$978,700 from 2007 to 2009. Construct a 5,000-square-foot visitors center.
- Western Area Regional Park, \$7.6 million from 2009 to 2016. Develop, in phases, an 88-acre regional park and municipal campus.

Public Safety

- Fire station relocation, \$5 million from 2006 to 2007. Design, construction and furniture, fixtures and equipment to move existing Fire Station 151 out of the residential neighborhood at 55th Ave. and Orangewood. Vacated building would be used for fire department equipment repair and storage.
- Hazardous materials vehicle, \$675,000 in 2009. Replace 13-year-old support vehicle.

- Communication equipment, \$808,000 in 2007. Purchase 800MHz portable and mobile radios for the Phoenix Regional Wireless Network.
- New Fire Station Construction, \$9.6 million from 2012 to 2016. Land purchase, site development, design, construction and furniture, fixtures and equipment for a new 16,000-square-foot, four-bay fire station with firefighter quarters for 18 personnel, office space and storage.
- Microwave Network, \$7 million from 2012 to 2016. Implement regional data base systems, network system, dispatch, police records management system (crime reports), booking, property/evidence tracking.
- 911 System Upgrades, \$200,000 from 2012 to 2016. Replace and upgrade the current 911 telephone system and equipment for the public safety answering point. This would include global positioning system for pinpoint locations.
- Police Digital Communications System, \$7.2 million from 2007 to 2016. Digital radio system enhancements, hardware and software.
- Upgrades to Police Digital Communications System, \$21 million from 2012 to 2016. Replace digital voice communications system that is used by all city departments. This project will allow the city to own an antenna site and protect it from any future issues with rental or lease agreements. It will also provide revenue.
- Fingerprint Identification System, \$500,000 from 2012 to 2016. Upgrade the fingerprint identification system making it available at the various substations. This tool has been invaluable in solving cases and it will need to be replaced or updated every six years.
- City Court Building, \$29.4 million from 2007 to 2009. The proposed new court facility is needed to meet service demands as the court caseload continues its steady growth, requiring additional facilities and staff.
- Information and Imaging Systems, \$500,000 from 2012 to 2016. Replace obsolete digital system utilized for crime scene documentation. Image reporting would enhance the current web site to allow police reporting, communications and query capability.
- EOD Total Containment Vessel, \$300,000 from 2012 to 2016. Explosive disposal equipment will be utilized in all critical incidents. This equipment allows on site disposal of explosive ordinance and other weapons of mass destruction.

- PS Security Upgrades, \$2.7 million from 2012 to 2016. A review at police stations revealed a need to increase security at all of the police stations.
- Tactical vehicles/events van, \$1 million from 2012 to 2016. Purchase two rescue/response vehicles and one events van. The rapid response vehicles will be used for civil disorder and tactical response. The vehicles will allow for the rapid deployment of personnel to these situations.
- Police air unit, \$6.7 million from 2012 to 2016. Provides aerial surveillance, command and control, suspect apprehensions, and homeland security utilizing both fixed wing and helicopter aircraft. Construction of aircraft hangar and staff quarters.
- Portable radios, \$200,000 in 2007. Buy additional portable radios and batteries available for critical events and interoperability capabilities with other jurisdictions.
- Engine pumpers, \$1.5 million from 2012 to 2016. Replace two pumpers.
- Engine pumpers, \$1.5 million from 2012 to 2016. Replace two more pumpers.
- New police station, \$11.9 million from 2012 to 2016. Build a substation along the Loop 303 corridor to address growth within the strip-annexation area Phase 1 and 2 of the Loop 303 corridor.
- Communication van, \$2 million from 2012 to 2016. Replacement funds for interoperability command van purchased in Fiscal Year 2004. This van is utilized as a mobile emergency operation center, backup communications center and as a forward mobile command center.
- Fire Department command van, \$962,347 from 2012 to 2016. Purchase and equip a mobile command van for fire operations.
- Fire administration relocation, \$13.6 million from 2007 to 2016. Land acquisition in fiscal year 2010 and build a facility to relocate fire administration into a larger facility.
- Fire engine pumpers, \$1.5 million from 2012 to 2016. Replace two fire engine pumpers.
- Fire ladder truck, \$1.4 million from 2012 to 2016. Replace one ladder truck.

- Fire ladder truck and tender, \$2.7 million from 2012 to 2016. Add a fully equipped ladder truck and ladder tender vehicle to the fleet to cover western Glendale.
- Replace two fire engine pumpers, \$1.5 million from 2012 to 2016.
- Police Department facilities expansion, \$7.6 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Jail expansion, \$6 million from 2007 to 2016.
- DNA and firearms lab, \$1.2 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Family Help and Advocacy Center, \$6 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Parking for specialized vehicles, \$3.8 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Rehabilitation of two substations, \$1.5 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Vehicles, \$2.4 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Rehabilitation of fire stations, \$2.5 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Additional fire station, \$10.5 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Support services area, \$2.5 million from 2007 to 2016.
- Airport protection, \$1 million before 2007 to 2016.

Economic development

- Downtown land purchases, \$21 million from 2009 to 2016. Purchase land in the downtown area that can be used to provide assistance to different types of businesses and establishments to locate in the downtown redevelopment area.

- Redevelopment land purchases, \$25 million from 2012 to 2016. Buy land to promote quality development and redevelopment citywide. This includes older and underperforming properties that could be acquired, sites prepared and redeveloped with private sector partners, generating revenues for the city.
- Business park infrastructure, \$20 million from 2012 to 2016. Purchase, development and infrastructure costs to build business and commercial parks as sites for relocation of industrial users from downtown and other incompatible areas. Includes assistance with relocation costs and feasibility studies.
- Auto dealer retention and relocation, \$20 million from 2012 to 2016. Includes costs of appraisals, site characteristics studies, acquisition of properties, surplus site preparation and business relocation costs to encourage auto dealers to move to new auto mall location in the city.

Flood Control

- Bethany Home outfall channel, \$11.8 million from 2007 to 2010. Design and construct drainage channel improvements in the Bethany Home Road Alignment from 99th to 83rd avenues and adjacent to the Grand Canal from 83rd to 67th avenues.
- 67th Avenue, \$4.4 million from 2007 to 2009. Construct a storm drain on 67th Avenue from Peoria Avenue to ACDC. Construction costs of the storm drain to be shared by the County Flood Control District (\$1.5 million).
- 59th Avenue, \$759,121 from 2006 to 2007. Construct a storm drain on 59th Avenue from Olive to Brown.
- Storm Water Master Plan, \$1.2 million from 2012 to 2016. Citywide stormwater master plan will determine adequacy of existing facilities and prioritize new facilities.
- Collector Drains, \$4.7 million from 2007 to 2016. Construct storm drain improvements on collector streets or to mitigate drainage and flooding problems.
- AZDES Permit, \$1.7 million from 2007 to 2016. Conform to Arizona Department of Environmental Quality permit requirements.
- Northern Drain , \$5.1 million from 200t to 2007. Construct a storm drain in Northern Avenue from the basin at 63rd Avenue to about 45th Avenue.
- Bethany Home Road, \$8.6 million from 2008 to 2010. Construct a storm drain on Bethany Home Road from 75th

Avenue to 67th Avenue. Construction costs to be shared with county (\$2,620,000).

- Bethany Home Road, \$11.9 million from 2009 to 2016. Construct a storm drain on Bethany Home Road from 67th to 58th Avenue. Construction costs to be shared with county (\$2,225,000).

Reach the reporter at (602) 444-6934.