



Travis County Bond Election - November 3, 2015

Ballot Language:

TRAVIS COUNTY BOND PROPOSITION

The issuance of \$287,275,000 of bonds for the purpose of constructing, improving and equipping civil and family courts facilities and the levying of the tax in payment thereof

EXPLANATION OF THE BALLOT LANGUAGE

By the League of Women Voters Austin Area

The conversation about the need for a new Courthouse has been going on for 10 years. The existing Courthouse was built in 1931 and has become overcrowded, and has many of the problems of a building 84 years old. The existing building was originally constructed to include three courtrooms (and at the time, a jail). It now houses two county civil courts, two probate courts, Justice of the Peace Court, thirteen districts courts and two district clerks.

As planned, the proposed Courthouse will accommodate contemporary demands of the judicial system and will have the flexibility to adjust the space for courtrooms or services for families and children. The design includes 14 floors of courtrooms, offices, and flexible retail space as well as a below-ground parking lot with more than 500 spaces.

Travis County will issue municipal bonds to pay for the Courthouse project. A municipal bond is a debt security issued by a state, municipality or county to finance its capital expenditures. The debt is paid by the County's taxpayers. Travis County estimates the increase in property taxes to the taxpayer for this County bond will be approximately \$38 a year for the median-value-home (\$360,000).

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The Spanish version of the entire Voters Guide is also at www.lwvaustin.org.