

Build Our Future **BA GO BOND** Aug 28

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1. What is a General Obligation Bond?

A General Obligation bond, or GO Bond, is a common financing tool local and state governments use to fund certain projects – usually large capital improvements like roads, bridges, flood control, parks and public buildings.

In Oklahoma, the property tax received by the City, also known as ad valorem tax, is used to pay the interest and principal on GO Bonds. GO Bonds must be approved by a vote of the people.

2. How were the projects selected?

City leaders used internal reports and data, feedback from residents received at four public meetings, and the results of the 2017 Citizen’s Survey to compare to a running list of capital needs. Projects were selected based on various factors, such as priority; comments from citizens, business leaders and Councilmembers; availability of funding and desire to improve tourism and attract out-of-towners to shop, dine and spend time in our wonderful City.

3. Will this raise my taxes?

No. The GO Bonds being voted on in August will replace GO Bonds that have been paid off. The City’s levy is anticipated to remain at 16.46 mils.

4. When is the election?

August 28, 2018 is the election date.

5. Where do I vote?

You will vote in the precinct assigned to you by the election board. To locate your precinct, view sample ballots, update your voter registration or complete an absentee ballot, contact the Tulsa County Election Board. If you are a Broken Arrow citizen living in Wagoner County, contact the Wagoner County Election Board.

6. If I don’t live within the Broken Arrow city limits, but I’m within the fenceline, can I vote?

Only residents who live within the city limits are eligible to vote.

7. Will I approve the entire bond with a single vote?

There will be six separate propositions you will need to approve. Each proposition will require you to vote either for or against the proposition.

- Proposition No. 1 – Transportation
- Proposition No. 2 – Public Safety
- Proposition No. 3 – Parks and Recreation
- Proposition No. 4 – Public Facilities
- Proposition No. 5 – Stormwater
- Proposition No. 6 – Drainage

8. If some propositions are passed and others are not, how will that affect the bond program as a whole?

The city can only proceed with what the voters approve. It is not anticipated that the failure of one proposition will have any effect on the projects in another proposition.

9. Why are the stormwater and drainage proposals separate?

Some of the proposed drainage projects could potentially require work to be completed on private property. State law restricts the use of public funding on private property. In order to apply the bond money to these projects, Proposition No. 6 for drainage must pass with 60% approval or higher.

10. Why does the Jail need renovations?

Two things have caused this need: growth in jail population and age. The Jail was opened in 2004 with a maximum occupancy of 22, 14 male, 8 female. Due to changes in state laws, some crimes are now handled on the municipal level, which has increased our average daily population. Also, we do not have a full kitchen so meals are currently being microwaved, one at a time, which is inefficient in both time and cost.

11. Why do we need new fire stations?

Fire Station No. 7 is nearly 50 years old. It was not designed to accommodate modern firefighting apparatus (fire engines) and other equipment and has developed maintenance issues. Station 7 will be relocated to Washington and 1st Place. The location of the proposed Fire Station in the north part of town will be determined by Fire Department response times.

12. Why is turf needed on sports fields?

Synthetic turf will reduce the time and money invested in maintaining a portion of our athletic fields. Additionally, turf allows year-round use without risking prolonged damage to natural grass fields in the dormant winter months or hot and dry summer months. Additionally, turf fields may be used even during wet conditions, allowing for more play time throughout the year.

13. Why should we pay for Battle Creek's irrigation system?

Battle Creek Golf Club is owned by the City of Broken Arrow. Over 37,000 golfers played Battle Creek in 2017. It attracts numerous visitors to our City every year and not just golfers. Battle Creek also has a ballroom that regularly holds events such as weddings and company parties. The irrigation system is beginning to fall into disrepair and must be upgraded so we can continue to keep Battle Creek an attractive offering for golfers and event planners.

14. When was the last substantial bond program in Broken Arrow?

Voters in 2014 approved a bond program that addressed critical infrastructure needs. Many of those projects are completed or currently underway. Broken Arrow typically does a bond issue every three to four years. The city has not had a bond issue of this magnitude before.

15. How do I know bond projects are actually being completed from prior bond programs?

The city keeps an up-to-date list of projects on its website that shows the status of the different bond projects. Visit www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/BOND.

16. How will the bond program affect the City's debt levels?

This program will increase the amount of outstanding debt, although the millage rate to pay the debt service should remain the same.

17. What if there is money left over after the recommended projects are completed?

The State constitution allows for any excess funds to be spent on other projects with the same purpose as the original project, i.e. excess funds from a street project may be spent on another street project.

18. Why does the City issue bonds to pay for these projects rather than pay for the projects with cash?

The issuance of general obligation bonds allows for projects to be completed in the near term as opposed to an unspecified time in the future when cash financing might be available. The state constitution allows for the use of property taxes to pay for the principal and interest on general obligation bonds and judgments which is the only use of property tax revenues for the City of Broken Arrow.

19. How will the projects be prioritized?

The city will first look at how much can be issued each year. Next, it will look at project and initiative priorities, which will be streets and public safety. Finally, city officials will plan our funding for projects that take multiple years.

20. If the 2018 bond packages are approved in August, when will the projects be completed?

The City will sell the bonds over a 10-year period, which will ensure the City's levy remains at 16.46 mils and does not affect property rates. As a result, we anticipate the entire package will take approximately 12 years to complete.