

**2018 ARLINGTON BALLOT MEASURES  
WITH PROPOSED ARLINGTON DEMOCRATS POSITION**

**A. 2018 ARLINGTON COUNTY BOND REFERENDA**

**1. Metro and Transportation**

**QUESTION:** Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$74,570,000 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 will fund a variety of transportation, road, pedestrian enhancement and transit projects across the County. The largest components of this proposal are expected to be \$44 million for Arlington County's share of WMATA / Metro's capital improvement program, and \$21 million to fund a portion of the costs for paving local streets and roadways. Proceeds of this proposal are expected to fund the Boundary Channel Drive Interchange, bridge maintenance and renovation, street lights, East Falls Church Streets, Neighborhood Complete Streets, parking meters, transportation asset management, transportation systems & traffic signals, traffic calming device replacement, WALKArlington, BikeArlington, intelligent transportation system device replacement, Curb & Gutter Missing Links, and other similar projects. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among other transportation projects within the County's Capital Improvement Plan, as amended from time to time, to the extent necessary or desirable.

**ARLDEMS POSITION:** Vote yes. Arlington Democrats support the County's efforts to enhance multi-modal transit as part of its ten-year Capital Improvement Plan.

**2. Local Parks and Recreation**

**QUESTION:** Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$30,330,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation?

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal will fund a variety of parks and recreation projects, the largest expected to be \$16 million for Jennie Dean Park. Proceeds of this proposal are also expected to fund the Trail Modernization program, Rosslyn Highlands Park, land acquisition, and playgrounds, fields, courts, and other parks infrastructure improvements. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among other parks and recreation projects within the County's Capital Improvement Plan, as amended from time to time, to the extent necessary or desirable.

**ARLDEMS POSITION:** Vote yes. Arlington Democrats support the County's efforts to improve our parks and recreation spaces across Arlington.

**3. Community Infrastructure**

**QUESTION:** Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$36,015,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for County facilities and other County infrastructure?

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal will fund a variety of County infrastructure projects. The largest components of this proposal are expected to be \$14 million for the construction of Fire Station 8, and \$8 million for facilities maintenance capital improvements, including design and construction of projects including but not limited to roofs, electrical and heating / cooling systems and other facilities infrastructure in County libraries, community and recreation centers, and in other County buildings. Proceeds of this proposal are also expected to fund the Nauck Town Square, assessments, renovations & improvements to government facilities, Neighborhood Conservation projects, and other County infrastructure 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. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among other County and community infrastructure projects within the County's Capital Improvement Plan, as amended from time to time, to the extent necessary or desirable.

**ARLDEMS POSITION:** Vote yes. Arlington Democrats support enhancement of critical public safety infrastructure, such as Fire Station 8, as well as development of community infrastructure within the County's Capital Improvement Plan, such as Nauck Town Square.

#### 4. Arlington Public Schools

**QUESTION:** Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$103,000,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools?

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal will make funds available for the Arlington Public Schools' Capital Improvement Program, including the following projects:

- new elementary school at Reed site (\$44,250,000).
- renovation at Career Center for Arlington Tech (\$6,000,000).
- Planning and design of Career Center project; project elements to be planned include the field and parking garage (\$5,900,000) with planning and design of the 800-seat addition and performing arts facility coming in later years.
- renovation at Education Center to add 600 new high school seats (\$32,250,000).
- other infrastructure capital projects such as HVAC, roofing, etc. (\$14,600,000). The School Board may reallocate bond funds among other school projects within the School Board's Capital Improvement Plan, as amended from time to time, to the extent necessary or desirable.

**ARLDEMS POSITION:** Vote yes. Arlington Democrats support our schools and recognize our County's critical need to increase school capacity.

#### B. 2018 VIRGINIA PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

##### 1. Create Property Tax Exemption for Flood Abatement Measures

**QUESTION:** Should a county, city, or town be authorized to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if flooding resiliency improvements have been made on the property?

**EXPLANATION:** The Virginia Constitution authorizes local governments to provide homeowners with exemptions for real estate that has undergone renovation, rehabilitation, or replacement in specific areas. The amendment would authorize (but not require) local governments to provide a new partial property tax exemption for real estate subject to recurrent flooding that has been improved to abate or mitigate flooding or to become more resilient against flooding. Sponsored by Sen. Lynwood Lewis (D-Eastern Shore), this measure was approved to appear on the ballot by the General Assembly with broad bipartisan support. If this amendment is approved, Arlington County then would need to determine through a separate process whether to provide the authorized tax exemption to Arlington homeowners.

**ARLDEMS POSITION:** Vote yes. Arlington Democrats recognize the growing threat of extreme weather caused by climate change. This measure will give local governments the discretion to use a useful public policy tool for encouraging property owners to make their property more resilient to flooding where appropriate.

##### 2. Remove Residence Restriction on Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Disabled Veteran

**QUESTION:** Shall the real property tax exemption for a primary residence that is currently provided to the surviving spouses of veterans who had a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be amended to allow the surviving spouse to move to a different primary residence and still claim the exemption?

**EXPLANATION:** The Virginia Constitution currently requires the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the principal place of residence of any veteran who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. This tax exemption is also provided to the surviving spouse of such a veteran, so long as the surviving spouse continues to occupy that property as the surviving spouse's principal place of residence. The proposed amendment would allow the surviving spouse of such a veteran to continue to claim the tax exemption currently provided, even if the surviving spouse moves to a new principal place of residence that is owned by the surviving spouse. Sponsored by Rep. Jason S. Miyares (R-Virginia Beach), this measure was unanimously approved to appear on the ballot by the General Assembly.

**ARLDEMS POSITION:** Vote yes. Arlington Democrats support our veterans and their families, regardless of where they choose to live in the Commonwealth.