

Metroplex Elections: November 2019



★ T E X A S ★

October 2019

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Key Points

- Voters will consider an assortment of different propositions in the upcoming November elections.
- The bond propositions could allocate funds to a wide range of different areas, including schools, transportation, city facilities, and more.
- Excluding constitutional amendments and candidate elections, 30 separate questions involving public money will be pitched to all Metroplex voters.

On November 5th, 2019, Texas voters residing in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex will consider many different ballot questions taking a variety of forms—from bond propositions to tax ratification elections to the allocation of local sales tax revenue and more. Excluding constitutional amendments and candidate elections, a total of 30 separate ballot questions will be answered by all Metroplex-area voters.



DALLAS COUNTY

[*\(Review Sample Ballot\)*](#)

Town of Addison

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$22,300,000 general obligation bonds for Keller Springs Road and Airport Parkway street improvements and the levying of a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Addison city officials to add \$22.3 million in new debt for the purposes of reconstructing and improving Keller Springs Road and Airport Parkway, replacing traffic signals, installing medians and sidewalks, and more.

PROPOSITION B

"The issuance of \$33,602,000 general obligation bonds for Quorum Drive and Montfort Drive street improvements and the levying of a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. B allows Addison city officials to add \$33.6 million in new debt for the purposes of reconstructing and improving Quorum and Montfort Drive, replacing traffic signals, acquiring and installing medians and sidewalks, and more.

PROPOSITION C

"The issuance of \$6,723,000 general obligation bonds for park, open space and recreation facilities improvements and the levy of a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. C allows Addison city officials to add \$6.7 million in new debt to pay for parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, including improvements for the athletic club, the pond, a variety of trails, and more.

PROPOSITION D

"The issuance of \$7,395,000 general obligation bonds for improving and equipping existing Town service, public safety, conference and administrative facilities, and the levying of a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. D allows Addison city officials to add \$7.4 million in new debt to make improvements to existing municipal buildings, including addressing ADA compliance concerns, replacing roofs and HVAC systems, and remodeling the police gun range's air filtration system.

PROPOSITION E

"The issuance of \$600,000 general obligation bonds for traffic control systems and facilities, and the levying of a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. E allows Addison city officials to add \$600,000 in new debt to make improvements to the traffic control systems.

What to Know

- The city of Addison's new debt propositions total a combined **\$70,620,000**.
- The city's existing debt is significant. According to the [Texas Bond Review Board](#), its local debt service outstanding¹ totaled **\$113,183,660** in fiscal year 2018.
- In 2012, voters approved **\$32.5 million** in bonds for improvements of streets and a parking garage. As of 2019, approximately **\$26 million** of the 2012 approved bonds remain unissued.
- According to the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#), the city of Addison had the highest amount of tax-supported debt outstanding compared to its similarly sized peers, both in aggregate terms as well as on a per capita basis.

How Addison Compares

Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding for Cities of Similar Size, as of August 31, 2017

City Name	Tax Supported Debt Outstanding	Tax Supported Debt Outstanding Per Capita	Population
Humble	\$4,675,000	\$292	15,997
Live Oak	\$18,345,000	\$1,160	15,820
Groves	\$8,340,000	\$529	15,769
West University Place	\$45,420,000	\$2,910	15,608
Addison	\$91,100,000	\$5,893	15,458
Crowley	\$25,315,000	\$1,645	15,389
Canyon	\$17,460,000	\$1,141	15,306
Lakeway	\$34,590,000	\$2,283	15,154
Mineral Wells	\$0	\$0	14,962
Jacksonville	\$7,710,000	\$517	14,910

Source: Texas Bond Review Board, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: The table includes Addison and nine cities with closest population numbers based on 2017 U.S. Census Bureau population data. Tax-supported debt does not include revenue debt and lease-purchase obligations. For cities with municipal gas and/or electric utilities, regional airports, or other capital assets not common to cities generally, Tax-Supported Outstanding Debt may include debt for infrastructure that in other cities is carried by private enterprises, a public facility corporation or not at all.

¹ According to the Texas Bond Review Board, debt service outstanding is defined as "The amount that is required to cover the repayment of principal and interest on a debt for a particular period."

City of Coppel

PROPOSITION A

"The reauthorization for a four (4) year period of the local sales and use tax in Coppel at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets or sidewalks."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Coppel city officials to continue collecting one-fourth of one percent of the local sales and use tax for street maintenance and repairs.

WHAT TO KNOW

- In 2007, [Coppel voters authorized](#) the collection of this portion of the sales and use tax for street maintenance. In 2015, voters reauthorized the city to continue collecting this tax.
- If voters reauthorize the dedication of this funding source, then the local sales tax rate will not increase. However, neither will it decrease.
- In response to the question [How much sales tax am I paying?](#) Coppel city officials offer the following answer: "Consider a household with an average income equivalent to **\$120,000** with taxable purchases roughly equaling **\$19,200**. At the [current] sales tax rate of **8.25%**, approximately **\$1,200** would go to the State of Texas and **\$384** would go to the City of Coppel. Of that \$384, **\$192** would go for general city operations, **\$96** would go for parks, **\$48** would go to the street maintenance program with the final **\$48** going to the crime control and prevention district."

Town of Sunnyvale

PROPOSITION A

"Termination of the Sunnyvale 4A Development Corporation (Type A) and its associated sales tax; and the adoption of a local sales and use tax in the Town of Sunnyvale at a rate of one and one-half (1.5) percent. This would result in no net change in the total sales tax rate."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Sunnyvale city officials to dissolve the 4A economic development corporation and redirect the associated sales tax revenue to its General Fund.

What to Know

- Sunnyvale has two economic development corporations: 4A and 4B. Only 10 percent of cities have both.
- In 2014, Sunnyvale voted to allocate 50 percent of 4A funds to street maintenance, but that election terminated earlier this year. Currently, the half cent goes to 4A for the purpose of economic development projects.
- According to the city, voter approval of Prop. A would not result in a change to the sales tax rate.

Sunnyvale Independent School District Tax Ratification

PROPOSITION A

"Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.45 per \$100 valuation in Sunnyvale Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 6.11 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$758,480."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A would allow ISD officials to set the total tax rate at \$1.45 per \$100 of value, which is the maximum allowed by state law. The maintenance & operations (M&O) tax rate would be set to \$1.0359 while the Interest & Sinking (I&S) tax rate would be \$0.4141.

What to Know

- The 86th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3 which compressed ISD tax rates by an average of 7 to 8 cents. By law, Sunnyvale ISD's M&O tax rate must be lowered from **\$1.04** to **\$0.97** this year.

- Under Prop. A, the district's net M&O tax rate would only slightly lower from **\$1.04** to **\$1.0359**. The I&S rate is expected to decrease from **\$0.48** to **\$0.4141**.
- If approved by voters, the total tax rate under Prop. A would be lowered from **\$1.52** to **\$1.45**. However, the savings would primarily result from a reduced I&S rate.
- While a taxpayer would not see an increase in their tax bill in the immediate future, there is the potential for higher taxes if the school district chooses to utilize its newly realized bonding capacity in the future.



TARRANT COUNTY

([Review Sample Ballot](#))

Aledo Independent School District

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$149,950,000 of bonds by the Aledo Independent School District for the construction, renovation, acquisition and equipment of school facilities in the District, including the acquisition of land therefor and the acquisition of school buses and levying the tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Aledo ISD officials to add \$150 million in new debt for improvements to and construction of school campuses, new land for future campuses, and school buses.

What to Know:

- Aledo ISD's [local debt service outstanding](#) stood at **\$301,448,653** in fiscal year 2018.
- In 2015, voters approved two bond propositions totaling an issuance of **\$53,200,000** for a new elementary school, transportation, renovations, and school safety and security.
- In 2014, voters denied a bond proposition seeking **\$61,500,000** for school construction. In 2017, voters also denied two bond propositions totaling **\$73,660,000** for school additions, renovations, and a new school.
- According to the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#), Aledo ISD had the highest amount of tax-supported debt outstanding compared to its similarly sized peers, both in aggregate terms as well as on a per capita basis.

How Aledo ISD Compares

Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding for School Districts of Similar Size, as of August 31, 2017

District Name	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding per Student	Enrollment
Plainview ISD	\$0	\$0	5,603
Mercedes ISD	\$55,350,000	\$9,995	5,538
Marshall ISD	\$85,265,000	\$15,525	5,492
Royce City ISD	\$95,540,502	\$17,485	5,464
Aledo ISD	\$175,427,122	\$32,229	5,443
Dayton ISD	\$91,480,000	\$16,931	5,403
Greenville ISD	\$78,450,000	\$14,636	5,360
Mount Pleasant ISD	\$51,887,656	\$9,737	5,329
Edcouch-Elsa ISD	\$36,239,110	\$6,812	5,320
Joshua ISD	\$107,865,000	\$20,325	5,307

Source: Texas Bond Review Board, Texas Education Agency
 Note: The table includes Aledo ISD and nine ISDs with closest enrollment numbers based on 2016-2017 TEA enrollment data. Total tax-supported debt includes both voter approved and maintenance and operations tax-supported debt. It does not include revenue debt or lease-purchase obligations. Enrollment figures are 2016-2017 Texas Education Agency estimates. The state provides funding for debt service to some school districts; thus, debt outstanding per student may not be indicative of relative school district debt service tax burdens.

Arlington Independent School District

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$966,000,000 of bonds by Arlington Independent School District for the acquisition, construction and equipment of school buildings and the purchase of school sites and school buses and levying the tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Arlington ISD officials to add \$966 million in new debt to fund projects in four areas, including facilities; fine arts; transportation; and safety, security, and technology.

What to Know:

- Arlington ISD's [local debt service outstanding](#) stood at **\$1.2 billion** in fiscal year 2018.
- From the 2007-08 school year to the 2016-17 school year, Arlington ISD lost student enrollment (-0.6 percent) while the statewide average grew (+13.1 percent).
- In 2014, voters approved another bond that totaled **\$663,100,000**. Prop A. seeks to build on the district's 2014 bond. Of the approved funds in the 2014 bond, **\$127,515,000** remain unissued.
- From the years 2008-09 to 2016-17, tax-supported debt per student changed by +101 percent.
- According to the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#), Arlington ISD's tax-supported debt outstanding is relatively average compared to its similarly sized peers.

Azle Independent School District

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$79,820,000 of Bonds by the Azle Independent School District and levying the Tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Azle ISD officials to add \$79.8 million in new debt to fund additions and improvements to Azle High School and Liberty Elementary, as well as a new multipurpose stadium and a new field house.

What to Know

- Azle ISD's [local debt service outstanding](#) stood at **\$142.5 million** in fiscal year 2018.
- Between the years 2008-09 to 2016-17, tax-supported debt per student changed by +182 percent.
- From 2007-08 to 2016-17, Azle ISD's student enrollment grew slower than the statewide average: +10 percent vs. +13.1 percent.
- Voters have approved two previous bond proposals: in 2013 for a total of **\$20 million** to fund school building improvements and in 2016 for **\$59.5 million** to fund new schools and renovations.
- According to the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#), Azle ISD's tax-supported debt outstanding is relatively average compared to its similarly sized peers.

How Arlington ISD Compares

Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding for School Districts of Similar Size, as of August 31, 2017

District Name	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding per Student	Enrollment
Aldine ISD	\$949,180,000	\$13,604	69,768
North East ISD	\$1,259,930,000	\$18,657	67,531
Arlington ISD	\$841,237,139	\$13,528	62,181
Conroe ISD	\$1,136,590,000	\$19,017	59,764
El Paso ISD	\$526,939,318	\$8,867	59,424
Garland ISD	\$564,701,425	\$9,884	57,133
Pasadena ISD	\$689,705,000	\$12,254	56,282
Frisco ISD	\$1,884,538,851	\$33,698	55,923
Plano ISD	\$923,705,000	\$17,051	54,173
Lewisville ISD	\$1,213,922,216	\$22,793	53,257

Source: Texas Bond Review Board, Texas Education Agency
 Note: The table includes Arlington ISD and nine ISDs with closest enrollment numbers based on 2016-2017 TEA enrollment data. Total tax-supported debt includes both voter approved and maintenance and operations tax-supported debt. It does not include revenue debt or lease-purchase obligations. Enrollment figures are 2016-2017 Texas Education Agency estimates. The state provides funding for debt service to some school districts; thus, debt outstanding per student may not be indicative of relative school district debt service tax burdens.

How Azle ISD Compares

Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding for School Districts of Similar Size, as of August 31, 2017

District Name	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding per Student	Enrollment
White Settlement ISD	\$159,469,424	\$23,461	6,797
Cleburne ISD	\$137,251,081	\$20,261	6,774
Roma ISD	\$76,530,000	\$11,682	6,551
Nacogdoches ISD	\$35,735,000	\$5,599	6,382
Azle ISD	\$85,390,000	\$13,457	6,345
Friendswood ISD	\$94,265,000	\$15,486	6,087
Canutillo ISD	\$102,350,000	\$16,878	6,064
Dripping Springs ISD	\$186,279,999	\$31,005	6,008
Crosby ISD	\$143,494,986	\$23,947	5,992
Lubbock-Cooper ISD	\$204,288,986	\$34,224	5,969

Source: Texas Bond Review Board, Texas Education Agency
 Note: The table includes Azle ISD and nine ISDs with closest enrollment numbers based on 2016-2017 TEA enrollment data. Total tax-supported debt includes both voter approved and maintenance and operations tax-supported debt. It does not include revenue debt or lease-purchase obligations. Enrollment figures are 2016-2017 Texas Education Agency estimates. The state provides funding for debt service to some school districts; thus, debt outstanding per student may not be indicative of relative school district debt service tax burdens.

Everman Independent School District

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$40,000,000 of bonds by Everman Independent School District for the acquisition, construction and equipment of school buildings. Taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds will be imposed."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A proposes the issuance of \$40 million to fund the building of and improvements to classrooms throughout the district.

What to Know

- Everman ISD's [local debt service outstanding](#) stood at **\$125.3 million** in fiscal year 2018.
- From 2007-08 to 2016-17, Everman ISD's student enrollment grew faster than the statewide average: +24.1 percent vs. +13.1 percent.
- Prop A. would fund projects to build additional classrooms in at least three schools with a possible fourth school.
- Everman ISD states that approval of the bond [will not result in a tax rate increase](#).
- According to the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#), Everman ISD's tax-supported debt outstanding ranks near the bottom compared to its similarly sized peers.

How Everman ISD Compares

Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding for School Districts of Similar Size, as of August 31, 2017

District Name	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding per Student	Enrollment
Canutillo ISD	\$102,350,000	\$16,878	6,064
Dripping Springs ISD	\$186,279,999	\$31,005	6,008
Crosby ISD	\$143,494,986	\$23,947	5,992
Lubbock-Cooper ISD	\$204,288,986	\$34,224	5,969
Everman ISD	\$87,875,000	\$14,921	5,889
Ennis ISD	\$124,045,588	\$21,179	5,857
Corsicana ISD	\$91,669,542	\$15,821	5,794
Red Oak ISD	\$101,126,490	\$17,590	5,749
Flour Bluff ISD	\$48,185,000	\$8,387	5,745
Southside ISD	\$97,970,000	\$17,148	5,713

Source: Texas Bond Review Board, Texas Education Agency
 Note: The table includes Everman ISD and nine ISDs with closest enrollment numbers based on 2016-2017 TEA enrollment data. Total tax-supported debt includes both voter approved and maintenance and operations tax-supported debt. It does not include revenue debt or lease-purchase obligations. Enrollment figures are 2016-2017 Texas Education Agency estimates. The state provides funding for debt service to some school districts; thus, debt outstanding per student may not be indicative of relative school district debt service tax burdens.

Flower Mound

PROPOSITION A

"The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the Town of Flower Mound, Texas at the rate of one-quarter (1/4) of one percent (1%) to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A reauthorizes the dedication of the sales and use tax to street maintenance for improvements to Flower Mound roadways.

What to Know:

- Currently, the town of Flower Mound has [two types of outstanding debt](#): tax-supported debt totaling **\$155,885,000** and revenue-supported debt totaling **\$16,000,000**.
- In 2007, voters approved the [one-fourth of one cent of sales tax](#) to be allocated for parks and recreation, street maintenance, crime control, and fire control. The one-quarter dedication to street maintenance, crime control, and fire control needs periodic reauthorization. The street maintenance-dedicated sales tax was reauthorized by voters in 2011 and 2015.

Karis Municipal Management District

PROPOSITION B

"The issuance of \$115,995,000 bonds and the levy of taxes in payment of such bonds for water, sanitary sewer, drainage and storm sewer improvements."

Plain Language Description: Prop. B allows Karis MMD officials to add nearly \$116 million in new debt to fund improvements to water and sewer systems.

PROPOSITION C

"The issuance of \$112,665,000 bonds and the levy of taxes in payment of such bonds for road improvements."

Plain Language Description: Prop. C allows Karis MMD officials to add nearly \$113 million in new debt for road improvements.

PROPOSITION D

"The issuance of \$115,995,000 bonds for the refunding of water, sanitary sewer, drainage and storm sewer bonds and the levy of taxes in payment of such refunding bonds."

Plain Language Description: Prop. D authorizes Karis MMD officials to issue nearly \$116 million in bonds for water and wastewater systems.

PROPOSITION E

"The issuance of \$112,665,000 bonds for the refunding of road bonds and the levy of taxes in payment of such refunding bonds."

Plain Language Description: Prop. E authorizes Karis MMD officials to issue nearly \$113 million in bonds for road-related purposes.

PROPOSITION F

"Operation and maintenance tax at an unlimited rate."

Plain Language Description: Prop. F would allow the district to levy an operation and maintenance tax at an unknown amount.

WHAT TO KNOW:

- [Karis Municipal Management District](#) is located within the city of Crowley, Texas. It was established by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in February 2019.

- Municipal management districts typically serve as a financing mechanism for commercial, residential, or entertainment development. They have the ability to levy taxes within their territory and finance improvements or services through issuing bonds.

City of Keller

PROPOSITION B

"The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Keller, Texas at the rate of one fourth of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. The tax expires on the fourth anniversary of the date of this election unless the imposition of the tax is reauthorized."

Plain Language Description: If approved, Prop. A would reauthorize a one-quarter cent street maintenance sales tax.

What to Know

- [The city of Keller estimates](#) that, if approved, the one-quarter sales tax allocation could generate approximately **\$1.67 million** for street maintenance in fiscal year 2020.
- Approval of Prop A. will not result in a sales tax rate increase nor a decrease. The dedication of the sales tax will be for a four-year term.

Keller Independent School District

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$315,000,000 of bonds by the Keller Independent School District for the acquisition, construction, renovation and equipment of school facilities in the District and levying the tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Keller ISD officials to add \$315 million in new debt to fund 11 districtwide projects.

What to Know

- Keller ISD's [local debt service outstanding](#) stood at more than **\$1 billion** in fiscal year 2018.
- From 2007-08 to 2016-17, Keller ISD's student enrollment grew faster than the statewide average: +18.1 percent vs. +13.1 percent.
- The bond proposal includes 11 districtwide projects, including upgrades to safety and security, technology, mechanical and life safety, special education classrooms, as well as community crisis counseling suites, indoor extracurricular facilities, replacement of multiple roads, renovations at two middle schools, and a new Industrial Trades and Agriscience Center.
- Voters approved a bond proposition in 2014 for **\$169 million** to fund new schools and renovations.
- According to the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#), Keller ISD's tax-supported debt outstanding ranks near the top compared to its similarly sized peers.

How Keller ISD Compares

Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding for School Districts of Similar Size, as of August 31, 2017

District Name	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding	Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding per Student	Enrollment
Leander ISD	\$992,698,034	\$25,969	38,226
Spring ISD	\$670,365,000	\$18,267	36,698
Spring Branch ISD	\$617,990,000	\$17,617	35,079
Irving ISD	\$447,255,000	\$12,855	34,792
Edinburg CISD	\$133,345,000	\$3,845	34,680
Keller ISD	\$706,960,916	\$20,397	34,660
Mansfield ISD	\$735,495,000	\$21,437	34,309
Amarillo ISD	\$168,425,000	\$5,022	33,537
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD	\$349,605,000	\$10,856	32,203
Ector County ISD	\$168,037,387	\$5,338	31,481

Source: Texas Bond Review Board, Texas Education Agency
 Note: The table includes Keller ISD and nine ISDs with closest enrollment numbers based on 2016-2017 TEA enrollment data. Total tax-supported debt includes both voter approved and maintenance and operations tax-supported debt. It does not include revenue debt or lease-purchase obligations. Enrollment figures are 2016-2017 Texas Education Agency estimates. The state provides funding for debt service to some school districts; thus, debt outstanding per student may not be indicative of relative school district debt service tax burdens.

Tarrant County College District (TCCD)

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$825 million bonds and notes for the purpose of constructing, improving, and renovating and equipping school buildings in the Tarrant County College District, and the levying of a debt tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows TCCD officials to add \$825 million in new debt to fund improvements and renovations at all of its six campuses.

What to Know

- It has been 25 years since the last bond election proposed by TCCD. In that time, TCCD has nearly doubled its annual enrollment and expanded to six campuses. Further, TCCD currently has no outstanding debt.
- If Prop A. is approved, it will not result in an increase of Tarrant County College's (TCC) property tax rate.
- The TCC system has specific projects outlined for the proposed funds, as well as a [descriptive presentation](#) outlining such projects.



COLLIN COUNTY

[\(Review Sample Ballot\)](#)

Collin County Municipal Utility District No. 2

PROPOSITION B

"The issuance of \$204,420,493 in bonds and the levy of ad valorem taxes in payment of the bonds (roads)."

Plain Language Description: Prop. B would allow Collin County MUD officials to issue nearly \$204.5 million to fund improvements of roads.

PROPOSITION C

"The issuance of \$306,630,740 in refunding bonds for road bonds and the levy of ad valorem taxes in payment of said refunding bonds."

Plain Language Description: Prop. C would allow Collin County MUD officials to issue \$306.6 million in refunding bonds for road projects.

What to Know

- The Collin County MUD was created by [House Bill 4672](#) passed in the regular session of the 86th Texas Legislature.

Frognot Special Utility District

PROPOSITION A

"The conversion of the Frognot Water Supply Corporation into the Frognot Special Utility District, the transfer of all assets, liabilities and the Water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity #10164 to the Frognot Special Utility District and the dissolution of Frognot Water Supply Corporation."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A would allow the Frognot Water Supply Corporation to transfer into a special utility district.

For more information on special utility districts, see the Texas Senate Research Center's [Invisible Government: Special Purpose Districts in Texas](#) (28).

Lowry Crossing

PROPOSITION A

"The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in Lowry Crossing at the rate of one-fourth (1/4) of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A allows Lowry Crossing officials to continue collecting one-fourth of one percent of the local sales and use tax for street maintenance and repairs.

Trails Of Blue Ridge

PROPOSITION A

"Adopting a road tax."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A would allow the adoption of a road tax.



DENTON COUNTY

[\(Review Sample Ballot\)](#)

City of Denton

PROPOSITION A

"The issuance of \$154,000,000 of public securities for Street Improvements, and levying a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. A will allocate funding for the construction, reconstruction, or extension of the transportation system, including streets, sidewalks, traffic signals, street lighting, and other transportation improvements.

PROPOSITION B

"The issuance of \$61,900,000 of public securities for Public Safety Facilities for Police Department, and levying a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. B will allocate funding for constructing, reconstructing, renovating, and improving public safety facilities for the police department including infrastructure, drainage, site improvements and the acquisition of land for such purposes.

PROPOSITION C

"The issuance of \$5,000,000 of public securities for Acquisition of Land for Parks, and levying a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Prop. C will allocate funding for the purchase of and interest in land for parks.

PROPOSITION D

"The issuance of \$619,000 of public securities for Public Art, and levying a tax in payment thereof."

Plain Language Description: Proposition D will allocate funding for increasing the display and use of artwork within the city.

What to Know

- The city of Denton's [local debt service outstanding](#) stood at \$1.35 billion in fiscal year 2018.
- Combined, these four propositions would add **\$221,519,000** in new debt.
- Currently, the city of Denton has a [tax-supported debt totaling \\$762,850,000](#) and a [revenue supported debt sitting at \\$214,890,000](#).
- In 2014, voters approved four bond propositions that totaled **\$98,175,000** to fund street improvements, public safety, drainage, and parks.
- According to the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](#), the city of Denton had the highest amount of tax-supported debt outstanding compared to its similarly sized peers, both in aggregate terms and on a per capita basis.

How Denton Compares**Tax-Supported Debt Outstanding for Cities of Similar Size, as of August 31, 2017**

City Name	Tax Supported Debt Outstanding	Tax Supported Debt Outstanding Per Capita	Population
Killeen	\$193,365,000	\$1,329	145,482
Mesquite	\$151,445,000	\$1,052	143,949
McAllen	\$91,005,000	\$638	142,696
Waco	\$380,895,000	\$2,792	136,436
Denton	\$762,850,000	\$5,598	136,268
Midland	\$128,220,000	\$942	136,089
Carrollton	\$170,030,000	\$1,253	135,710
Round Rock	\$199,655,000	\$1,614	123,678
Abilene	\$313,900,000	\$2,575	121,885
Pearland	\$322,045,000	\$2,685	119,940

Source: Texas Bond Review Board, U.S. Census Bureau
 Note: The table includes Denton and nine cities with closest population numbers based on 2017 U.S. Census Bureau population data. Tax-supported debt does not include revenue debt and lease-purchase obligations. For cities with municipal gas and/or electric utilities, regional airports, or other capital assets not common to cities generally, Tax-Supported Outstanding Debt may include debt for infrastructure that in other cities is carried by private enterprises, a public facility corporation or not at all.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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About Texas Public Policy Foundation

The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-partisan research institute. The Foundation promotes and defends liberty, personal responsibility, and free enterprise in Texas and the nation by educating and affecting policymakers and the Texas public policy debate with academically sound research and outreach.

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