Mental Health and Homelessness, Parks, and Streets Bond*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final Digest
On: Monday, July 20, 2020
Members: Packard, Anderson, Girardin, Patterson

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21

The Way It Is Now: The City provides a variety of projects and services, including:

- Mental health and homelessness programs;
- Parks, open spaces and recreational facilities; and
- Streets, curb ramps and plazas.

The Proposal: Proposition __ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to $487.5 million by issuing general obligation bonds.

Bond money could be spent as follows:

- $207 million on mental health and homelessness projects, including housing, shelters, community health, psychiatric and behavioral health facilities;
- $239 million on parks, open spaces and recreation facilities; and
- $41.5 million on improving streets, curb ramps and plazas.

Proposition ___ would require the Citizens’ General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to review how this bond money is spent.

If needed, Proposition ___ would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds. City policy is to limit the amount of money it borrows by issuing new bonds only as prior bonds are paid off. Landlords could pass through up to 50% of any resulting property tax increase to tenants.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue $487.5 million in general obligation bonds to fund mental health and homelessness projects, parks, open spaces and recreation facilities, as well as improvements to streets, curb ramps and plazas.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote “no,” you do not want the City to issue these bonds.

*Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.