

Georgetown to vote on bond proposals

\$87 million would pay for road construction and parks projects

By Bob Banta

AMERICAN STATESMAN STAFF

GEORGETOWN — An \$87 million bond package on the Nov. 4 ballot would pay for new roads, development of a large park west of the city and facility updates in existing parks.

The bond package has two propositions, one for \$44.2 million that would go toward road projects and the other for \$36.5 million that would go toward parks and recreation projects. The remaining money would cover the cost of issuing the bonds.

The largest item in Proposition 1 is \$13.2 mil-

lion for widening FM 971 from Austin Avenue to the Texas 130 tollway.

The biggest items in Proposition 2 are \$10 million for the development of Garey Park and \$10 million for San Gabriel Park renovations, including the addition of an amphitheater and festival area.

The Garey Park site is now a 525-acre ranch owned by Jack and Cammy Garey; they are donating the land to the city. The site is about six miles west of Georgetown on RM 2343 and borders the San Gabriel River. City officials plan to add camping areas, an equestrian arena, an amphitheater and hiking trails.

Mayor George Garver said he thinks the bond propositions will pass because surveys

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Georgetown bond package

Proposition 1: \$44.2 million for road projects

- \$13.2 million to widen FM 971 from Austin Avenue to Texas 130 tollway.
- \$6 million to build a southeast arterial from Maple Street to Southwestern Boulevard.
- \$2.5 million to study the routing of Texas 29.
- \$1.7 million to add lanes at the Williams Drive intersection with Inner Loop and O.B. Wood Road.
- \$7.4 million to widen FM 1460 from Quail Valley Drive to Inner Loop.
- \$9.5 million to widen FM 1460 from County Road 166 to Westinghouse Road.

- \$3.9 million to widen Berry Creek Drive from Airport Road to Texas 135.

Proposition 2: \$36.5 million for park projects

- \$10 million for Garey Park development.
- \$10 million for San Gabriel Park renovations, including an amphitheater and festival area.
- \$5 million for new hike-and-bike trails.
- \$4 million to buy land to preserve open space.
- \$5 million to buy and develop land west of Interstate 35 for a park and sports complex.
- \$2.5 million to remodel two small pools.

Source: City of Georgetown

BONDS: Ballot issues in line with residents' wishes, mayor says



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showed that residents think the improvements are needed to enhance the city.

"The issues on the ballot are a direct response to the requests of our residents," Garver said. "The No. 1 priority they've listed on polls is roads. Our residents have also sung the praises of our park system, and everyone seemed

especially grateful when the Gareys stepped forward with the fabulous gift to our city."

If both propositions pass, the city's property tax rate, now 35.62 cents per \$100 of assessed value, could rise 3 to 8 cents annually over a number of years, said Micki Rundell, the city's financial officer.

Rundell said the bonds would be sold in stages to try to keep the tax rate from rising more

than 3 cents in any fiscal year. The highest it could increase over the life of the bonds is 8 cents a year.

At the maximum increase of 8 cents, the tax bill on a \$200,000 home, valued at \$196,000 after exemptions, would be \$850.00, an increase of \$106; if 3 cents were added to the rate, the annual tax bill would be \$753.00, an increase of \$50.00.

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