

# IT'S NOT A BLANK CHECK

*A Plain-English Guide to What Proposition A Actually Authorizes*

**\$443 MILLION | PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES | NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

**The short version.** Proposition A asks Dallas voters to authorize up to \$443 million in general-obligation bonds for a defined public-safety capital purpose. The legal language does not authorize the money for unrelated City programs. It limits the bond purpose to planning, designing, constructing, improving, renovating, replacing and equipping public-safety facilities and improvements, including police, fire and emergency-services facilities, together with related land acquisition.

**An important qualification:** the ballot proposition itself is broader than a project-by-project appropriation sheet. It does not place a separate dollar cap beside each named project. So the best way to describe Proposition A is not that every dollar is pre-assigned in the ballot language, but that the \$443 million authorization is legally restricted to the stated public-safety capital purpose. The City's supporting materials identify the projects the program is intended to fund.

## 1. WHAT THE VOTER IS ACTUALLY AUTHORIZING

**A MAXIMUM BOND AUTHORIZATION OF \$443,000,000**

A YES vote authorizes the City to issue general-obligation debt, up to the amount stated in Proposition A, for the public-safety capital purposes described in the proposition. **It is authorization to borrow for those purposes, not permission to spend \$443 million on anything the City chooses.**

## 2. WHAT THE MONEY MAY BE USED FOR

The final City description of Proposition A identifies the authorized purpose as public-safety improvements and facilities. In practical terms, the proposition permits capital work such as:

| AUTHORIZED CAPITAL PURPOSE   | WHAT THAT MEANS                                                                        |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Planning and design          | Professional and technical work necessary to develop public-safety facility projects.  |
| Construction and replacement | Building new facilities and replacing facilities that no longer meet the City's needs. |
| Improvement and renovation   | Modernizing or improving qualifying public-safety facilities.                          |

|                          |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Equipment                | Equipping the public-safety facilities and improvements covered by the proposition. |
| Related land acquisition | Acquiring land connected to the authorized public-safety facility projects.         |

### 3. WHAT THE CITY SAYS THE PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO FUND

The City's August 2026 materials identify the major public-safety needs behind Proposition A. These supporting materials are important because they show voters what the City says it intends to accomplish with the bond authority.

#### **DPD LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FACILITY**

Funding to advance and complete the new law-enforcement training facility, including identified gap financing.

#### **DPD PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING COMPLEX**

A specialized training complex intended to expand modern public-safety training capacity, including needs associated with the current pistol range.

#### **911 / EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

Relocation and modernization of 911 and emergency operations to improve resiliency and continuity of emergency communications.

#### **POLICE PROPERTY / EVIDENCE**

Relocation or replacement of the police property-room function, addressing significant facility and capacity concerns.

#### **FIRE STATION NO. 4**

Replacement of the downtown station identified by Dallas Fire-Rescue as its highest-priority station for modernization.

## 4. WHAT PROPOSITION A DOES NOT SAY

Understanding the limits of the ballot language is just as important as understanding what it authorizes. The proposition itself does not function as a detailed construction contract or final project budget.

**It does not authorize unrelated operating expenses.** The stated purpose is capital investment in public-safety improvements and facilities.

**It does not authorize an unlimited amount.** The bond authorization is capped at \$443 million.

**It does not contain a separate ballot-level budget for each project.** The project descriptions and allocations come from the City's supporting program materials, not from separate dollar caps written into the proposition.

**It does not guarantee that every project will cost exactly what is currently estimated.** Design, procurement, construction conditions and Council actions can affect implementation within the legal authorization.

**It does not remove public oversight after the election.** Bond authorization is the beginning of implementation. Contracts, project actions, debt issuance and expenditures remain subject to applicable City processes and law.

## 5. WHY 'IT'S NOT A BLANK CHECK' IS A FAIR ARGUMENT, WITH A CAVEAT

**THE PURPOSE IS RESTRICTED. THE IMPLEMENTATION STILL DESERVES OVERSIGHT.**

Calling Proposition A a blank check would suggest that voter approval gives the City unrestricted authority to use \$443 million for whatever purpose it chooses. That is not what the proposition says. The authorization is tied to a defined public-safety capital purpose.

But voters should also understand the other side of the statement. The ballot language provides flexibility within that authorized purpose. It is not a line-item contract that locks every individual project to a fixed dollar amount on Election Day. That flexibility is normal for a capital bond authorization, but it is also why continued public oversight matters.

## 6. THE QUESTIONS AN INFORMED VOTER SHOULD ASK

- Are the conditions the City has identified real, documented and serious enough to justify capital investment?
- Do the proposed projects directly mitigate those conditions and the risks they create?
- Are the current project estimates reasonable, and what contingencies are included?
- What alternatives were evaluated before replacement, relocation or new construction was selected?
- How will Dallas report project budgets, contracts, schedule changes and cost overruns to the public?
- If a project changes materially after voter approval, how will the City explain that change?
- What is the cost of continuing to operate with the existing training, evidence, 911/EOC and fire-station limitations?

## 7. THE PLAIN-ENGLISH BOTTOM LINE

**PROPOSITION A IS A PURPOSE-RESTRICTED CAPITAL AUTHORIZATION, NOT AN UNRESTRICTED POT OF MONEY.**

Dallas voters are being asked to decide whether the City may issue up to \$443 million in general-obligation bonds for specified public-safety capital purposes. The City has identified police training, specialized training, police property/evidence, 911 and emergency operations, and Fire Station No. 4 among the key needs behind that request.

A responsible voter can support those purposes and still demand strict oversight. In fact, those positions belong together. The question is not whether voters should stop asking questions after approving a bond. The question is whether the documented risks justify the authorization, and then whether City leadership delivers the projects responsibly.

**KNOW WHAT IT AUTHORIZES. KNOW WHAT IT DOESN'T. THEN DECIDE.**

### SOURCE NOTE

This guide is based on City of Dallas legislative file 26-2590A, approved as amended on August 12, 2026, and the City's August 11-12, 2026 public materials describing Proposition A. The City describes Proposition A as authorizing \$443,000,000 in general-obligation bonds for public-safety improvements and facilities, including police, fire and emergency-services improvements and facilities and related land acquisition. The legislative background also identifies the principal public-safety projects and needs associated with the program.

**Official City of Dallas legislation:** File 26-2590A, City Secretary's Office, August 12, 2026.

**City public information:** August 12, 2026 correction regarding the November 3, 2026 bond election and Proposition A.

#### **Dallas Built for Tomorrow**

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