

Report of the Reinvestment in Facilities and Assets Working Group  
To the 2018 Bond Election Task Force

November 16, 2017

The six members of the “facilities” working group have met frequently with the professional staffs of several departments of the City of Austin. Many times the working group has conducted follow-up meetings with the same staffs in order to gain a better understanding of the scope and the specifics of needed City assets proposed for funding by the prospective 2018 Bond Election. There has been an exhaustive review, conducted with the able help and assistance of Ms. Katy Zamesnik and Ms. Carla Steffen.

The working group has on frequent occasions observed that too often, anticipatable operating costs or maintenance costs are requested for inclusion in bond funding. The working group observes that it is imprudent to borrow funds over long periods of time to fund such expenses, and that care should be continually exercised to avoid including short-time assets in bond issues.

The working group acknowledges that the needs of the City in many, many areas far exceed the ability of the citizens to fund and underwrite their accomplishment. Nonetheless, it is the responsibility of the working group, the task force and the City Council to attempt to provide recommendations to achieve the greatest affordable asset accumulation possible.

In recognition of the recent significant City bond election, those for the AISD and Travis County, the working group sought to recommend a total which would likely minimize the need for a tax rate increase while meeting the most critical reinvestment needs.

Accordingly, the working group proposes the following for task force consideration:

Parks & Recreation Department	\$79 million
EMS	25 million
Austin Fire Department	13 million
Austin Public Libraries	10 million
Austin Public Health	<u>5 million</u>
Total recommendation	\$132 million

Respectfully submitted,



H. Ken Rigsbee