

DALLAS CITIZENS COUNCIL

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SPRING
2008

DISD bond election set for May 10

Proposed funds would provide extensive improvements for all schools



If approved, the DISD bond package will improve the district's infrastructure by building, renovating and adding space to school facilities.

The Dallas Independent School District (DISD) Board of Trustees has called an election for Saturday, May 10, asking Dallas voters to approve a proposed \$1.35 billion bond program. The campaign, chaired by former Dallas Mayor and DCC member **Ron Kirk**, was developed by a task force composed of individuals appointed by each DISD Trustee, representatives from the major chambers of commerce, and six principals chosen to represent DISD elementary, middle and high schools. The task force studied issues related to the district's facilities for nearly a year, reviewing extensive demographic and facilities studies to identify student population and enrollment trends.

"Great cities have great schools," said **John Scovell**, DCC chairman and point person for the campaign. "This bond election is critical to accomplishing Dallas' goal to become

one of the best urban school districts in the country."

The bonds will provide extensive improvements for all 228 schools in the district as well as build new schools and additions and perform renovations. If approved, the funds will be used to:

- Construct 15 new schools (8 elementary, 4 middle and 3 high schools)
- Build new additions in 12 existing schools, creating 177 classrooms
- Build a total of 911 classrooms – 177 in the new additions, 633 in new schools and 101 replacement classrooms
- Earmark \$521 million for renovations in more than 200 schools
- Build 19 new science labs at 6 existing secondary schools
- Refurbish the district's regional sports complexes

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Business community pushes for regional rail financing options

North Texas counties must work together to achieve seamless transit

Finding a way to expand rail service throughout the North Texas region has been a focus of the Citizens Council for several years. Recently, a subcommittee of the Regional Transportation Council of the Council on Governments has been studying options for funding that expansion. Business and civic leaders, including DCC transportation point person **Walter Humann** and member **Philip Ritter**, are helping drive the dialogue, which is expected to result in a process whereby each county provides its own system to secure the funds necessary to move forward.

For the past several years, local elected officials have been attempting to develop a master plan for a regional commuter rail system in North Texas. That plan would, over time, expand into nine counties within the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Creating an integrated, seamless transit system to connect these counties will provide significant benefits to businesses and residents of the region.

Initial discussions about funding for the system generated a

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— John Scovell,
Chairman,
Dallas Citizens
Council

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by John Field Scovell



When **Tom Leppert** took office as mayor nearly a year ago, we were optimistic that a new day had dawned at City

Hall; a day that would welcome businesses from across our city into full partnership with our city government.

A fellow CEO and former member of the Dallas Citizens Council, Mayor Leppert promised a new era of collaboration and accountability and – like any good businessman – he’s kept his word. In his short tenure, the atmosphere at City Hall has become cordial and constructive. Meetings start on time and progress happens quickly.

Many of Mayor Leppert’s new initiatives to improve the city rely heavily on involving the business community. The Mayor’s Intern Fellows program will give high-achieving, primarily low-income high school students a window into the working world through paid internships provided by some of our city’s largest companies. Opening these teenagers’ minds to the job possibilities in Dallas will help motivate and inspire them, and will benefit Dallas businesses in the long term by creating a diverse, educated workforce.

This program, along with the others in Mayor Leppert’s education plan, is in place thanks to the partnership between public and private interests. Citizens Council member and school board president **Jack Lowe** is an integral part of improving DISD, and AT&T, with DCC member **Holly Reed** at the helm, helped spearhead this effort as the project’s lead sponsor.

The DCC is committed to working hand in hand with City leadership to effect positive change in our community. We’ve begun reaching out to City Council members to discuss long-range water planning, and that is just the beginning.

It’s a new day at City Hall, and we look forward to participating. Thank you, Mayor, for opening that door. When all committed citizens – business executives, community volunteers, nonprofit leaders, government officials – work together toward a common goal, we can make great strides. The future of Dallas is a team sport.

Very truly yours, and go team!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Scovell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chairman, Dallas Citizens Council

“The DCC is committed to working hand in hand with City leadership to effect positive change in our community.”

— John Scovell,
Chairman,
Dallas Citizens
Council

Citizens Council weighs in on long-range water policy

DCC investigates why Dallas uses more water resources than other cities

Concerned that North Texas will not have adequate water resources to sustain our region in the future, Citizens Council Issues Analysis Committee Chairman **Henry C. (Peter) Beck III** and point person **Schuyler Marshall** have identified four long-range recommendations to the City of Dallas that will ensure an adequate water supply.

“If we are to sustain our growth and quality of life, we must be prudent about the use of our resources,” said Mr. Beck. “As we seek additional capacity, we must adopt better water conservation practices.”

Currently, Dallas uses more water than other Texas cities of similar sizes – nearly 100 gallons more per capita daily. The Citizens Council commissioned a private engineer to study Dallas’ excessive water usage and determine why it is so far above that of peer cities.

Water usage falls into three

categories: residential, commercial and “other.” Commercial usage is slightly higher than that of peer cities, but that can be explained by the higher volume of commercial activity in Dallas.

Residential usage is in line with or, in some cases, below that of other cities.

Where water consumption rates skyrocket is in the “other” category. City officials point to three main culprits: leaks, inaccuracies in meter readings and theft. Years of deferred maintenance have made leaks an increasing problem.

“Our charge as a business community is to take a long-term view on issues that will have an impact on Dallas,” said Mr. Marshall. “We have always supported the development and conservation of water resources, and will continue to do so. Our recommendations directly address needed improvement in the ‘other’ category and the efficient use of maintenance and capex dollars.”



Recommendations to ensure adequate long-range water supply

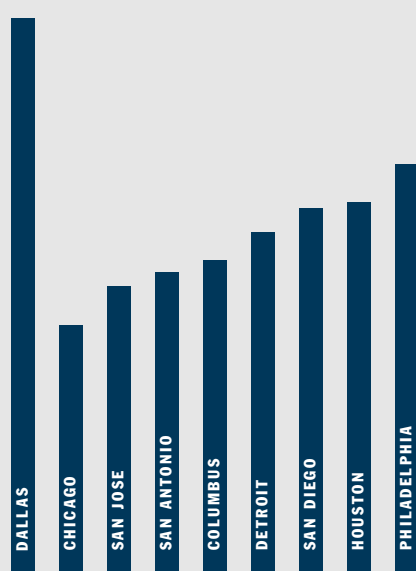
1. Increase the investment in maintenance as it relates to water usage, thus contributing to a reduction in consumption.
2. Expand conservation efforts and continue to implement the current water conservation strategic plan.
3. Focus capital spending on projects that ensure that average water volumes are consumed during drought periods rather than peak periods.
4. Invest in programming that integrates real-time data on leaks, backlogs, repairs and replacements and as an aid to proactive management.

WATER USE IN COMPARABLE CITIES

Dallas per capita daily water use
238 gallons

Other cities of similar size

Chicago	94 gal
San Jose	136 gal
San Antonio	140 gal
Columbus	142 gal
Detroit	155 gal
San Diego	161 gal
Houston	164 gal
Philadelphia	177 gal



“OUR CHARGE AS A BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS TO TAKE A LONG-TERM VIEW ON ISSUES THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON DALLAS.”

— SCHUYLER MARSHALL,
WATER RESOURCES
POINT PERSON, DALLAS
CITIZENS COUNCIL

“If we are to sustain our growth and quality of life, we must be prudent about the use of our resources.”

— Henry C. (Peter) Beck III, Dallas Citizens Council Issues Analysis Committee Chairman

Regional rail financing *(Continued from front page)*



The nine North Texas counties seeking inclusion in a regional rail solution must find ways to pay for the project.

variety of options, but after substantial analysis of suggested alternatives, the decision was made to pursue an increase in the sales tax. During the last session of the Legislature, opposition arose from various corners of the business community and no enabling legislation was approved.

Representatives of major businesses strongly urged local government officials to reexamine funding options and the RTC agreed to spearhead the effort. A subcommittee of the RTC was created, chaired by Fort Worth City Council member **Jungus Jordan** and vice-chaired by Dallas City Council member **Linda Koop**. The two spent several months studying the effort to look at a wide range of options for funding a regional rail system. At press time, the subcommittee members were studying several options. No decisions had been made.

It is expected that deliberations will be completed and a master financing strategy will be in place by late spring. Since many of the options being considered will require legislative action, it is imperative that the region be united as we go into the next session if we are to be successful in funding the development of the regional rail initiative.

DALLAS CITIZENS COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

The Dallas Citizens Council is composed of the leadership of the greater Dallas metropolitan area's most prominent business firms, specifically including the area's most prominent minority-owned and women-owned firms. Its purpose is to promote a favorable business climate for Dallas and a good quality of life for all Dallas citizens, with the conviction that each requires the other over the long term.

In order to accomplish this purpose, the Dallas Citizens Council shall:

- ★ Work in harmony with government and other community interests in the resolution of common concerns, being careful not to duplicate the efforts of existing organizations;
- ★ Keep its members informed about important local issues so that they can take appropriate actions individually and collectively, and;
- ★ Focus its efforts on a limited number of critical issues upon which it can have a significant positive impact, rather than attempt to deal with all local issues.

The essential strengths that the Dallas Citizens Council membership brings to its task are leadership, management skills, community credibility, diversity, access to technical and human resources and the ability to marshal these resources for the benefit of the community. The Dallas Citizens Council seeks to accomplish its goals through an active board of directors and active members working individually and in committees.

DISD bond election

(Continued from front page)

"THE CHALLENGE FOR THIS BOND CAMPAIGN IS TO GET OUT THE VOTE. FUNDING EFFORTS TO MOTIVATE AND REMIND VOTERS SHOULD BE A PRIORITY FOR DCC MEMBERSHIP."

**— DONNA HALSTEAD,
PRESIDENT, DALLAS
CITIZENS COUNCIL**

- Renovate kitchens at 16 schools and expand lunchrooms at 22 campuses

Supporters can visit

OurStudentsOurFuture.com and help the effort by donating to the campaign, endorsing the effort, requesting a yard sign, volunteering to be a yard sign pickup location, or signing up to host a speaker at their company or organization.

Early voting begins Monday, April 28, and continues through Tuesday, May 6. The campaign website lists early voting locations as well as polling places for the election on Saturday, May 10.

On the RADAR SCREEN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 28

**DISD Bond Election
Early Voting Begins**

MAY 10

DISD Bond Election

LEARN MORE

OurStudentsOurFuture.com