

City of Fort Lauderdale to hold Special Election on March 12 for New Public Safety Complex, Parks Improvements, and Charter Changes

On Tuesday, March 12, voters will have an opportunity to participate in a Special Election to shape the future of our City. This is a non-partisan election, open only to registered voters in the City of Fort Lauderdale. To register to vote, please visit the Broward County Supervisor of Elections' website at www.browardsoe.org.

Two bond proposals will appear on the March 12 ballot. If approved, a public safety bond would allocate up to \$100 million to construct a new police headquarters while maintaining and enhancing the outstanding level of service provided by our Fort Lauderdale Police Department. A parks bond would allocate up to \$200 million for citywide improvements to our parks and recreation facilities.

The public safety bond would enable us to replace the current police headquarters, which was built in 1958 when the police department and our City were both significantly smaller. The 85,000 square-foot building is over 60 years old, functionally obsolete, and parts of it are in deteriorating condition. The new facility would offer 225,000 square feet and provide expanded work space and integrated state-of-the-art technology to a department, which has grown to 525 sworn officers and 727 sworn and non-sworn personnel.

The station would be constructed on its existing land with energy and operationally efficient features, along with hurricane resistant materials and building techniques to better serve the public safety needs of our City, which is expected to grow to over 203,000 in the next decade. The complex would also include a parking garage and additional training rooms, public meeting areas, and community space where residents and officers could work together on crime prevention and safety initiatives.

The parks bond would enable Fort Lauderdale to make significant citywide investments in our parks system to strengthen resiliency, address sea level rise, combat flooding, and mitigate the effects of climate change. Nearly every park in our City would see upgrades and enhancements such as new playgrounds, walking trails, pools and splash pads, boat slips and ramps, outdoor fitness equipment, athletic courts and fields, lighting, solar panels and shade structures, pavilions, restrooms, ADA improvements and even new dog parks.

Funding from the parks bond would also be used for land acquisition to expand our green space and help us continue to promote active, healthy lifestyles, increase leisure and social engagement, and enhance quality of life.

A portion of the parks bond would fund signature projects in each Commission District including constructing Tunnel Top Park in District 4 atop the northern portion of the Kinney Tunnel above Federal Highway; rehabilitating Lockhart Stadium and developing the surrounding property in District 1; adding a water playground, tennis courts; sand volleyball courts, and a parking garage

to Holiday Park in District 2; and building a new community center and other enhancements at Joseph C. Carter Park in District 3.

If approved, the bonds would bring more than \$300 million in much-needed public safety and parks and recreation improvements to our City, strengthen our economic viability and livability, and enhance our stature as a great place to visit and an even better place to call home.

Additionally, a proposal to update our City's Charter will appear on the March 12 ballot. The Charter Amendments, if approved, would move our City's elections from March to November, beginning in 2020, to align with Presidential election years. Primary elections would be eliminated and the terms of the Mayor and Commissioners would be increased from three years to four years. These changes would bring our City in line with the majority of municipalities in Broward County.

Keep an eye out for future updates and ways that you can participate in the process. In addition, please be aware of the following important dates related to the Special Election. Voter registration for the March 12 Special Election closes on February 11. To register to vote, visit the Broward County Supervisor of Elections' website at www.browardsoe.org or call (954) 357-7050. If you prefer to vote by mail, you may request a vote-by-mail ballot from the Broward County Supervisor of Elections. The request may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or online. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is March 6. For more information, visit www.browardsoe.org or call the Broward County Supervisor of Elections Office at (954) 357-7050.

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