

Early Voting for Bond Election Begins Oct. 13

North Richland Hills voters will decide if the city should issue \$49.875 million in bonds for street construction projects including Glenview Drive, Iron Horse Boulevard, Chapman Road, Bedford-Eules Road, Lariat Trail and others. Early voting will take place October 13 – 30 and Election Day is November 3. The bond election was originally scheduled for May, but postponed to November because of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). If voters approve the proposition, it's projected that property owners won't see a tax rate increase to pay for the bonds as the city continues to pay down its debt.

Twenty-seven North Richland Hills streets will be reconstructed if the bond proposition passes. A map and list of the street projects can be viewed at www.nrhtx.com/2020bond. Combined, they total 24.7 lane miles and carry more than 73,000 cars per day. All of the projects included in the bond proposal were recommended by a citizen committee.

The last bond election for street improvements was in 2003. With street improvements identified as a top priority in recent citizen surveys, the City Council appointed the 2020 Capital Program Advisory Committee last fall to review and prioritize street infrastructure needs. The committee included 35 residents from across North Richland Hills who met from October through February. The committee considered several factors when prioritizing and recommending the street projects including existing pavement conditions, traffic volumes, maintenance records, input from citizens surveys and estimated costs. While there are additional streets in need of reconstruction, the committee limited its recommendation to what the city can afford without increasing the property tax rate.

The recommendation was presented to the City Council on January 27 and the City Council called for a May bond election at its February 10 meeting. Because of the pandemic, in March Gov. Abbott suspended sections of the Election Code to allow May 2020 elections to be moved to November 2020.

The city pays cash for capital improvements whenever possible; however, more costly improvement projects are financed with bonds which allows the projects to be completed sooner. The bonds are repaid over time with property taxes and require voter approval. Good credit ratings (AA+ from Standards & Poor's and Aa2 from Moody's) allow the city to pay lower interest rates on bonds.

For more information about the Nov. 3 bond election including a sample ballot, map of proposed projects and FAQs, visit www.nrhtx.com/2020bond.

City Council, Other Elected Offices

The following North Richland Hills City Council candidates will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot as unopposed candidates declared elected: Oscar Trevino, Mayor; Rita Wright Oujesky, Council Place 2; Mason Orr, Council Place 4; and Scott Turnage, Council Place 6. Voters will also elect county, state and federal officials on Nov. 3. Sample ballots will be available at access.tarrantcounty.com/elections.

Voting Information

If you are not already registered to vote in North Richland Hills, the deadline to register for this election is Oct. 5. Governor Abbott has extended the early voting period for the November election by nearly one week to allow Texans greater flexibility to cast their ballots, while at the same time protecting themselves and others from COVID-19.

Early Voting Hours:

- Oct. 13 - 17, Tuesday - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 19 - 23, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 24, Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Oct. 25, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Oct. 26 - 30, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early Voting Locations:

NRH registered voters can vote at the early voting location in North Richland Hills or any early voting location in Tarrant County. For a complete list of early voting locations, please visit access.tarrantcounty.com/elections.

- Dan Echols Center, 6801 Glenview Dr. in NRH
- Other Tarrant County locations

Election Day:

On Tuesday, Nov. 3 polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters do not have to use a designated polling location based on precinct number. Voters may go to any polling location in Tarrant County. A list of polling locations will be available prior to election day at access.tarrantcounty.com/elections. Questions may be directed to the city at 817-427-6060 or the Tarrant County Elections Office at 817-831-8683.

Census Bureau Continues Non-response Follow-up

Still need to complete your 2020 Census? Do it today at my2020census.gov or 1-844-330-2020 to avoid a visit from a census taker. Through the end of September, census takers will continue visiting homes that haven't yet responded to the 2020 Census. Census workers will wear masks and follow social distancing protocols. If no one is home when a census taker visits, they will leave a notice about how to respond online, by phone or by mail.

If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure they have an ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. A census taker is not required to have a solicitors permit from the city. If you have questions about their identity, call the Dallas Regional Census Center at 972-510-1800.

Census workers will occasionally follow up with households over the phone to ask questions about your responses to the 2020 Census. A census caller will only review responses that you provided on your census form. They will not ask for financial information or Social Security numbers. If you receive a call and are asked for such information, do not provide it and report the call to the Census Bureau. To report suspected fraud or if you think you received a call from the Census Bureau and want to confirm the legitimacy of it, call 844-809-7717 to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

Good Neighbor Tip of Month: Keep Property Free of Junk

North Richland Hills strives to be a community where all residents can enjoy the highest quality of life within safe and attractive neighborhoods. The city prohibits old furniture, appliances, car parts, tires, tree limbs, scrap metal, building materials and other discarded items from being stored in your yard or driveway. It is not only unattractive, it can become a breeding ground for insects and rodents and a safety hazard. Please be a good neighbor and keep your property free of junk.

Many bulky items can also be placed curbside for regular bi-weekly pickup with your normal trash collection. For more details, visit www.nrhtx.com/garbage and click on acceptable garbage. Each NRH household can also make two free trips to the landfill per year. A voucher must be presented to the landfill attendant along with your driver's license. The voucher can be obtained at www.nrhtx.com/landfill or at the Water Department at City Hall, 4301 City Point Drive. Please contact Code Compliance at 817-427-6663 with any questions.

Upcoming Event

Mid-Cities Teen Book Fest Returns (Virtually) to NRH Library For 5th Year

We're excited to announce the Texas State Library & Archives Commission recently awarded funding to the North Richland Hills Library for the Mid-Cities Teen Book Fest under its Texas Reads grant program. To ensure a safe environment for all of our authors and readers, the book fest will be entirely virtual this year. Additionally, to make it easier for our local educators, the festival will now be held during regular school hours, on **Friday, October 16**.

At the Mid-Cities Teen Book Fest, teens have the opportunity to meet Young Adult authors and hear them speak about their books and a variety of topics. The Mid-Cities Teen Book Fest is an excellent opportunity for teens to build connections with other teens and authors while learning about the writing process and increasing awareness of cultural diversity. Stay tuned to the NRH Library at www.library.nrhtx.com or [facebook.com/NRHLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/NRHLibrary) for more announcements coming soon!

This program is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and Texas State Library and Archives Commission (LS-246193-OLS-20).

New Business Spotlight

Alamo Precision Rifles, LLC

4537 City Point Drive, Ste. B, 817-284-0034
www.aprifles.com

Kwik Phone Repair

6630 Rufe Snow Dr., 972-972-0128
www.kwikphonerepair.com

Love Is Officiants

7109 Boulevard 26, Ste., 4, 817-665-6388
www.loveisceremonies.com

Motion Is Medicine

7500 Davis Blvd., Ste. 200, 817-900-3539
www.motionismedicinedfw.com

Spine MD

7500 Davis Blvd., Ste. 100, 817-893-6001
www.myspinemd.com

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