



Drexel Heights Fire District

Bond Issue Election Information

Our Mission

To minimize the threat to life and property due to fire, medical or other emergencies through education, prevention, preparedness, prompt response and effective customer service

The Drexel Heights Fire District

The men and women of the Drexel Heights Fire District provide service to certain unincorporated areas on the southwest side of Tucson. The District currently operates from five fire stations and was established in 1954. The District provides fire protection and paramedic emergency medical transport from our 5 stations, ready for the next emergency, 24 hours a day. Currently, the District employs 81 Firefighters, Officers and Paramedics. In addition to fire protection and emergency medical transport, our personnel are trained to respond to hazardous materials and technical rescue incidents. Our employees provide a host of community programs including CPR & first aid classes, senior citizen safety academies and babysitter classes.

Why is the District holding a bond issue election?

The District's Governing Board considered various methods of funding the needed capital improvements and chose issuing bonds as the best option. Bonding capital improvements is the most cost effective financing for use of taxpayer funds.

The District pursues and regularly is awarded grants at the county, state and federal level. Those grants fund programs such as our public education programs, child and senior safety programs and some equipment replacement. At this point, there are no grant programs available for the projects included in the bond election.

When is the bond election?

This November election will take place by mail only. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters on October 11, 2017. This election option was selected by other participants in this election due to the limited number of other issues to be included on the election ballot and cost.

How would the District use the funds generated by issuing bonds?

The District's Governing Board determined that the District requires capital improvements in the District. The improvements include: Replacement of Fire Station 401 (Camino Verde) which includes the administrative offices and training classrooms; remodel and upgrade of Fire Station 402 (Mark Road); and replacement of two pumper engines.

How much will this cost property owners?

Current estimates indicate that the cost to each property owner would be about \$0.34 per \$100 of assessed value or about \$30.00 per year for an average home in the District. That cost will be phased in with bonds sold only when funds are required and will decrease over the life of the bonds as the debt is reduced annually. All bonds must be paid off in 20 or less years.

What Proposition Number will show up on the ballot for the Drexel Heights' Bond?

Proposition 459.

The Ballot Question:

Shall Drexel Heights Fire District of Pima County, Arizona, be authorized to issue and sell bonds of the District in the principal amount of not to exceed \$8,000,000, bearing interest at a rate of not to exceed seven percent (7.00%) per annum and extending for a term not exceeding twenty (20) years and use the proceeds of such bonds to enlarge, remodel, demolish and reconstruct existing fire stations; construct a new administration center; acquire firefighting apparatus; acquire furnishings and equipment for fire stations and to pay all costs in connection with the issuance and sale of Bonds?

How do I know the money raised by the bonds will be used properly?

Arizona law requires the District to identify what the bond funds will be used for in the ballot proposition. The District is required to comply with the ballot information. As with other District projects and spending, the District provides complete updates on spending and project status at our monthly Governing Board meetings. All funds are held by the Pima County Treasurer and expenditures are subject to the Treasurer’s review.

The District issued bonds in 2002 after voter approval for the construction of three fire stations and several equipment purchases. Those bonds were paid off more than seven years early saving taxpayers more than \$300,000 due to growth of the District and sound fiscal management by the Board including the refinancing of older bonds at a significantly lower interest rate. The projects now under consideration were not included in the 2002 bond issue.

Polling Places for the Bond Election:

There will not be any Polling Places for this election. The election will be conducted exclusively by mail. For questions concerning ballots and where ballots can be returned, contact the Pima County Recorder’s Office at (520) 724-4330.

Persons with questions concerning the bond issue election can contact the Drexel Heights Fire District during normal business hours at (520) 883-4341 or by visiting our website at www.drexelfire.org.

Our Vision

To be recognized by our community and peers for consistently providing quality services in an efficient manner and for our leadership insuring regional progress and success.

Our Guiding Principles

We believe

- ...We exist to help people*
- ...In respect for all people*
- ...That people are our most important asset*
- ...That continuous improvement is accomplished one step at a time*
- ...In the responsible care and use of our resources*