

City of Mountlake Terrace

Proposition 1

Ballot Title

Civic Center Bonds

The City Council of the City of Mountlake Terrace adopted Ordinance No. 2588 concerning financing a civic center. If approved, this proposition would authorize the City to issue bonds to construct a new civic center, including a community/senior center, police station, and library improvements as described in Ordinance 2588. It would authorize issuance of not more than \$25,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 30 years or less, and authorize the annual levy of excess property taxes to pay and retire such bonds, all as provided in Ordinance 2588. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes
No

Explanatory Statement

If approved by voters, this proposition would enable the City of Mountlake Terrace to construct a Civic Center, including a community/senior center and an expanded and remodeled Police Station, as well as replace the roofing, furniture and heating/air conditioning system at the Library. The project would include green space and a natural amphitheater to link the site to the adjacent Veterans Memorial Park, as well as street improvements along 58th and 232nd as part of the Town Center revitalization plan.

Currently the city is renting office space after a ceiling collapsed at the former Civic Center in 2008. Presently there is no funding source to enable the City to continue renting space beyond 2014.

The new Civic Center would be paid for with general obligation bonds maturing over the next 30 years. The project cost would be no more than \$25,000,000. The increase in property tax for the owner of an average home (\$208,581.00) at current levy rates would be approximately \$7.42 per month starting in 2014, and average \$11.59 per month beginning in 2015. These amounts do not reflect the potential reductions that individual property owners may qualify for under state or federal law.

Statement For

Statement by: *Dustin DeKoekkoek, Debbie Joyce "DJ" Jakala, Doug McCardle*

The new Mountlake Terrace Civic Center will provide a vibrant space for everyone in the community to enjoy. The Civic Center will complete the City campus by returning City services to downtown, creating a new community/senior center, providing needed library improvements and expanding the police station.

The City is currently spending around \$500,000 a year renting space for City Hall. With the new Civic Center, the City will be **investing in the community rather than sending our money to out-of-state investors.** After listening to the community, the City cut the cost of the previous proposal by 1/3. Additionally, we can take advantage of lower construction costs by building in this competitive construction market. The levy will cost the average homeowner around \$8 per month after tax deductions beginning in 2014.

The existing police station is cramped and does not provide our police with the proper space to serve our community. Federal regulations, as well as additional services like domestic violence assistance, have created a need for a larger facility. **This plan will expand and remodel the existing station** so that our police have the space they need.

The community center will give groups a space to meet and hold events and City Hall will complete the Civic campus at one convenient location.

Proposition 1 is supported by MLT businesses, City leaders, community groups and your neighbors, all of whom want to see Mountlake Terrace thrive.

Please VOTE YES for Prop. 1 and visit YESforMLT.com for more information.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

Lies and bad math won't fool MLT voters. Rent will cost \$494,039 in 2013. The building will last 50+ years and, assuming an increase of 3% per year, we will have paid **\$56 million in rent. Renting does not save us money** and delaying the project will cost us even more.

The Council cut the costs so it's time to move forward, build this project, and not waste money back at the drawing board.

Statement Against

Statement by: *Charles Ham, Dave Heppner, Chuck Mellinger*

In January 2012 the City Council voted in an increase to the car tabs by \$20.00 which starts this year. The City Council is now asking to increase our property taxes by about \$89.00 per year based on a average home valued at \$230,000.00. This increase will affect everyone living and or conducting business in Mountlake Terrace. With people out of work and businesses struggling to stay afloat, now is not the time to increase anything. Even though the property tax increase doesn't start until 2014 and an additional increase in 2015 to \$139.08 per year based on the same criteria. This increase just comes at a bad time for everyone.

Approximately \$335,000.00 per year not \$500,000.00 is actually paid out in rent per year. So the actual cost for rent per year is not the \$500,000.00. The difference in monies spent is for overhead and to conduct business and will carry over to the new city hall if approved. Using the City Councils claim that the current facility is costing us (the people of Mountlake Terrace) \$500,000.00 per year I would only cost \$15,000,000.00 over 30 years. This would save over \$10,000,000.00 over 30 years.

Then, if approved, what about over runs (which occur quite often with large projects) where will that money come from?

We need to vote no and send the City Council back to the drawing board.

Rebuttal of Statement For

What tax bracket is being used to come up with \$8/month? If the city continued to rent for the next 30 years the savings to the taxpayers is approximately \$10 Million. The saving could be used to expand and remodel the existing station. The city has already cut the costs of the previous proposal by 1/3. We need to send the City Council back to the drawing board.

Return your ballot early

Please return your completed ballot as early as possible.

We anticipate high traffic and potentially long wait times at our ballot drop boxes and our accessible voting sites on Election Day. Ballots returned Election Day take several days to process and delay election results.

You can mail or drop your ballot off at any ballot drop box as early as the day you receive it.