



Citizens Bond Oversight Operating Framework

Purpose:

The Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (Committee) will promote community confidence through transparency, accountability, and independent citizen review of voter-approved bond programs. The CBOC shall be provided with comprehensive information, be empowered to ask questions, and request applicable documents needed to make informed decisions and recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

The CBOC will be charged with verifying:

- Bond proceeds are being spent for their authorized purposes.
- Projects are progressing within their approved budgets and schedules.
- Significant cost increases, delays, and scope changes are documented and explained.
- Material concerns are being communicated to the Board and addressed appropriately.
- The District can demonstrate, through clear and accessible reporting, how bond funds have been used.

CBOC Responsibilities:

1. Monitor bond expenditures
 - Review financial reports, expenditures, contracts, bid awards, budget amendments, and remaining bond balances to determine whether bond funds are being used for authorized purposes.
2. Verify alignment with voter-approved projects
 - Compare actual expenditures and project activities with the bond propositions and approved project list. Identify apparent discrepancies or material changes that warrant explanation.
3. Monitor project progress
 - Review construction schedules, milestones, completion dates, cost trends, contingency use, and project status. Ask questions about delays, cost overruns, and scope changes.
4. Promote public transparency
 - Provide a community perspective, communicate findings through approved channels, and help residents understand how the bond program is progressing.
5. Provide monthly reports to the Board of Trustees.
 - Summarize expenditures against approved bond purposes, review of budgets, schedules, and project milestone, recommendations related to documented changes to project scope, corrective actions related to spending and reallocation of bond funds, and transparency concerns.



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Legal Authority

- The Board of Trustees retains governing authority. Texas Education Code § 11.151 assigns the board the exclusive power and duty to govern and oversee the management of the district, subject to applicable law.
- Bond proceeds must be used for legally authorized purposes. Texas Education Code § 45.001 identifies authorized school-district bond purposes, including construction, acquisition, and equipment of school buildings. The specific bond propositions and applicable law also matter when evaluating expenditures.
- Open Meetings Act requirements must be evaluated. A committee's name alone does not determine whether the Texas Open Meetings Act applies. The committee's actual authority, responsibilities, and structure matter. The Texas Attorney General explains that a purely advisory committee that does not control or supervise public business or policy may fall outside the Act, while a committee exercising governmental authority may be subject to it.