

Agenda of Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees Westwood Independent School District

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westwood Independent School District will be held August 11, 2021, beginning at 6:30 PM Westwood Junior High Cafeteria
1801 Panther Blvd.
Palestine, TX. 75803.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice. Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

Due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 coronavirus, the meeting will be conducted by video-conference. At least a quorum of the Board will be participating by videoconference or telephone call in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.123 or 551.127 of the Texas Government Code that have not been suspended by order of the governor.

An electronic copy of the agenda packet is attached to the online notice www.westwoodisd.net
Members of the public who desire to address the Board regarding an item on this agenda must comply with the following registration procedures: send a request through Zoom Chat from 6:15 pm – 6:30 pm the day of the meeting. Including name and topic.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/TEXAS PLEDGE**
4. **ACTION ITEM**
 - A. Board to consider and approve the agenda as presented
5. **OPEN FORUM /AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION --Policy BED (Local)**
6. Long Range Steering Committee presentation and possible recommendation
7. Board consideration and possible approval of an order calling a bond election to held by the Westwood Independent School District; making provision for the conduct of a joint election; and resolving other matters incident and related to such election.

AN ORDER CALLING A BOND ELECTION TO BE HELD BY THE WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, MAKING PROVISION FOR THE CONDUCT OF A JOINT ELECTION, AND RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO SUCH ELECTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the *Board*) of the WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (the *District*), located in Anderson County, Texas (the *County*), hereby finds and determines that an election should be held to determine whether the District shall be authorized to issue bonds of the District in the amount and for the purposes hereinafter identified (the *Election*); and

WHEREAS, the District will contract with the elections administrator (the *Administrator*) of the County to conduct all aspects of the Election; and

WHEREAS, the Election will be held jointly with other political subdivisions (collectively, the *Participants*) as provided pursuant to an election services agreement and/or a joint election or similar agreement between or among (as applicable) the District and any Participants, entered into according to the Texas Election Code, as amended (the *Code*); and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds and determines that the necessity to construct various capital improvements within the District dictates that it is in the public interest to call and hold the Election at the earliest possible date to authorize the issuance of bonds for the purposes hereinafter identified; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds and determines that the anticipated capital improvements identified in proposition A may be submitted to the qualified voters of the District as a single proposition pursuant to Section 45.003(g) of the Texas Education Code because these capital improvements will be predominantly used for educational and administrative purposes, none of which are the type of facilities described in Section 45.003(g)(1-6); and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds and determines that the actions hereinbefore described are in the best interests of the residents of the District; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1. The Election shall be held in the WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT on November 2, 2021 (*Election Day*), which is a uniform election date under the Code and is 78 or more days from the date of the adoption of this order (the *Order*), for the purpose of submitting the following measure to the qualified voters of the District:

MEASURE A

Shall the Board of Trustees of the Westwood Independent School District be authorized to issue and sell bonds of the District, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of not more than \$_____ for the

purposes of renovating, improving, upgrading, updating, and equipping school facilities District-wide (and any necessary or related removal of existing facilities), with priority given to safety, security, handicap accessibility, and the addition of square footage at the Junior High School for grade realignment, such bonds to mature serially or otherwise (not more than 40 years from their date) in accordance with law; any issue or series of such bonds to bear interest per annum at such rate or rates (fixed, floating, variable, or otherwise) as may be determined within the discretion of the Board of Trustees, provided that such rate or rates of interest shall not exceed the maximum rate per annum authorized by law at the time of the issuance of any issue or series of such bonds; and shall the Board of Trustees of the District be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds?

SECTION 2. One or more District election precincts are hereby established for the purpose of holding the Election, and one or more polling places are hereby designated for holding the Election in the District election precincts as identified in Exhibit A to this Order (which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes). In compliance with the Code, the Administrator will appoint Presiding Judges, Alternate Presiding Judges, Election Clerks, and all other election officials for the Election. The District's Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Board of Trustees, or their designees can correct, modify, or change the Exhibits to this Order based upon the final locations and times agreed upon by the District, the Administrator, and the Participants, if any and as applicable, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

A. To the extent required by the Code or other applicable law, the appointment of election officials at polling locations must include a person fluent in the Spanish language.

B. On Election Day, the polls shall be open as designated on Exhibit A.

C. The main early voting location is designated in Exhibit B to this Order (which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes). The individual named as the Early Voting Clerk as designated in Exhibit B is hereby appointed as the Early Voting Clerk to conduct such early voting in the Election. The Early Voting Clerk shall appoint the Deputy Early Voting Clerks. The main early voting location shall remain open to permit early voting on the days and at the times as stated in Exhibit B. Early voting shall commence as provided on Exhibit B and continue through the date set forth on Exhibit B, all as provided by the Code.

Additionally, permanent and/or temporary branch offices for early voting by personal appearance may be established and maintained according to the Code. In the event such permanent and/or temporary branch locations are established, information regarding the locations, dates, and hours of operation for early voting at these offices will be identified in Exhibit B hereto.

The Administrator is authorized to establish an Early Voting Ballot Board and to designate the Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board. The Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board shall appoint two or more additional members to constitute the Early Voting Ballot

Board members and, if needed, the Signature Verification Committee members required to efficiently process the early voting ballots.

SECTION 3. Any legally permissible voting method may be used for early voting and Election Day voting by personal appearance, and when required by the Code, at least one accessible voting system per polling place will be provided. Certain early voting may be conducted by mail according to the Code.

SECTION 4. The District is authorized to utilize a Central Counting Station (the *Station*) as provided by the Code. The Administrator, or the designee thereof, is hereby appointed as the Manager of the Station, who will establish a written plan for the orderly operation of the Station according to the Code. The Board hereby authorizes the Administrator, or the designee thereof, to appoint the Presiding Judge of the Station, the Tabulation Supervisor, and the Programmer for the Station and may appoint Station clerks as needed or desirable. The Administrator will publish (or cause to be published) notice and conduct testing on the automatic tabulation equipment relating to the Station and conduct instruction for the officials and clerks for the Station according to the Code.

SECTION 5. The official ballot shall be prepared according to the Code so as to permit voters to vote “FOR” or “AGAINST” the aforesaid measure that shall appear on the ballot substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION A

THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$ _____ OF WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF RENOVATING EACH CAMPUS, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO SAFETY, SECURITY, AND HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY, PLUS THE ADDITION OF SQUARE FOOTAGE AT THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR GRADE REALIGNMENT, AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

SECTION 6. All resident, qualified voters of the District shall be permitted to vote at the Election, and on Election Day, such voters shall vote at the designated polling places. The Election shall be held and conducted according to the Code and other applicable law. To the extent required by law, materials and proceedings relating to the Election shall be printed in both English and Spanish.

SECTION 7. Notice of election, including a Spanish translation thereof, shall be published at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the District, with such publication occurring not more than 30 days and not less than 10 days before Election Day. Moreover, a substantial copy of this Order and the voter information attached to and incorporated herein for all purposes, including a Spanish translation thereof, shall be posted (a) not less than 21 days prior to Election Day (1) on the bulletin board used for posting notices of Board meetings, (2) in three additional public places within the District’s boundaries, (3) in a prominent location on the District’s internet website, and (b) in a prominent location at each polling place on Election

Day and during early voting. A sample ballot shall be posted on the District's internet website not less than 21 days prior to Election Day.

SECTION 8. As required by and in accordance with Section 3.009(b)(5) and (7) through (9) of the Code, the District, as of the date of this order, had outstanding an aggregate principal amount of debt equal to \$_____ ; the aggregate amount of the interest owed on such District debt obligations, through respective maturity, totaled \$_____ ; and the District levied an ad valorem debt service tax rate for its outstanding debt obligations of \$_____ per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation. Based on the bond market conditions on the date of the Board's adoption of this Order, the maximum interest rate for any series of bonds authorized at the Election is ___% (expressed as a net effective interest rate applicable to any such series of bonds). The bonds that are the subject of this Election shall mature serially or otherwise over a specified number of years (but not more than 40 years from their date), as prescribed by applicable Texas law, though the District estimates that, based on current bond market conditions, such bonds will amortize over a 30-year period from their respective date of issue. The foregoing estimated maximum net effective interest rate and amortization period are only estimates, provided for Texas statutory compliance; they do not serve as a cap on the per annum interest rate at which any series of bonds authorized at the Election may be sold, or the amortization period for bonds that are the subject of this Election.

SECTION 9. The Board authorizes the District's President of the Board of Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools, or their designees to negotiate and enter into one or more joint election agreements, election services contracts, and/or similar contracts or agreements with the County, acting by and through the Administrator, and any Participants if desired or if required to comply with applicable law, as permitted and in accordance with the Code. In addition, the Board authorizes the President of the Board of Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools, or their designees to make such technical modifications to this Order that are necessary for compliance with applicable Texas or federal law or to carry out the intent of the Board, as evidenced herein.

SECTION 10. The recitals contained in the preamble hereof are hereby found to be true, and such recitals are hereby made a part of this Order for all purposes and are adopted as a part of the judgment and findings of the Board.

SECTION 11. All orders and resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Order are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Order shall be and remain controlling as to the matters ordered herein.

SECTION 12. This Order shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

SECTION 13. It is officially found, determined, and declared that the meeting at which this Order is adopted was open to the public and public notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the public business to be considered at such meeting, including this Order, was given, all as required by Chapter 551, as amended, Texas Government Code.

SECTION 14. If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held to be invalid, the remainder of this Order and the application of such

provision to other persons and circumstances shall nevertheless be valid, and the Board hereby declares that this Order would have been enacted without such invalid provision.

SECTION 15. This Order shall be in force and effect from and after its final passage, and it is so ordered.

PASSED AND APPROVED on August 11, 2021.

WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Carolyn J. Booker
President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Mike Kelly
Secretary, Board of Trustees

(DISTRICT SEAL)

[Signature Page to Bond Election Order]

Exhibit A (Anexo A)

ELECTION DAY November 2, 2021 (*DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN 2 de noviembre de 2021*)

Election Day Polling Locations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
(*Lugares de votación del Día de la Elección abiertos de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.*)

District's website (*sitio web del Distrito*): <https://www.westwoodisd.net>

County's website (*Sitio web del Condado*): <http://www.co.anderson.tx.us/page/anderson.Elections>

Presiding Judges and Alternates: to be determined by the Administrator.
(*Jueces Presidentes y Suplentes: a determinar por la Administradora*)

TENTATIVE

District Precinct (<i>Precinto del Distrito</i>)	Anderson County Precinct (<i>Precinto del Condado de Anderson</i>)	Polling Place (<i>Lugar de la votación</i>)
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Exhibit B (Anexo B)

EARLY VOTING (VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA)

District's website (*sitio web del Distrito*): <https://www.westwoodisd.net>

County's website (*Sitio web del Condado*): <http://www.co.anderson.tx.us/page/anderson.Elections>

Voters entitled to vote an early ballot by personal appearance may do so at any Early Voting site. (*Los votantes con derecho a votar una boleta temprana por comparecencia personal pueden hacerlo en cualquier sitio de votación temprana.*)

Main Early Voting Polling Place, Dates, and Times
(Principal lugar de votación anticipada, fechas y horarios)

TENTATIVE

Branch Early Voting Polling Place, Dates, and Times
(Lugar de votación, fechas y horarios de votación anticipada de la sucursal)

Early Voting By Mail (Votación Anticipada por Correo)

Applications for voting by mail should be received no later than the close of business (5:00 pm) on October 22, 2021. Applications should be sent to:

(*Las solicitudes de votación por correo deben ser recibidas a más tardar al cierre de operaciones (5:00 p.m.) del 22 de octubre de 2021. Se deben enviar las solicitudes a:*)

Early Voting Clerk (*secretario de votación anticipada*): Casey Brown
mailing address (*dirección de envío*): 703 N. Mallard St., Ste 116 Palestine 75801
physical address (*dirección física*): 703 N. Mallard St., Ste 116 Palestine 75801
phone (*teléfono*): (903) 723-7438
fax (*fax*): (903) 723-1223
email (*correo electrónico*): electionsclerk@co.anderson.tx.us

If an application for ballot by mail is faxed or emailed (or if a federal postcard application is faxed), the applicant must also mail the original application so that the early voting clerk receives the original no later than four days after receiving the emailed or faxed copy.

(*Si se envía por fax o correo electrónico una solicitud de boleta por correo (o si se envía por fax una solicitud postal federal), el solicitante también debe enviar la solicitud original para que el secretario de votación anticipada reciba el original a más tardar cuatro días después de recibir la copia enviada por correo electrónico o por fax.*)

Exhibit C (Anexo C)

VOTER INFORMATION DOCUMENT (DOCUMENTO DE INFORMACIÓN PARA EL VOTANTE)

Westwood Independent School District Proposition A:
(Propuesta A del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Westwood:)

<input type="checkbox"/> FOR <i>(a favor)</i>	THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$ _____ OF WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF RENOVATING EACH CAMPUS, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO SAFETY, SECURITY, AND HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY, PLUS THE ADDITION OF SQUARE FOOTAGE AT THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR GRADE REALIGNMENT, AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.	
<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST <i>(en contra)</i>		

principal of debt obligations to be authorized <i>(capital de obligaciones de deuda que se autorizará)</i>	
estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized presuming an interest rate of __% <i>(interés estimado para las obligaciones de deuda que se autorizarán asumiendo una tasa de interés del ____)</i>	
estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be authorized amortized over __ years <i>(capital e intereses juntos estimados necesarios para pagar a tiempo y en su totalidad las obligaciones de deuda que se autorizarán amortizar durante ____ años)</i>	
as of the date the election was ordered, principal of all outstanding debt obligations <i>(a partir de la fecha en que se ordenó la elección, el capital de todas las obligaciones de deuda pendientes)</i>	
as of the date the election was ordered, the estimated interest on all outstanding debt obligations <i>(a partir de la fecha en que se ordenó la elección, el interés estimado de todas las obligaciones de deuda pendientes)</i>	
estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding debt obligations amortized over __ years <i>(capital e intereses juntos estimados necesarios para pagar a tiempo y en su totalidad las obligaciones de deuda pendientes amortizadas durante ____ años)</i>	
estimated maximum annual increase in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead with an appraised value of \$100,000 to repay the debt obligations to be authorized, if approved <i>(aumento anual máximo estimado de la cantidad de impuestos en una residencia principal con un valor estimado de \$100,000 para pagar las obligaciones de deuda que se autorizarán, si se aprueba)</i>	

8. ADJOURNMENT

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the ~~Texas Open Meetings Act~~, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E or Texas Government Code section 418.183(f). Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting. [See BEC(LEGAL)]

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on:

For the Board of Trustees