



# **Proposed Bond Referendum**

**Mayor's Report  
July 11, 2012**



# The Proposal

- \$410 million
- **NO TAX INCREASE**
- Smallest request in more than 30 years
- Provide 5 years of CIP funding
- Needs include: roof and foundation repairs, new police and fire stations and improvements to parks, libraries, health, solid waste and recycling facilities.

# Why Less Than Previous Referendums?

- ReBuild Houston and its pay-as-you-go approach allows for a proposal that is \$135 to \$350 million less than referendums of the last 15 years.
- Approximately \$125 million of street and drainage improvements are now funded each year without debt.
- Prudent fiscal planning

# Why now?

- Traditionally, the city goes to the voters with a bond proposal every five to six years. The last three referendums occurred in 1997, 2001 and 2006 and ranged from \$545 million to \$776 million.
- The current authorization will last about one more year
- Prudent fiscal planning dictates we ask for another authorization to allow for continued maintenance and improvements at our public facilities

# What is Included?

A total of \$144 million for public safety needs.

## Highlights:

- Improvements at neighborhood police stations citywide
- Expansion of Fire Station 55, District D
- New fire station to serve Pine Brook area, District E
- Fire Station 22 expansion, District I
- Fire station maintenance/improvements citywide
- Facility security improvements
- Other building repairs

# What is Included?

\$63 million for health, sanitation and general government improvements at facilities not included in the other categories.

## Highlights:

- Renovation of the Westpark recycling facility, District J
- Renovation of the Central Depository, District I
- Possible repair of Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, District D\*
- Repairs to City Hall and City Hall Annex \*
- Environmental remediation

\* Pending facilities Assessment

# What is Included?

\$15 million for affordable housing.

- These dollars will be used to remove blighted properties and make way for new affordable housing.

# What is Included?

\$28 million for libraries.

## Highlights:

- Montrose Library renovation, District D
- Robinson-Westchase Library renovation, District F
- Moody Library replacement, District H
- Meyer Library replacement, District K

# What is Included?

**\$160 million for park improvements.**

**Highlights include improvements at the following parks:**

- Haden, District A
- Busby Park, District B
- Judson Robinson Sr., District B
- Jaycee, District C
- Wright Bemby, District C
- Hermann Park, District D
- Alief, District F
- Nieto, District H
- Squatty Lyons, District H
- Gragg, District I
- Braeburn Glen, District J
- Wildheather, District K

# Bayou Greenways Project

- Leverage \$100 million in private sector matching funds
- Complete a vision that is over 100 years old and create continuous public parks and trails, or “greenways” alongside every major bayou segment in the City of Houston.
- Every section of Houston will benefit from this transformative project.
- Make Houston the #1 city in America for off-street walking and biking paths, completing over 150 miles along 7 of our major bayous.
- City, nonprofits, and community organizations have worked for years to build \$2.4 billion of parks and trails along our bayous.
- Now is the time to connect them all and finish the job.

# Conclusion

- This package meets my goals of:
  - Creating jobs
  - Improving public safety
  - Improving infrastructure
  - Improving quality of life
  - Being fiscally responsible
- It helps maintain Houston as the best place to live, work and raise a family.
- No tax increase.

I look forward to City Council's input on suggested changes in this draft proposal and support for placing it on the November ballot.