

## DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Financial Policies: Debt Management Policies

1. It is the City's goal to at least maintain the current credit ratings on each type of City credit or enterprise fund as of the date of adoption of these policies.

NOT IN COMPLIANCE

	Moody's		Standard & Poor's		Fitch	
	Dec '14	Current	Dec '14	Current	Dec '14	Current
City of Houston - General Obligation	Aa2	<b>Aa3</b>	AA+	<b>AA</b>	AA	AA
Water & Sewer System - Junior Lien	Aa1	Aa1	AA+	AA+	AA+	AA+
Combined Utility System First Lien	Aa2	Aa2	AA	AA	AA	AA
Houston Airport - Senior Lien	Aa3	Aa3	AA-	AA-	NR	NR
Houston Airport - Junior Lien	A2	<b>A1</b>	A	<b>A+</b>	A	A
Convention & Entertainment	A2	A2	A-	A-	NR	NR

2. The debt service Fund Balance as of each fiscal year end relating to debt secured by ad valorem taxes shall be no less than debt service payments due within the first 180 days of the following fiscal year.

IN COMPLIANCE

Debt Service due by 12/31/2017: \$52,094,000

Debt Service Fund Balance as of 6/30/17 (projected): \$134,000,000

3. A standardized presentation format for proposed debt transactions will be adopted by Budget and Fiscal Affairs (BFA). Presentations of debt transactions to BFA shall at least include the following information: revenue source securing the debt uses of the debt proceeds, estimated weighted average life of the debt, estimated change to the overall weighted average life of outstanding debt, estimated present value savings as applicable, estimated true interest cost, anticipated date of pricing and closing.

IN COMPLIANCE

4. Debt financing in excess of one year shall be limited to capital expenditures for assets, asset lots of similar items, or asset improvements costing more than \$50,000 and having a useful life of more than three years.

IN COMPLIANCE

5. Any capital project financed through the issuance of bonds shall be financed for a period not to exceed the average expected life of the assets.

IN COMPLIANCE

---

**FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET**

---

6. Each fiscal year, the City will use that year's General Obligation (GO) debt service payment as a baseline to establish an index reflecting 4% annual growth in the City's GO debt service (i.e., if the current fiscal year's debt service is \$100, then the debt service index for subsequent years would be \$104, \$108.16, \$112.49, \$116.99, etc.). If any proposed action by the City (e.g., adoption of the CIP, or Council authorization of debt issuance) is to cause the GO debt service schedule as projected by the City's Financial Advisor to exceed the index in FY2019 and/or any subsequent year(s), a funding mechanism (e.g., reduced expenditures or increased revenue) must be identified to offset the amount(s) by which the proposed debt service payment(s) exceed the index. For purposes of this section, "identification" of a funding mechanism is satisfied by presentation to BFA and/or City Council prior to any action that would incur GO debt.

IN COMPLIANCE

Fiscal Year	GO Debt Service Index	GO Debt Service Due
2017	333,606,111	333,606,111
2018	346,950,355	351,587,916
2019	360,828,369	348,274,793
2020	375,261,504	344,543,351
2021	390,271,964	311,859,841
2022	405,882,843	293,110,587
2023	422,118,157	290,430,319
2024	439,002,883	226,267,502
2025	456,562,998	216,715,854
2026	474,825,518	195,620,098
2027	493,818,539	200,559,671
2028	513,571,280	194,298,660
2029	534,114,132	170,548,907
2030	555,478,697	133,625,051
2031	577,697,845	123,440,939
2032	600,805,759	114,467,100
2033	624,837,989	63,413,500
2034	649,831,508	36,477,339
2035	675,824,769	69,163,989
2036	702,857,759	56,411,914
2037	730,972,070	38,084,896
2038	760,210,953	10,862,674
2039	790,619,391	7,908,106
2040	822,244,166	5,401,670
2041	855,133,933	25,653,270
2042	889,339,290	4,520,900
2043	924,912,862	3,155,250

7. Through greater emphasis on pay-as-you-go infrastructure funding, it is the City's goal to reduce the General Fund transfer for debt service while remaining in compliance with all relevant bond or other debt covenants and indentures. Toward this goal and in compliance with such covenants, the maximum annual General Fund transfer for debt service is to be maintained at 20% of General Fund revenues (excluding state and federal grants) until FY2019. Beginning in FY2019 and in each subsequent fiscal year, the maximum annual General Fund transfer for debt service is to be reduced by 0.5% annually until it reaches 10% of General Fund revenues (excluding state and federal grants), at which point the maximum is to be held constant and remain at 10%.

IN COMPLIANCE

General Fund Transfer Limit:	20%
FY2018 budgeted General Fund Transfer:	14.5%

8. The City's desired target for average weighted General Obligation bond maturities is 12 years or less.

IN COMPLIANCE

The average weighted General Obligation bond maturity as of April 11, 2017 is 8.1 years.

9. When refunding debt, the average weighted maturity of the refunded bonds may not be extended by more than one year unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the City Council present and voting.

IN COMPLIANCE

<u>Series</u>	<u>Delivery Date</u>	<u>Average life of refunded bonds</u>	<u>Average life of refunding bonds</u>
Combined Utility System First Lien Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2017B	5/4/2017	9.576	9.572

10. Other than periodic refundings of commercial paper in accordance with routine City business, the City may initiate a refunding of outstanding debt when:
- a. A refinancing is expected to relieve the City of financially restrictive covenants;
  - b. A refinancing is expected to significantly reduce the remaining term of the debt being refunded; or
  - c. At the transaction's initiation, the City's financial advisors project net present value savings of at least:
    - i. 3% for Current Refundings, unless the final maturity of the refunded bonds is less than five years, in which case the bonds may be refunded for any savings if the final maturity of the bonds refunded is not extended; and
    - ii. 5% for Advance Refundings, unless the final maturity of the refunded bonds is less than five years, in which case the bonds may be refunded for any savings if the final maturity of the bonds refunded is not extended.

The Finance Working Group will be responsible for confirming that one of the above conditions exists.

IN COMPLIANCE

11. All City financings must comply with applicable Federal, State and Local legal requirements; the Finance Working Group and City Council must approve the issue; the City must analyze the long-term affordability of the debt and assess the issue's impact on the City's self-imposed financial limitations on indebtedness.

IN COMPLIANCE

12. The City shall review all outstanding debt at least annually for the purposes of identifying refunding opportunities.

IN COMPLIANCE

13. A formal Request for Information (RFI) process shall be conducted by the Finance Working Group annually when selecting underwriters in order to promote fairness, objectivity and transparency. The selection committee shall report results of the RFI process to BFA and present recommendations for transactions expected to occur during the following year. RFIs shall include questions related to the areas listed below to distinguish firms' qualifications and experience, including but not limited to:
- a. Relevant experience of the firm and the individuals assigned to the issuer, and the identification and experience of the individual in charge of day-to-day management of the bond sale, including both the investment banker(s) and the underwriter(s);
  - b. A description of the firm's bond distribution capabilities including the experience of the individual primarily responsible for underwriting the proposed bonds. The firm's ability to access both retail and institutional investors should be described;
  - c. Demonstration of the firm's understanding of the issuer's financial situation, including ideas on how the issuer should approach financing issues such as bond structures, credit rating strategies and investor marketing strategies;
  - d. Demonstration of the firm's knowledge of local political, economic, legal or other issues that may affect the proposed financing;
  - e. Documentation of the underwriter's participation in the issuer's recent competitive sales or the competitive sales of other issuers in the same state;
  - f. Analytic capability of the firm and assigned investment banker(s);
  - g. Access to sources of current market information to provide bond pricing data before, during, and after the sale;
  - h. Any finder's fees, fee splitting, or other contractual arrangements of the firm that could present a real or perceived conflict of interest, as well as any pending investigation of the firm or enforcement or disciplinary actions taken within the past three years by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or any other regulatory agency.

IN COMPLIANCE