



2026 Ballot Grades

Where **DFW Progressives** stands on every local bond and proposition in Collin, Denton, Dallas, Tarrant and Rockwall counties · Updated October 19, 2026

We graded all 90 local propositions on the November 3 ballot. Each grade answers one question: does this measure use public power to improve everyday life for the people who live here, or does it shift public money and risk onto residents while private interests get the upside?

EARLY VOTING

Oct 19 through Oct 30

Any early voting site in your county

MAIL BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Due Fri, Oct 23

Must be received by your county

ELECTION DAY

Tue, Nov 3

Polls open 7 am to 7 pm

18

A: Vote yes

16

B: Yes, stay engaged

6

C: Qualified yes

45

No: Vote no

5

Neutral

Most of our No grades, 39 of 45, are developer-created utility district bonds and taxes. The others are Plano's arena taxes, Collin County's jail bond, Dallas's public safety bond, University Park's tax rate, Lavon's new sales tax district and Keller ISD's artificial turf.

We support

- Public schools, community colleges, libraries and parks
- Fire, EMS and emergency response
- Housing, mental health care and homelessness solutions
- Fair pay for public workers and basic city services
- Streets, sidewalks, water and transit that serve working families
- Public ownership and democratic control of infrastructure

We oppose

- New jail beds and police buildings without prevention and diversion
- Surveillance tools like license plate readers
- Public subsidies for private sports and development
- Developer-driven debt that future homeowners repay
- New regressive sales taxes
- Vague bond language that works like a blank check

How to read our grades

Grade	What it means	Our message
A Strong support	A clear public-good investment that meets a real need, has transparent costs, includes accountability and benefits working- and middle-class residents.	Vote yes.
B Support, watch it	Strong public benefit, with concerns about cost, timing, project lists, contractor accountability, equity or upkeep.	Vote yes, and stay engaged.
C Qualified support	The need is real but the proposal is imperfect: vague language, a tax impact that needs scrutiny, or uneven benefits.	Not perfect, but the need is serious enough to justify a yes.
No Oppose	Too vague, regressive, developer-driven, privatized, wasteful, harmful to public services, or unfair to working families.	Public dollars should serve the public, not become a blank check for insiders.
Neutral No position	Outside our focus, or a local question where we don't have a basis to recommend.	Review the details and make an informed decision.

Grades at a glance

Only voters who live inside each city, school district or special district vote on its measures. Look up your exact ballot by address (see Find your ballot).

SHARED CITY MEASURES			
Jurisdiction	Measure	Grade	Why
City of Dallas	Prop A: \$443M public safety bonds	No	Most of it, about \$381M, builds evidence storage, a crime lab and training facilities, mainly for police. The language is broad enough that critics call it a blank check.
City of Garland	Prop A: \$0.6799 tax rate	A	Core city services and public worker pay: police, fire, 911 and parks staffing and roads. The rate is still below last year's.
City of Plano	Prop A: Stars arena and venue taxes	No	Up to \$700M in public taxes for a private team's arena, with no financing plan, site plan or traffic study yet.
City of Wylie	Props A, B, D, E: streets, parks, public works, animal shelter	A	Basic city infrastructure with named projects.
City of Wylie	Prop C: \$25M public safety facilities	B	Real need, but the ballot names no specific facility.
Town of Flower Mound	Prop A: renew 0.25% street sales tax	B	Keeps an existing rate for street repair. Sales tax hits working families hardest, so every dollar should be accounted for.

COLLIN COUNTY			
Collin County	Prop A: \$296.5M courts, jail, probation	No	Adds about 550 jail beds alongside needed courthouse repairs, with no diversion plan attached.
Collin County	Prop B: \$475M non-tolled roads	B	Toll-free roads for a fast-growing county where families lose hours in traffic. Push for sidewalks, safety and transit next.
Collin County	Prop C: \$6M parks and open space	A	Parks and land, including joint projects with cities.
Collin County	Prop D: \$40M elections and records facility	A	Election infrastructure is democracy infrastructure. County-owned space replaces about \$650,000 a year in leases.
Collin College	Prop A: \$600M	A	Workforce and career training, with new campuses in fast-growing east Collin. The college expects no rate increase.
City of Anna	Prop A: \$60M streets	B	A fast-growing city needs streets. Watch which neighborhoods get them first.
Bland ISD	Prop A: school tax rate	A	Operating money for a small public school district.
McKinney ISD	Props A and B: school tax rate, \$430.95M facilities	A	Teacher pay, new schools and safety. The total rate still drops about 3.8 cents.
McKinney ISD	Prop C: \$62M technology	B	Needed equipment. Devices wear out fast, so the district should pay these bonds off quickly.
McKinney ISD	Props D and E: \$4.5M pool, \$2.55M stadium	C	Repairs to athletic facilities that serve some students, not all. Small, but lower priority.
Lavon Municipal Development District	Prop 1: new 0.50% sales tax district	No	A new sales tax, which hits low-income shoppers hardest, for development projects no one has named.
Blue Meadow MUD No. 2 and No. 4	Prop G: fire plan	B	Fire protection for the people who live there.
Blue Meadow MUD No. 2, No. 4, The Preserve MUD	Confirmation, bond and tax props	No	Developer-created district debt that future homeowners repay. See Utility district bonds.
DENTON COUNTY			
Bartonville, Justin, Lake Dallas	Street sales tax renewals	B	Existing rates for street repair. Same sales tax caution as Flower Mound.
Brookfield WCID	Prop A: fire and ambulance plan	B	Basic emergency services through Denton County.
Town of Double Oak	Prop A: alcohol sales	Neutral	A local personal-choice question outside our focus.
Town of Hickory Creek	Prop A: end the EDC, 1.75% town sales tax	C	Ending a business-incentive corporation is a good step. The town has not explained where the money goes or whether the total rate changes.

DENTON COUNTY

**Cole Ranch ID No. 2,
Denton County MUD No.
7, Northlake FWSD No. 1,
Sanctuary MUD No. 2**

All bond and tax props

No

Developer-created district debt that future homeowners repay. See Utility district bonds.

DALLAS COUNTY

Dallas County

Prop A: homelessness tax rate

B

Housing-first help for about 4,500 more people a year. Stay engaged on results and how encampments are handled.

University Park

Prop A: \$0.220055 tax rate

No

Most of the new money pays for police officers and parking enforcement with license plate readers.

Irving ISD

Props A and B: five replacement schools, including Irving High

A

About half the district's campuses are over 50 years old. Adds about 12.5 cents to the rate.

Irving ISD

Prop C: \$40M technology

B

Needed equipment. Watch the repayment term.

Irving ISD

Prop D: \$60.2M indoor facilities

C

Real student benefit, but the least essential item, and voters rejected these facilities in 2023.

TARRANT COUNTY

North Richland Hills

Props A, B, D: fire stations, streets, library

A

Core services. About \$70 a year for the average home, with no change for seniors and disabled homeowners under the tax freeze.

North Richland Hills

Prop C: City Services Complex

B

Needed, less visible. Watch the cost.

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD

Prop A: school tax rate

A

About \$6.2M more a year for schools.

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD

Prop B: \$20M bus note refinancing

B

Technical. Moves the cost of buses already bought out of the classroom budget.

Keller ISD

Prop A: \$756.3M repairs and safety

A

Failing air conditioning, with classrooms reaching 91 degrees. No debt tax rate increase.

Keller ISD

Prop B: \$28M devices

B

Device refresh for students and staff. Watch the repayment term.

Keller ISD

Props C and D: \$8.9M natatorium, \$11.0M athletic repairs

C

Repairs to athletic facilities that serve some students, not all.

Keller ISD

Prop E: \$23.9M artificial turf

No

Lowest priority in an \$828M ask. Turf wears out in about 8 to 12 years and raises heat and chemical concerns.

Parker and Tarrant Counties MUD No. 1

Prop C: \$911.9M roads

No

The English notice says \$911.9M and the Spanish notice says \$750M. Spanish-speaking voters got a different number for nearly \$1B in debt.

TARRANT COUNTY

Parker and Tarrant Counties MUD No. 1 (other props), Tarrant County FWSD No. 3

All other props

No

Developer-created district debt that future homeowners repay. See Utility district bonds.

ROCKWALL COUNTY

City of Fate

Props A to D: council and mayor recalls

Neutral

A local dispute over individual officeholders. Read both sides before you vote. A FOR vote supports removing the officeholder.

The hard calls

These grades carry the most weight. For each one we show our reasoning and the strongest case on the other side, so you can judge for yourself.

Plano Prop A, Stars arena

No

- **Why we say no:** Plano would commit up to \$700M in public tax money to an arena for a privately owned team. The venue taxes could raise up to \$900M, and a separate 41-year tax increment zone around the site is projected to capture more than \$1.3B in new property tax revenue.
- **The process:** Voters are asked to approve the taxes before the city has a financing plan, site plan or traffic study, and the master development agreement is not final.
- **The other side:** Most of the tax falls on visitors and ticket buyers, not on property tax rates. The Stars say they will cover operating costs and anything past the \$700M cap.
- **What would change our mind:** A published financing plan and development agreement with community benefits in writing, such as local hiring, wage standards and affordable units in the planned housing.

Dallas County Prop A, homelessness tax

B

- **Why we say yes:** About \$103M a year for diversion, supportive housing and coordinated outreach. Housing Forward estimates 4,500 more people a year would leave homelessness. The cost is 2.4 cents per \$100, or about \$24 a year per \$100,000 of taxable value.
- **Stay engaged:** Contract renewals would be tied to performance goals. Push for public reporting on results, returns to homelessness and full cost. Judge Jenkins promises encampments "cleared as fast as we know about them," so make sure clearing comes with housing offers, not sweeps.
- **The other side:** Commissioners John Wiley Price and Elba Garcia, both Democrats, voted no. They argue homelessness should not become a county responsibility and that voters lack clear cost and results information. We still say yes because the need is severe and the plan puts housing first.

Dallas Prop A, public safety bond No

- **What it buys:** \$150M for evidence storage, a property room and a crime lab. \$149M for a training complex at Dallas Executive Airport. \$82M to finish the police academy at UNT Dallas. \$40M to move 911 and emergency operations out of City Hall. \$22M to replace Fire Station No. 4. With interest, about \$629.6M.
- **Why we say no:** Public safety money should go first to prevention, mental health response and neighborhood services, not \$381M in new facilities built mainly for police. The language is broad, and Council Member Cara Mendelsohn calls it a blank check and the 911 move a first step to abandoning City Hall.
- **The other side:** Better evidence storage and a crime lab protect defendants as well as prosecutors, and a No also delays the fire station. Council Member Maxie Johnson and the Black Police Association and Black Firefighters Association support the bond.
- **If it fails:** Mendelsohn expects a smaller, academy-only measure of about \$114M in May.

Collin County Prop A, courts and jail No

- **Why we say no:** One \$296.5M vote combines about 550 new jail beds with courthouse roof, elevator and air conditioning work and probation space. Jail beds are a long-term commitment, and the ballot pairs them with no diversion or pretrial plan. The repairs could come back as their own measure.
- **The other side:** The jail runs at or above capacity, and the county has been housing people in other counties, far from their families. This vote also includes courthouse repairs and mental health detention space.
- **Tax impact:** If all four county props pass, the county's debt tax rate rises from 4.18 to 4.95 cents per \$100 over six years.

Collin County Prop B, roads B

- **What it buys:** Dallas North Tollway service roads, an Outer Loop service road west of US 75, a road from Farmersville to the Rockwall County line, plus widening and intersection work.
- **Why we say yes:** Working families in fast-growing Collin County lose hours in traffic, and that time comes out of work, school pickups and family life. These roads are toll-free, and the Outer Loop right-of-way saves space for future transit.
- **Stay engaged:** No transit, sidewalk or traffic safety projects are named. Push the county to add them.

University Park Prop A, tax rate No

- **What it buys:** Four police officers (\$601,560), two firefighters (\$263,400), firefighter pension improvements (\$300,286), and parking enforcement with two license plate recognition systems (\$294,230).
- **Why we say no:** About 61% of the new money goes to police and parking enforcement. License plate readers record the movements of everyone who drives past them.
- **The other side:** Firefighter staffing and pensions are worth funding, and they are in the same vote.

Keller ISD Prop E, artificial turf

No

- **Why we say no:** \$23.9M for turf at every middle school and at high school baseball and softball fields. The package totals \$828M, or about \$1.48B with interest. The district's own case is failing air conditioning in classrooms. Turf is the least essential item, wears out in about 8 to 12 years, and can run far hotter than grass and contain PFAS chemicals.
- **Good to know:** Each proposition stands alone, so a No on E does not touch the repairs in Prop A.

How we graded the school measures

The McKinney, Bland and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw tax rate elections fund teacher pay and operations where state funding falls short. McKinney closed campuses and raised class sizes to cut a \$23M shortfall to \$6M before asking voters. A No vote trims tax bills slightly and forces more cuts.

Athletic facilities follow one rule across districts. Classrooms, safety and devices get an A or B. Repairs to pools, stadiums and athletic complexes that serve some students get a C. New turf gets a No.

Utility district bonds

We say No to every confirmation, bond, tax and road-power proposition in the nine special districts on these ballots.

- **The scale:** Together these districts ask for about \$12.1B in new bond authority, plus another \$7.5B in refunding bonds. Denton County MUD No. 7 alone asks for \$3.3B in new bonds.
- **The problem:** Developers create these districts before most homeowners arrive, so a handful of voters can approve debt that future residents repay. In 2015, four voters in Wise County approved the \$399M Alpha Ranch district, which also covers part of Denton County, where no one voted.
- **Why we say no:** Roads, water and sewer should be built and owned by accountable public governments, not financed by developer-planned debt that future homeowners inherit.
- **One more problem:** In Parker and Tarrant Counties MUD No. 1, the Prop C English notice says \$911.9M and the Spanish notice says \$750M. Voters should not approve debt when the official notices disagree.
- **If you live in one of these districts:** You will pay these bonds through your property taxes, so read the notice. The bigger fix is in Austin: stronger disclosure and voter protections for special district debt.

The fire plans in Blue Meadow MUD No. 2 and No. 4 (Prop G) and Brookfield WCID get a B, because they buy emergency services for people already living there.

Find your ballot

Your ballot depends on where you live. School district and utility district lines often differ from city limits and mailing addresses. Look up your exact ballot by home address:

Collin County

apps2.collincountytx.gov/Elections2BallotAddressSearch

Denton County

votedenton.gov/voter-information/voter-lookup

Dallas County

dallascountyvotes.org/voters/ballot

Tarrant County

tarrantcountytx.gov/en/elections/current-election-information.html

Rockwall County

rockwallvotes.com

Sources

Ballot amounts and language come from official election notices and sample ballots. Reporting behind our grades:

- **Plano:** Plano venue tax election notice · Bisnow on the arena deal and tax zone · Fox 4 on arena opponents and supporters
- **Dallas County:** Fox 4 on Prop A · Community Impact on Prop A · Dallas County fact sheet
- **City of Dallas:** Fox 4 on the council split · Fox 4 on the City Hall debate · CandysDirt on what the bond funds
- **Collin County and Collin College:** Hoodline on the jail and roads · Community Impact on the bond · Collin College financial impact
- **School districts:** Community Impact on McKinney ISD · McKinney ISD Prop A · Hoodline on Irving ISD · Irving ISD 2023 bond results · Community Impact on Keller ISD · Texas Scorecard on Keller ISD interest costs · Citizen Portal on Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD
- **Artificial turf:** Boston Globe on turf lifespan, heat and PFAS · National Center for Health Research on turf
- **Cities and towns:** North Richland Hills bond page · People Newspapers on University Park · KUT on license plate reader concerns · Lavon council packet · Hickory Creek EDC
- **Utility districts:** CBS Texas on the 2015 Alpha Ranch vote · Texas Scorecard on low-turnout district debt · Parker and Tarrant Counties MUD No. 1 notice

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