

Frequently Asked Questions About the May 5, 2018 Bond Election

Q: How many stalls will the new Ag Barn have?

A: At this stage in the process, the internal design of the Ag Barn has not been fully determined.

Q: Will the Ag Barn be the same size as the current one?

A: The initial desire is to construct a facility that is at least the size of the existing facility of not larger.

Q: Is the amount of money initially denoted for a new Ag Barn enough?

A: Initial cost estimates for the exterior structure dictate so, although final selection of plans/vendors may allot more funds in that area.

Q: With the projected location of the Ag Barn, will it be safe for the animals:

A: There is no question that the proposed area for the new Ag Barn would be closer to the roadway, but a more modern locked entry and outside access away from traffic are being planned.

Q: What will be the deciding factors by which Wampus Cat Park (Baseball/Softball Fields) is ultimately designed.

A: Ultimately it will be a decision by the Itasca ISD Board of Trustees, and the input and research they gather from the community.

Q: Will the community have any input on which design is chosen?

A: Community members are encouraged to share their thoughts during public forum at the next Itasca ISD Board Meeting scheduled for April 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Itasca ISD Library.

Q: Are the number of fields changing at Wampus Cat Park?

A: That question cannot be exactly answered at this time, although that is not the desire.

Q: Where do people go to register to vote?

A: Go to www.co.hill.tx.us/default.aspx?Hill_County/Elections, check with the Itasca Post Office, or call the Hill County Elections Administrator **Aaron Torres** (254) 582-4072 - located at the Hill County Courthouse.

Q: Regarding the Itasca Youth Association, will they be able to use Wampus Cat park?

A: Our goal is to continue the same kind of cooperative relationship we have shared with the Itasca Youth Association for many years.

Q: Will Wampus Cat Park include covered bleachers, lights, and a playground?

A: That question cannot be exactly answered at this time, although lights have been mutually agreed upon in all possible considerations.

Q: Was the Special Event Center built with a bond election?

A: Yes

Q: 1. When will a final configuration and blueprint design of Wampus Cat Park be available for viewing?

A: At the April 9th board meeting, we plan on choosing what construction vendor we will potentially work with, if in fact the bond passes. At that point, we will be able to work toward a more specific depiction of what those plans will look like to present in a second Town Hall Meeting prior to the May 5th Election Day (and hopefully prior to early voting as well).

Q: Will the public have an opportunity to suggest which layout/design is preferred at the next board meeting?

A: Yes. An opportunity to address the board (for any reason) is made available at every board meeting, in the public forum. It is not/will not be specifically documented for that specific purpose, but this would certainly be the time to do so. Especially since we will be discussing construction vendors that evening.

Q: In the third and fourth diagram proposals, there is a fence separating the city fields and high school fields. Will the current concessions contain bathrooms for city use after remodeling?

A: The initial discussions of a current concessions "remodel", have primarily involved discussion to create a window, whereby concession workers could see outside towards the ball fields while working the concession stand, instead of operating from a window which overlooks the inside of that building, which it currently does. The bathrooms which already exist there, would remain. This giving both areas access to concessions and restrooms.

Q: How many bonds are currently still being paid for?

A: Three. A 1998, 1999, and 2010 series of bonds. If passed, this new bond would allow for the financial ability to refinance the 1998 and 1999 which have matured to a point to do so. This would create an approximated savings of \$17,000+. Refinancing these bonds while selling new bonds, creates a greater savings than simply refinancing alone

Q: How long do you anticipate it will take to return to our current tax rate approximately?

A: Honestly, that is hard to say since there are many factors which come into play. Although the Maintenance & Operating taxes are set at \$1.17 and the Interest and Sinking taxes are currently at \$.26 (these are the taxes used for construction), this new bond would of course create a \$.09 increase on the Interest & Sinking (I&S) side (equaling a new total of \$1.52). The unknown contributing factors are the future assessed property values, collection rate, new growth, etc. My best answer is to say the life of the bond would be approximately 20 years, although those unknown factors could create an opportunity of a potential I&S decrease sooner, than later. In other words, we only tax what we need to pay the bond note.

Q: How do the boys and girls fields compare?

A: Both would be built with the same specifications in mind and including the same materials, options, etc. Softball of course being smaller in dimension than the Baseball field.

Q: Will they both be lighted?

A: Yes.

Q: What are the plans for the benches where fans sit for each field? Will they be the same quantity and quality?

A: Vendors discussion thus far include new bleachers for both, and again will be the same in nature.