



City of Georgetown 2023 Bond Election

Frequently Asked Questions

PROPOSITION C

1. Why does Georgetown need a larger animal shelter?

Built in 2005 when Georgetown had fewer than half of the residents it has today, the City of Georgetown Animal Shelter consistently holds more animals than it was intended to shelter. Shelter Planners of America did an assessment of the City's animal shelter in 2016 and noted that it would be at or above capacity in 2020. The number of animals managed by the shelter regularly exceeds the recommended capacity due to consistently high intake volumes, longer lengths of stay, and lower reclamation rates by owners in recent years.

2. How would the bond funds be used?

To shelter more animals as cost-efficiently as possible, the City plans to enter into a new partnership with the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter (WCRAS), which is located in Georgetown. Bond funds would be used to expand the regional shelter, which is also at capacity and cannot accept any animals from the City without additional space.

3. Why not expand the City shelter?

Joining the regional shelter would enable the City to split operating costs with the County and the four cities that already participate in the regional shelter – Cedar Park, Hutto, Leander and Round Rock. This would lower the City's long-term costs while continuing to ensure Georgetown residents have convenient access to a high-quality, no-kill shelter.

4. How much would the City save annually by joining the regional shelter?

The City currently spends \$800,000 a year on animal shelter operations. As a member of the WCRAS, Georgetown's pro-rata share of operating costs is expected to be around \$500,000 in FY 2024.

5. Would the City shelter close if the partnership moves forward?

Yes. The City would close its current animal shelter after the expansion of the regional shelter was completed and all animals were relocated.



6. Can the City use the bond funds to expand its shelter if the partnership doesn't move forward?

Yes. If for any reason the final partnership agreement isn't approved by the Georgetown City Council, Williamson County Commission and the other local governments already participating in the regional shelter, then the City will use the bond funding to expand its own facility or build a new shelter.

7. Can the City expand its shelter without bond funding?

No, the City cannot expand its current shelter without bond dollars.

8. Can the City's shelter maintain its no-kill status without an expansion?

The City is doing all it can to avoid euthanizing animals at its shelter, but space constraints are making it increasingly difficult to maintain its no-kill status. Intake is high, animals are staying longer awaiting adoption, and fewer owners are reclaiming their pets. Because other shelters in the region also have capacity issues, the City shelter can no longer rely on transferring animals to free up space.

9. Would other cities contribute funding to expand the WCRAS?

Georgetown would provide all of the funding to expand the regional shelter in order to make room for animals coming from the City shelter as well as animals coming from within the City in the future. Williamson County, Cedar Park, Hutto and Round Rock previously funded the construction of the shelter and an earlier expansion. These entities would continue to jointly fund operations of the shelter along with Georgetown if the partnership moves forward.

10. How much more capacity would the expanded regional shelter have compared to Georgetown's current facility?

The City facility currently has 77 kennels while the regional shelter currently has 319 kennels. The proposed expansion of the regional shelter would add approximately 160 kennels, which the regional shelter projects could meet capacity needs through 2035.