

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2019

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City of Auburn

Upcoming referendum to fund Auburn City Schools projects



new Auburn High School.

The upcoming referendum will seek your approval to use the Special 5 Mill Tax Fund to further invest in Auburn City Schools' facilities. In 2018, the Auburn Board of Education approved a 10-year Facilities Master Plan. Two high-priority projects that have come out of that facilities plan are major renovations to Cary Woods Elementary School and J.F. Drake Middle School. Both facilities are in need of significant improvements, and plans include phased demolition and construction of new and expanded facilities. Auburn residents are being asked to approve a \$46 million bond issuance using Special 5 Mill Tax funds to pay for these much-needed renovations.

The Special 5 Mill Tax Fund consists of existing ad valorem taxes that may only be used for voter approved projects. **No new taxes will be considered in this election.**



Absentee ballots, upcoming deadlines

Absentee applications and ballots for the July 23, 2019, Special Municipal Bond Election are now available at Auburn City Hall. Eligible voters who are unable to physically visit their polling place on July 23 may cast an absentee ballot in advance if he or she:

- will be absent from the county on Election Day
- is ill or has a physical disability that prevents a trip to the polling place
- is a registered Alabama voter living outside the county, such as a member of the armed forces, a voter employed outside the United States, a college student or a spouse or child of such a person
- is an appointed election officer or poll watcher at a polling place other than his or her regular polling place

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- works a required shift, 10 hours or more, that coincides with polling hours

Applications and ballots may be obtained at City Hall. Applications must be made in writing to the city manager and either hand-delivered by the voter or mailed to:

Auburn City Hall
Attn: Absentee Ballots
144 Tichenor Ave., Suite 1
Auburn, AL, 36830

Absentee ballot applications may be made through July 18, 2019. The deadline to deliver absentee ballots in person is July 22 by 5 p.m. Absentee ballots delivered by U.S. Mail must be received by noon on July 23.

Business Emergency or Medical Emergency applications may be made after the absentee deadline but no later than 5 p.m. on the day before the election if the voter is required by an employer under unforeseen circumstances to be out of the county on election day for an emergency business trip or has a medical emergency requiring treatment from a licensed physician.

SAMPLE BALLOT

| OFFICIAL BALLOT | | SPECIAL MUNICIPAL BOND ELECTION CITY OF AUBURN, ALABAMA | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SPECIAL MUNICIPAL BOND ELECTION | <input type="checkbox"/> | CITY OF AUBURN |
| JULY 23, 2019 | | | |
| INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER | | | |
| TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL () COMPLETELY! DO NOT MAKE AN X OR ✓. IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT. | | | |
| SPECIAL MUNICIPAL BOND ELECTION | | | |
| <p>Proposed \$46,090,000 bond issue for (i) acquiring real property for public school purposes, (ii) demolishing, renovating and expanding portions of existing public school facilities, (iii) making public roadway improvements, (iv) making capital improvements to public school facilities, (v) developing and maintaining parks, (vi) exploring, constructing and financing public school facilities, (vii) paying the costs of various other public capital improvements, equipment and assets for public school and related purposes within the City, and (viii) paying the costs of issuing such bonds, which such bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates not exceeding 6% per annum, and the principal amount of such bonds shall be repaid in full by the City of Auburn in the following respective principal amounts on November 1 in the following respective years: 2020, \$680,000; 2021, \$715,000; 2022, \$750,000; 2023, \$790,000; 2024, \$830,000; 2025, \$870,000; 2026, \$915,000; 2027, \$950,000; 2028, \$985,000; 2029, \$1,020,000; 2030, \$1,055,000; 2031, \$1,090,000; 2032, \$1,125,000; 2033, \$1,300,000; 2034, \$1,365,000; 2035, \$1,435,000; 2036, \$1,510,000; 2037, \$1,585,000; 2038, \$1,670,000; 2039, \$1,755,000; 2040, \$1,845,000; 2041, \$1,940,000; 2042, \$2,040,000; 2043, \$2,145,000; 2044, \$2,255,000; 2045, \$2,370,000; 2046, \$2,490,000; 2047, \$2,620,000; 2048, \$2,750,000; and 2049, \$2,895,000.</p> | | | |
| <input type="radio"/> FOR proposed \$46,090,000 bond issue | | | |
| <input type="radio"/> AGAINST proposed \$46,090,000 bond issue | | | |
| END OF BALLOT | | | |

Voter registration

All registered and qualified electors of the state who reside within Auburn City limits and who have resided within City limits for 30 days or more immediately preceding the election date are authorized to vote in the election. The last day to register to vote in the election is July 9, and election results will be canvassed on July 30.

Voters may register with the Lee County Board of Registrars at the Lee County Courthouse, 215 S. 9th St. in Opelika, or online at alabamavotes.gov. Voters may also print a registration form at alabamavotes.gov, fill it out and mail it to the Lee County Board of Registrars at PO Box 1530, Opelika, AL, 36803.

This will be a municipal election, so your voting location may be different from county or state elections. You can find your ward and voting location online by entering your address in the City Services bar at the bottom of auburnalabama.org and clicking "Search." Find more info about the upcoming election at auburnalabama.org/elections.

New assistant city manager



In mid-May, City Manager James Binston announced the appointment of Megan McGowen Crouch as the City of Auburn's next assistant city manager/chief operating officer. Crouch's appointment follows the departure of former Assistant City Manager Kevin Cowper, who left the City of Auburn in April to become the city manager of Dothan, Alabama.

Crouch brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, having worked for the City of Auburn for over 21 years. She began her career with the city as an intern in the Planning Department in June 1997 and has served as a city planner, economic development officer, assistant economic development director, deputy economic development director and, most recently, the executive director for development services.

Her work for the City of Auburn has been expansive, including industrial recruitment (GE Aviation, Northrop Grumman and Donaldson) and commercial development (Publix, Auburn Mall expansion/renovation, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Kia of Auburn). She has worked closely with the development departments to formulate and implement plans such as CompPlan 2030, Renew Opelika Road, the Downtown Master Plan and the Northwest Auburn Plan.

"Megan's expertise in so many different areas of city operations makes her an excellent fit for this role," said Binston. "The City of Auburn is fortunate to have a dedicated professional of Megan's caliber working passionately each and every day to promote and advance the best interests of our community."



To fill Crouch's former role of executive director for development services, Binston has appointed Scott Cummings. In this role, Cummings will oversee, coordinate and foster collaboration in the activities and operations of the Development Services Business Unit, which includes the Planning Services, Commercial Services and Community Services departments. In this new role, Cummings will provide strategic vision and guidance to the Development Services Business Unit to promote sustainable growth patterns, plan proper implementation of infrastructure investments and promote strong neighborhoods and neighborhood relations.

Cummings most recently served the City as director of public works. He has over 30 years of experience in serving municipal governments from both the public and private sectors, including having previously served as the City of Auburn's water resource management director.

Tim Woody, formerly the City's environmental services director, will succeed Cummings as public works director. In his 32-year career with the City of Auburn,



Woody has served as a laborer, an animal control officer, assistant superintendent of sanitation, solid waste division manager, and as assistant director and director of environmental services. Woody established the city's fully-automated curbside garbage collection program, worked with the City's management to institute the Solid Waste Management Enterprise Fund, led the department's efforts to become a certified affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful program and worked with Auburn University, the City of Opelika and Lee County to establish the East Alabama Recycling Partnership to promote recycling and sustainability on a countywide level.

With Woody's move to Public Works, Catrina Cook will become the director of environmental services. During her 21 years with the City of Auburn, Cook has served as an environmental services assistant, division manager for right of way maintenance and assistant director of environmental services. In June 2018, Cook graduated from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.



"Together, these four individuals have nearly 80 years of collective experience and expertise in service to Auburn's citizens," Buston said. "I'm proud that we have such qualified individuals in our organization, and I look forward to working with them in their new roles and to the amazing things that they will do in service to our community."

2018 Consumer Confidence Report



Each year, the Auburn Water Works Board (AWWB) distributes its Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report to notify all customers about the quality and safety of their drinking water. This year's report is now available at auburnalabama.org/wrm/ccr/2018.

The report provides customers with information about

the contaminants that may be found in their drinking water and how these contaminants may affect their health. It is also an opportunity to educate customers about drinking water sources, treatment techniques and delivery methods used to ensure compliance with State and Federal laws.

A copy of the report has been mailed to all customers. The AWWB also provides a digital copy of the report online, and print copies will be available at the Bailey Alexander Water and Sewer Complex and other public facilities in Auburn.

If you have any questions, please contact the Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3060.

Annual Fourth of July Celebration



Celebrate Independence Day with the entire Auburn community, Auburn Parks and Recreation and Briggs and Stratton! Enjoy great food for purchase, live music, free inflatables, free CYBER GAME TRUCK adventures and the best fireworks display in the area! Grab your lawn chair, blanket and entire family to join us for a fun night of patriotic celebration.

This annual event will be held behind the home side of Duck Samford Stadium, located at 1623 E. University Drive. The gates will open at 5 p.m., live music will begin at 6 p.m. and the fireworks will start at 9 p.m. In the event of rain, the event will be held on Friday, July 5. This event is FREE to the public.

Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority will be announced at the June 4 Auburn City Council Meeting and filled at the July 2 meeting. Applications will be due at 5 p.m. on June 24. Two vacancies on the Greenspace Advisory Board will be announced at the June 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 16 meeting. Applications will be due at 5 p.m. on July 8.



Visit auburnalabama.org/boards to apply or find more information about volunteering for one of our boards and commissions.

