

# 2018 Harris County Flood Control Bond Proposal

An election for **\$2.5 billion** in voter-approved bonds has been called by the Harris County Commissioners Court for **Aug. 25th**. The purpose is to provide local funding for projects across Harris County that will reduce the risk of flooding, which is the county's most prevalent natural disaster.

## What potential projects will \$2.5 billion in bond funding pay for?

- Channel modifications to improve stormwater conveyance
- Regional stormwater detention basins
- Major repairs to flood-damaged drainage infrastructure
- Removing large amounts of sediment and silt from drainage channels
- Voluntary buyouts of flood-prone properties
- Wetland mitigation banks
- Property acquisition to preserve the natural floodplains
- Drainage improvements made in partnership with other cities, utility districts, or other local government agencies
- Upgrading the Harris County Flood Warning System
- Some of these potential projects would be funded with partnership agreements with the federal government. Roughly \$1 billion in bond funds would be used to provide the "local match" funding that is required for participation in these federal partnerships. These funds could bring back \$3 for every dollar put up by Harris County.

## Some basic questions:

**Q:** If approved, how quickly would the bonds be used?

**A:** If voters approve the bonds, the issuance of bonds could start in as little as three or four months. The entire package of bonds would be sold in increments over at least 10-15 years, as needed for the multiple phases of each project. The actual timing of individual projects will depend on many factors including environmental permitting and right-of-way acquisition. Projects will be authorized individually for funding by Commissioners Court, based on recommendations by the Flood Control District.

**Q:** Can the bond money be used for purposes other than flood risk reduction?

**A:** No. Under Texas law, bond funds in this election could only be used for the purpose approved by the voters.

**Q:** Why did Harris County Commissioners Court choose August 25, 2018?

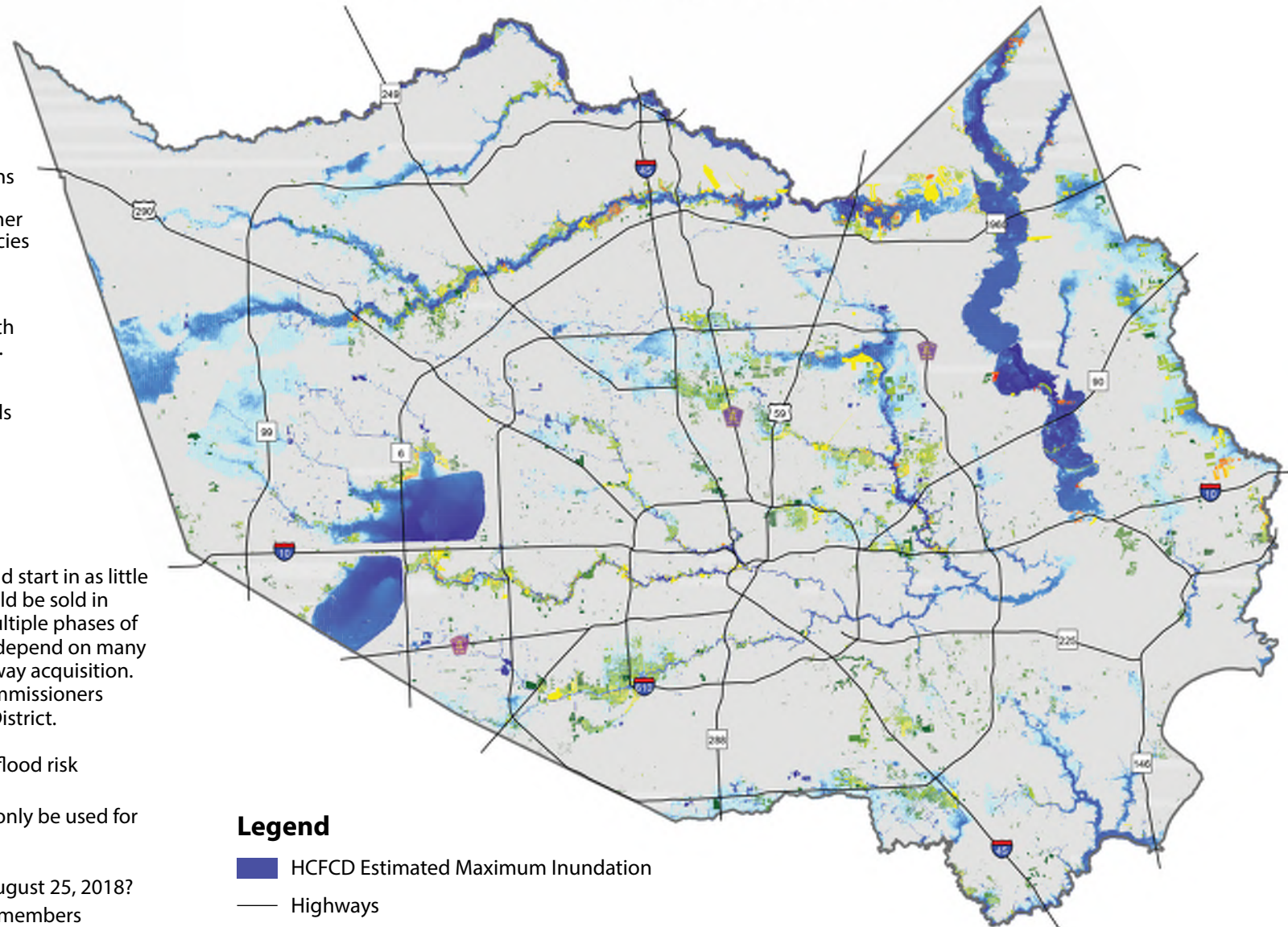
**A:** During multiple open meetings, Commissioners Court members discussed the urgency to secure funding for the "local match" dollars required to receive federal funding. Federal partnership opportunities are available now. It also allows the Flood Control District to move ahead with flood resiliency projects beyond the Harvey-related funds. August 25, 2018 also marks the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey's landfall on the Texas coast. In addition, August 25, 2018 falls on a Saturday and county officials believe that maximizes the opportunity for voters to participate in the bond election.

**Q:** Do bond proceeds have to be used for the specific projects recommended by the Flood Control District?

**A:** No. Voters will be asked to authorize bonds for flood damage reduction projects, but specific projects may be added to the list of potential projects in the future or projects on the list could be modified based upon public input.

## In Harvey's Wake

Heavy rain and damage at every corner of Harris County



### Legend

- HCFCD Estimated Maximum Inundation
- Highways
- Harris County

### Reported Flooded Properties Inundation Depths

- 1-6"
- 6-12"
- 12-36"
- 36-48"
- 48-60"
- 60-120"
- 120"+

**For more information on the projects that are part of this proposed bond program, community engagement information, interactive watershed maps and a list of community engagement meetings, visit:**

[hcfcd.org/bond-program](http://hcfcd.org/bond-program)



## How much will the bonds cost property taxpayers?

What homeowners should know...

- The full cost of the bond will be phased in over several years and will not impact property tax bills all at once.
- The Flood Control District plans to use these bonds over a 10 to 15 year period, as project timelines allow.
- Based on what could be \$2.5 billion in bonds and a likely borrowing schedule over approximately 15 years, the Harris County Budget Management Department estimates the overall tax increase will be no more than 2-3 cents per \$100 of home valuation – meaning most homeowners will see an increase of no more than 1.4 percent in their property tax.
- A homeowner with an over-65 or disabled exemption and a home worth \$200,000 or less would not pay any additional taxes for these bonds.

## This works with your input ....

This bond program works with input from the community. That means you. The Harris County Flood Control District considers project ideas that originate in the community.

## Reach out to the HCFCD:

- You may call the Flood Control District Bond Program Hotline with any questions directly at (713) 684-4107.
- You may mail comments in writing to 9900 Northwest Freeway, Houston, Texas 77092, ATTN: Bond Program Communications.
- You can also submit comments online at [hcfcd.org/bond-program](http://hcfcd.org/bond-program).

When considering project ideas suggested by the community, the Harris County Flood Control District will prioritize projects that meet its mission to provide flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values.