



2026 BOND ELECTION

Community Open House

On November 3, 2026, Temple voters will consider Proposition A, a bond proposition related to the replacement of Sammons Community Center. This handout provides an overview of the proposed project, why replacement is being considered, project funding and what voter approval would authorize.

WHAT ARE VOTERS DECIDING?

Temple voters will consider Proposition A on November 3, 2026. The proposition asks whether the City may issue up to \$15 million in general obligation bonds for Sammons Community Center and levy the taxes necessary to repay those bonds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1920s

Original Sammons Community Center constructed.

OVER THE YEARS

Multiple additions made to the original facility.

MAY 2024

Severe weather prompted building evaluations. Professional assessments identified deterioration and weaknesses in portions of the roof framing and structural system. The City evaluated repair and replacement options.

AUGUST 2026

City Council called bond election for Proposition A.

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Temple voters will decide whether to authorize up to \$15 million in general obligation bonds for Sammons Community Center.

WHY REPLACEMENT INSTEAD OF REPAIR?

The Sammons Community Center building was constructed in the 1920s and has been added on to over the years. Much of the facility, including portions of the original brick structure, has been in place for decades and serves as structural support for the expansions.

Following the May 2024 severe weather, damage to the facility was identified, which prompted the City to have two independent engineering firms evaluate the building. Their assessments identified multiple structural concerns, including an overloaded roof, weak and poorly engaged roof connections, inadequate bracing, accumulated weight from decades of additions, and deficiencies within portions of the original brick structure.

After evaluating options to repair or replace the facility, the City determined that replacement would reduce the long-term costs associated with repairing and maintaining the existing structure while providing the opportunity to design a new facility that supports current and future community programming.

ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The existing Sammons Community Center is approximately 18,300 square feet. The current conceptual plan is for an approximately 20,000-square-foot facility planned as a community center for residents of all ages.

While Sammons has historically provided programming for older adults, the proposed facility is being planned as a multi-generational community center. The current concept includes event and program space, classrooms, recreation and fitness areas, community gathering space and other building-support areas. It would accommodate recreation, fitness, educational programs, community events, rentals and other activities while continuing to provide programming and accessibility for older adults.

IS THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FINAL?

The conceptual design illustrates the City's current project concept and is not the final design. If voters authorize the bonds, the project would proceed through additional design and development before construction and would require City Council approval.

WHAT IS A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND?

A General Obligation (GO) bond is a form of long-term financing local governments can use to fund major public facilities and other capital projects. The debt is repaid over time through property tax revenue.

For the proposed Sammons Community Center project, a GO bond would allow the City to finance construction of the facility and spread the cost over time. Voter authorization is required for the proposed bonds.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The bond proposition asks voters whether to authorize the City to issue up to \$15 million for the Sammons Community Center project. That does not mean the City will automatically issue the full \$15 million. Actual project costs would be based on the final design, construction costs and other eligible project expenses.

The \$15 million includes the following estimated costs:

- **\$12.25M** Building + Site Construction
- **\$1.05M** Design + Bidding
- **\$1M** Furniture, Fixtures + Equipment
- **\$550K** Construction-Phase Services + Materials Testing
- **\$150K** Demolition of the current Sammons Community Center

HAVE ANY OTHER FUNDING SOURCES BEEN IDENTIFIED?

The City has applied for a \$1.5 million grant through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help fund the project. The grant has not yet been awarded, and the City expects to learn whether the application is successful in the coming months.

In addition, Rowan Development LLC has committed \$3 million in community benefit funding that may be used toward the project. The City did recover insurance proceeds for the roof replacement in the amount of \$106,628 and expects to apply insurance proceeds from the May 2024 storms toward the project.

If Proposition A is approved, the City would be authorized to issue up to \$15 million in general obligation bonds. Any additional funding applied to the project could reduce the amount of bond funding ultimately needed.

IF APPROVED, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE NAMING RIGHTS IN THE EXISTING BUILDING?

The City of Temple recognizes the history associated with the Sammons Community Center and the individuals and organizations who have been recognized through naming of the facility and spaces within it.

If Proposition A is approved, the City would review existing naming rights and recognitions as part of the planning and design process. The intent would be to appropriately recognize and preserve those existing commitments in the replacement facility.