

DEBT SERVICE

GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT

Introduction

The General Obligation Debt Service Fund provides for the payment of principal and interest on the City's outstanding general obligation bonds, certificates of obligation and equipment acquisition notes. Debt financing is used to pay for large capital projects by spreading the cost of the project over the life of the asset. Capital projects may include improvements to and/or construction of the City's street system; parks and recreational facilities; libraries, police and fire protection facilities; and the flood protection and storm drainage system. The Financial Management Performance Criteria (FMPC) address debt management, and among other requirements, necessitate voter approval prior to issuance of general obligation bonds and restrict the maturities, amounts of and purposes for which bonded debt may be issued.

The primary source of revenue for the debt service fund is the ad valorem property tax. The adopted ad valorem tax rate of 72.92¢ per \$100 assessed value is split into two rates. Approximately one-fourth (18.44¢) of the tax revenue is used to pay principal and interest on the City's outstanding general obligation debt. The remaining three-fourths (54.48¢) of the revenue generated by the tax rate is used to pay for operating and maintenance costs incurred in the General Fund.

Due to the level principal structure of individual bond sales, the principal and interest payments of the existing general obligation debt decline annually. This repayment schedule creates more growth in the capacity to issue new debt within the existing debt service tax rate than a level payment schedule would.

Credit Rating

The City of Dallas' General Obligation debt currently holds AA+/Aa1 ratings from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, respectively. These exceptionally high ratings reflect the sound management of the City of Dallas' financial resources and allow the City of Dallas to issue relatively low cost debt.

