

LONG TERM DEBT FINANCING POLICY

The City of Forest Park, Georgia (City) recognizes that to maintain flexibility in responding to changing service priorities, revenue inflows, and cost structures, a debt management strategy is required. The City strives to balance service demands and the amount of debt incurred. The City realizes that failure to meet the demands of growth may inhibit its continued economic viability, but also realizes that too much debt may have detrimental effects as well.

The goal of the City's debt policy is to maintain a sound fiscal position and to protect the credit rating of the City. When the City utilizes debt financing, it will ensure the debt is financed soundly and conservatively.

RECOMMENDATION

Debt financing of capital improvements and equipment will be done only when one or more of the following four conditions exist:

- When non-continuous projects (those not requiring continuous annual appropriations) are desired;
- When it can be determined that future users will receive a benefit from the improvement;
- When it is necessary to provide basic services to residents and taxpayers;
- When total debt, including that issued by overlapping government entities, does not constitute an unreasonable burden to residents and taxpayers;
- Determining that the benefits of the improvement exceed the costs, including interest costs;
- Maintaining a debt service coverage ratio which ensures that combined debt service requirements will not exceed revenues pledged for the payment of debt;
- Analyzing the impact of debt service on total annual fixed costs before bonded long-term debt is issued;
- Maintaining total debt service for general obligation debt that does not exceed 10 percent of the net operating revenues. Net operating revenues are all general fund revenues available after accounting for transfers between other City funds;
- The Annual Budget and Capital Improvement Plan should include a statement of sources and uses for long term capital projects including debt service financing schedules and a capital debt capacity analysis;

- Professionals related to the financing transaction should be selected through a Request for Proposal process. Such professionals should include Bond Counsel, Financial Advisor, Underwriters, Placement Agent and Bond Trustee when such applicable services are needed. In no instance should the Underwriter selling and marketing the bonds serve as the Financial Advisor.