Voters overwhelmingly approve largest bond in Travis County history

By Luz Moreno-Lozano KUT 90.5

Voters overwhelmingly approved a $509 million bond issue in Travis County on Tuesday night, an amount that would fund more than 150 projects county-wide over the next five years.

The largest bond in Travis County history, Proposition A, passed with 75.78% of the vote. Proposition B, which was proposed in addition to A, also passed, receiving 53.49% of the vote.

The bond will fund projects throughout the county, including but not limited to: the improvement of roads and parks, the expansion of green spaces, and the creation of trails for bikers and pedestrians.

Voters were in favor of the bond proposals, with Travis County residents approving both Propositions A and B.

This is Travis County’s largest bond package in history. In 2015, the county went with a $233 million bond, the largest at the time, but it failed. The most recent bond election was in 2017, also for roads and parks.

The Angeles have hired Ron Washington, the 71-year-old first job as MLB manager since 2014

By GREG BEACHAM AP

Anaheim, Calif. (AP) — The Los Angeles Angels hired Ron Wash- ington to be their new manager, turning to a veteran baseball mind in an at- tempt to end nearly a decade of losing.

The 71-year-old Washington became the majors’ oldest current manager and only the second active Black manager, joining the

Ron Washington (AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)

Washington led the Texas Rangers from 2001-04, winning two AL pennants and going 664-611. He spent the past seven seasons as Atlanta’s third base coach, helping the Braves to their 2021 World Series title.

Washington re- placed Phil Nevin, who wasn’t re-signed last month after a 1-1/2 losing seasons in charge of the long-struggling Angels. Los Angeles is mired in stretches of eight con- secutive losing seasons and nine straight non- playoff seasons, both the longest streaks in the majors.

Arte Moreno, the Angels’ 77-year-old owner, clearly hopes the experienced Washing- ton can get the most out of a long-undervalued franchise with a big pay- roll and three-time MVP Mike Trout, but al- most no team success to show for it. Still, Dave Ohrti, the team’s su- perstar two-way player, welcomed a free-agent this week.

Washington got a two-year contract. He’s the fourth manager in the last six seasons for the Angels following the departure of Mike Scioscia, who spent 19 years running the Halos’ bench before walking away after the 2018 sea- son. Brad Ausmus, Joe Maddon and Nevin have all tried and failed to re- verse the Angels’ slide.

Washington’s suc- cessful tenure at Texas had plenty of bumps along the way. He tested positive for cocaine use during the 2009 season and offered to resign, but he kept his job and led the Rangers to the World Series in 2010 and again in 2011.

Washington abruptly resigned from the Rangers on Sept. 9, 2014, surprising the baseball world. Two weeks later, he acknowledged having an extra- marital affair and cited it as the reason for leaving Texas, which had in- tended to bring him back.

With a reputation as a personable, old- school manager with an ebullient personality and an exciting edge, Washington leaves the AL West well. Along with his time in Texas, he spent 13 seasons over two stints as a coach with the Oakland Athletic- ics.