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NEWS RELEASE

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT PUTS ASTRODOME PLAN ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

*Court Votes Unanimously to Allow Voters Opportunity
To Decide on Future of the “Eighth Wonder of the World”*

Harris County Commissioners Court voted unanimously this morning to give Harris County voters the opportunity to decide the fate of the Harris County Domed Stadium, the world-famous Astrodome owned by county taxpayers.

The court’s decision means voters will decide on Nov. 5 whether to allow the county to issue up to \$217 million in bonds to finance the redesign and redevelopment of the former stadium, which has remained empty and largely unused since 2009. The exact amount of bonds to be issued and the amount of the required property tax increase to pay off those bonds has not yet been determined, but would be part of the ballot language presented to voters.

“One of the most frequent questions I have heard in my six and a half years as county judge has been ‘What are we going to do with the Astrodome’,” Emmett said. “Now the voters will finally get to decide.”

After a lengthy multi-year process in which the county unsuccessfully sought private proposals with funding for the Astrodome, the Harris County Sports and Convention Corporation unveiled a proposal in June called “The New Dome Experience.” The plan calls for converting the Astrodome to a modern multipurpose venue with open space that could play host to a multitude of sports, exhibitions and community events, including activities of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

If approved by voters in November, the repurposing of the Astrodome would take approximately 30 months, allowing it to play a key role in the hosting of Super Bowl LI in February 2017.