

# Building A Better Temple Terrace

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Temple Terrace voters today will decide the fate of a redevelopment plan that promises to make their community more convenient, prosperous and appealing.

They'll decide by referendum a proposed 1 mill increase in property taxes to transform a deteriorating shopping center into a ``downtown." The city would spend as much as \$60 million over the next 10 years to build new streets, sewer-drainage systems, parking lots, parks and other necessities to create a true business core, which Temple Terrace sadly lacks.

The property tax increase would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home an extra \$125 a year. That's not insignificant, but it is a reasonable amount to invest in the community's long-term welfare. And doing nothing will likely result in blight, crime and the loss of a business tax base.

City officials have collaborated with the public and consulted with urban planners in developing a sensible plan. The city's effort will be confined to building the infrastructure. No public dollars will be used for the private businesses.

The risks are small and the costs are manageable. The likely return will be a better community for everyone. Voters should back the plan.