



Ronald Blum/AP Photo

**United States coach Mauricio Pochettino and Atlanta United coach Tara Martino pose with jerseys during a news conference before the men's national soccer team training, Friday, in Marietta, Ga.**

# 'Why not us?' Pochettino backs US World Cup hopes

BY RONALD BLUM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARIETTA, Ga. — Mauricio Pochettino told American soccer players they can achieve what almost no one thinks is possible: win the World Cup.

"Why not us? Why not us? Why not us?" he said Friday. "We need to really believe that we can be there. We need to dream."

Ahead of friendlies against Belgium on Saturday and Portugal on Tuesday, Pochettino publicly repeated a message he delivered directly to players when they reported to camp this week.

"Dreams," he added, "inspire reality."

The U.S. hasn't reached the World Cup semifinals since the initial tournament in 1930 and hasn't advanced to the quarterfinals since 2002. Since then, the Americans were knocked out in the round of 16 in 2010, 2014 and 2022, were eliminated in the group stage in 2006 and failed to qualify in 2018.

Only eight nations have won a World Cup: Brazil (five titles), Germany and Italy (four each), Argentina (three), France and Uruguay (two apiece), and England and Spain (one each).

Pochettino, a former Argentina national team defender who replaced Gregg Berhalter as U.S. coach in late 2024, cited American mentality as cause for optimism.

"I hear another day a press conference from

some coaching staff in another national team and (they) say, 'OK, if we say we are going to win, we are showing too much arrogance,'" he explained. "If we say, well, it is going to be difficult to win. It's negative. It's not optimistic. It's creating negative things. What I am saying: I am here because I believe that we can win and what I can tell to the people is really believe."

At the World Cup, the 15th-ranked U.S. opens against No. 41 Paraguay on June 12 at Inglewood, California, faces 27th-ranked Australia one week later at Seattle and closes the group stage against No. 23 Turkey or No. 78 Kosovo in Inglewood on June 25. As co-hosts, the U.S., Mexico and Canada are seeded and avoid facing top nations in the first round.

With the expansion of the World Cup to 48 nations from 32, the top two teams in each of 12 groups advance to a new round of 32 along with the best eight third-place teams.

The last time third-place teams reached the knockout round was the also the last time the United States hosted the World Cup, a 24-team tournament in 1994. And the Americans advanced as one of them, but then lost to eventual champion Brazil in the round of 16.

"We need to send the right energy and good emotion to the people, for the people to really believe in us and to support us, for sure," Pochettino said.

## AZTECA

FROM PAGE B1

returning to the original Azteca," Aguirre said.

The stadium located south of Mexico City will host five World Cup games next summer. Opened in 1966, Azteca has undergone several renovations — the last one to accommodate NFL games in 2016.

"There were many areas for improvement, but some things we were obsessed with were enhancing the fan experience. To achieve this, we improved the audio, video, and internet, but we also improved the restrooms, entrances and exits, and everything related to the overall experience," Aguirre said.

"It's somewhat subjective, but I think we achieved it."

### ALL ABOUT SOUL

Aguirre was given a clear

brief to follow.

"Another thing we wanted was for it not to lose its soul," Aguirre said. "This is a historic building that is part of the city; we couldn't disrespect its essence. We simply had to enhance it, preserve its soul, and provide fans with a better experience."

The exterior remains a familiar sight to fans. Debris can still be seen in some places, and there will be no car parking available for supporters for Saturday's game. Authorities have asked fans to use public transportation or shuttles that will depart from public locations throughout the capital.

Aguirre's mission is to hand over the stadium to FIFA a month before the June 11 opener.

If all goes well, then he'll be able to sleep soundly.

"That's what we hope," he said with a laugh.

# LEGAL NOTICE

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES FOR OAK GROVE, KENTUCKY



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
CITY OF OAK GROVE  
MAYOR JACQUELINE OLIVER



March 24, 2026

TO: Solid Waste Collection Firms  
FROM: The City of Oak Grove, Kentucky  
SUBJECT: Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services

### Introduction

We are seeking proposals for residential and commercial solid waste collection to be provided to our community. The selected vendor will be responsible for baseline residential services, scheduling and billing for residential bulky item pickup and disposal, commercial dumpster services and billing commercial customers.

### Background

Our community consists of approximately 3,263 residential units and 89 commercial units. The City's current contract is set to expire on June 30, 2026. We are looking for a provider that can offer competitive pricing and excellent service.

### Contract Term and Conditions

The contract term will be five (5) years, effective July 1, 2026. No extensions or renewal proposals beyond the five (5) year term will be considered.

### Residential Collection

The contractor shall provide curbside collection and disposal of household garbage generated by all residential dwellings within the incorporated areas of the City of Oak Grove. Collection shall occur once per week per residence.

The contractor shall provide one (1) rolling cart with a hinged lid and a capacity of not less than 90 gallons to each household. All carts shall be of a uniform color approved by the City.

The contractor shall provide behind-the-house collection for residents who are handicapped or elderly and unable to place their carts at the curb. The City will provide a list of these households.

Bid amounts for residential services and commercial customers not utilizing dumpsters shall include a one-dollar (\$1.00) franchise fee and a one-dollar (\$1.00) collection fee, both of which will be retained by the City.

### Commercial Collection

The contractor shall provide collection and disposal of garbage generated by commercial customers within the incorporated areas of the City of Oak Grove.

The contractor may, at the commercial customer's election, provide rolling carts with a hinged lid and a capacity of not less than 90 gallons or dumpsters to each commercial customer. All carts shall be of a uniform color approved by the City.

Collection shall occur one (1) to four (4) times per week, depending on customer needs. The contractor shall provide containers sized appropriately for each commercial account.

Bid amounts for commercial rolling cart or dumpster services shall include a ten percent (10%) franchise fee, to be paid to the City by the contractor.

### Multi-Unit Residential Complexes

Persons owning or operating multi-unit residential complexes may elect to have solid waste collected through individual rolling carts or dumpsters. Whether service occurs through rolling carts or dumpsters, each water service address shall be billed for residential solid waste collection.

### Equipment

All equipment used in the performance of this contract must be reliable, presentable, and maintained in safe operating condition at all times.

### Billing and Collections

The City of Oak Grove shall bill and collect all payments for residential solid waste services. The City will remit amounts collected, less the one-dollar (\$1.00) franchise fee and a one-dollar (\$1.00) collection fee, to the contractor. The City shall not be obligated to pursue collection efforts against individual customers who fail to pay for services rendered.

The contractor shall bill and collect all payments for commercial solid waste services. The contractor shall then, on or before June 1 of each fiscal year, remit the ten percent (10%) franchise fee to the city. The remittance of the commercial franchise fee shall include supporting documentation from the contractor's controller or accountant certifying the accuracy of the franchise fee remitted.

### City Services

The contractor shall provide at no charge:

- Containers and service for the Fire Department, Community Center, City Hall, Police Department, and other City-sponsored special events.

### Container Replacement

The contractor shall maintain an inventory of solid waste containers for replacement of damaged or missing containers.

### Holidays

The contractor may observe holidays, provided that the holiday schedule is submitted with the contractor's proposal. Any collection missed due to a holiday shall be made up as expeditiously as possible, and no later than two (2) days following the holiday.

### Disposal

All solid waste collected by the contractor shall be disposed of at a landfill permitted and approved by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, or, if outside the Commonwealth, at a landfill approved by the governing jurisdiction.

### Recycling

Proposals shall detail any opportunities contract will provide for recycling. Including, but not limited to, residential recycling carts and recycling trailers.

### Price Increases

Proposals shall detail any price increases over the term of the contract, such as CPI or other increases. Any price increases not set forth in the proposal will not be considered or included in the contract with the successful bidder.

### Compliance with Law

The contractor shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies of the city, county, state, and federal governments regarding environmental protection, the collection, transportation, and disposal of solid waste.

### Independent Contractor Status

The contractor shall be deemed an independent contractor at all times and for all purposes. All work shall be performed at the contractor's risk, and the contractor shall assume full responsibility for the condition and maintenance of all tools and equipment.

### Insurance and Indemnification

The contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the City for any and all liability or loss arising from the performance of this contract.

The contractor shall maintain throughout the contract term:

- General liability insurance in an amount not less than \$2,500,000.

- Workers' compensation insurance as required by law.

Proof of insurance must be on file with the City, name the City as an additional insured party, and in effect at all times.

### Contract Execution

Any bid accepted by the City of Oak Grove shall be reduced to a written contract between the successful bidder and the City, subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council.

### Assignment

Bids or proposals may not be assigned or transferred without the advanced, written permission of the city.

### Reservation of Rights

The City of Oak Grove reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive technicalities or informalities, and to award the contract in the best interest of the City. The City of Oak Grove is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Performance Bond

The successful bidder shall furnish a performance bond equal to the full contract price, with pro rata reductions permitted annually over the term of the contract. The contractor shall pay all bond premiums. A certificate from the surety showing that premiums are paid in full shall accompany the bond and be provided at the time of contract execution with the successful bidder.

### Questions

All questions regarding these specifications shall be submitted via email (no phone calls) on or before April 16, 2026, and directed to: [info@oakgroveky.org](mailto:info@oakgroveky.org)

### Bid Submission

Sealed bids shall be delivered to Oak Grove City Hall and will be accepted until April 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CST.

On April 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at Oak Grove City Hall, 8505 Pembroke Oak Grove Road, Oak Grove, KY 42262.

### Selection Process

After the submission deadline, the city council will review and evaluate all proposals. Vendors submitting proposals may be invited for interviews or additional discussions before a final selection is made. The selected vendor will be notified by May 29, 2026.

### Supplementary Information

The city reserves the right to seek and acquire supplemental, additional, and clarifying information from each applicant it deems reasonable and necessary to reach a determination. Acceptance of the bid is at the discretion of the city. The city of Oak Grove, Kentucky reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive any irregularity in the bidding process.

## SOLID WASTE BID FORM CITY OF OAK GROVE, KENTUCKY

### Bid Submitted by:

The undersigned hereby agrees to collect, transport, store, and dispose of solid waste located within the incorporated areas of Oak Grove, Kentucky, in strict compliance with the terms set out in the request for proposal. The rates proposed by the bidder are as follows:

### Residential Service:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including franchise and collection fees)

Residential Service with Two Carts:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including franchise and collection fees)

Commercial Cart Service:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including franchise fee)

Commercial Service with Two Carts:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including franchise fee)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including franchise fee)

Commercial Dumpster Rates: (including franchise fee)

Size	1x / week	2x / week	3x / week	4x / week
2 Yard				
4 Yard				
6 Yard				
8 Yard				

### Price Increases Over the Term of the Contract:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Recycling Options:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Bulky Waste:

Tires: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Rolloff Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_/ton

Appliances: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_/haul

Mattress: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial Compactor Rates: \_\_\_\_\_

Furniture: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information and data required by the RFP shall be attached hereto as supplements to this bid, including, but not limited to:

1. Certificate of Insurance
2. Holiday Schedule
3. Company History
4. References from Current Customers

The undersigned having carefully read and considered the terms and conditions of the bid requirements previously set out herein and being familiar with local conditions affecting the costs of work, the transportation system of Oak Grove, Kentucky, and the geographical description, do hereby offer to furnish at the rates previously set out above, all labor, equipment, materials, tools, insurance, supervision, and all other items necessary to provide for the service as requested and specified herein.

\_\_\_\_\_

Bidder's email address \_\_\_\_\_ Bidder's signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bidder's fax number \_\_\_\_\_ Bidder's address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bidder's phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD. ADVERTISE WITH US.**