

**FREDERICK-FIRESTONE  
FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Office: (303) 833-2742

Fax: (303) 833-3736

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**FACTUAL SUMMARY  
NOVEMBER 6, 2018 ELECTION FOR VOTER AUTHORIZATION  
TO INCREASE AND STABILIZE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE**

**THE FIRE DISTRICT.** Since 1976 Frederick-Firestone Fire Protection District has provided fire suppression, rescue, extrication, hazardous materials, ambulance, emergency medical, public education, and risk reduction services to approximately 36 square miles that include the Towns of Frederick and Firestone, and a portion of unincorporated Weld County.

**SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE.** The Fire District's population has increased 660% since 2000. It's call volume has increased 50% in the last 5 years. As a result of the Gallagher Amendment to the Colorado Constitution, the Fire District will lose \$160,000 in revenue in 2018. It is projected to lose roughly the same amount in 2019, and anticipates losing at least \$380,000 in 2020 and future years. The Fire District's last mill levy increase for emergency services was in 2006.

**THE BALLOT ISSUES.** During its meeting on August 20, 2018, the Fire District's Board of Directors adopted a Resolution calling for an election on November 6, 2018 to seek voter approval to increase and stabilize its property tax revenue through the following Ballot Issues:

**Ballot Issue A - Property Tax Increase for Emergency Services**

SHALL FREDERICK-FIRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$2,982,041 (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE) ANNUALLY, BEGINNING IN LEVY YEAR 2018 (FOR COLLECTION IN CALENDAR YEAR 2019) BY INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S EXISTING PROPERTY TAX BY 5.23 MILLS, TO ENABLE THE DISTRICT TO CONTINUE PROVIDING CRITICAL FIRE, AMBULANCE, RESCUE AND OTHER EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES TO ITS FAST-GROWING COMMUNITIES, AND SHALL ALL REVENUE AND ANY EARNINGS ON THIS TAX CONSTITUTE A PERMANENT VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 29-1-301 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, AND ANY OTHER LAW?

**Ballot Issue B – Gallagher Revenue Stabilization**

SHALL FREDERICK-FIRESTONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE OR DECREASE ITS CURRENT AND ALL FUTURE MILL LEVIES (INCLUDING THE ADDITIONAL 5.23 MILLS IF THE VOTERS APPROVE BALLOT ISSUE A) ONLY IF, ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 6, 2018, THERE ARE CHANGES IN THE METHOD OF CALCULATING ASSESSED VALUATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL VALUATION USED TO DETERMINE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUATION DUE TO ARTICLE X SECTION 3 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (COMMONLY KNOWN AS

THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT), SO THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY SUCH MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD SUCH CHANGES NOT OCCURRED?

**ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PROPOSAL.** Homeowners in the Fire District would not enjoy the potential financial benefit of any further reductions in the residential assessment rate that may occur in the future. Non-residential property owners may see a net increase in property taxes, as they will not see a corresponding decrease in the assessment rate for their property. The property tax increase will increase the amount of taxes the Fire District assesses against taxable property within its boundaries. For voters who support less and smaller government, the Fire District's increase in tax revenues may be contrary to this objective. Based upon the Fire District's current assessed valuation, a property tax increase of 5.23 mills would result in the following projected increases in property taxes to homeowners:

\$200,000 Residence = \$6.28 per month  
\$300,000 Residence = \$9.41 per month  
\$400,000 Residence = \$12.55 per month

**ARGUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL.** Stabilizing the Fire District's tax revenues, and increasing its general operating tax by 5.23 mills, will provide stable and predictable revenue for the Fire District to meet the community's increasing demands for emergency services, including:

- Hire nine firefighter/paramedics.
- Begin replacing its aging apparatus fleet, including a 1988 Water Tender and a 1992 Fire Truck.
- Build an additional three fire stations in the next 10 to 15 years and hire the emergency service personnel and purchase the fire trucks and ambulances for each new station.

Without the tax increase and stabilization, the increasing costs and demands for emergency services, and the loss of revenue caused by the Gallagher Amendment, will make it difficult for the Fire District to keep up with increased population, emergency call volume, and inflation, and may adversely affect future staffing, and construction and maintenance of fire trucks and stations. Insurance Service Offices (ISO) ratings for the Fire District may increase and cause homeowners' and business owners' property insurance rates to increase.