

ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Election Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Election Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Local Election Office Address and Telephone Number:

Estes Valley Fire Protection District, 901 North Saint Vrain Avenue, Estes Park, Colorado 80517;
Telephone: 970-577-0900

Ballot Title and Text:

ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE A:

SHALL ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$1,220,000 IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OR BY SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX RATE OF UP TO 2.900 MILLS, COMMENCING IN COLLECTION YEAR 2024 AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER, FOR GENERAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL PROGRAMS OF THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING:

- ENHANCING EMERGENCY RESPONSE (ENHANCING VOLUNTEER RESPONSE MODEL AND ADDING LIMITED FULL TIME FIRE OFFICERS TO ACHIEVE 24/7 STAFFING)
- ENHANCING COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION FOR WILDFIRE AND OTHER FIRE RISKS (ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR EDUCATION AND MITIGATION OF FIRE RISKS ACROSS THE COMMUNITY), AND
- CONTINUED NECESSARY MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES, VEHICLES, AND EQUIPMENT TO EXTEND THEIR USEFUL LIFE; AND

SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX AS A VOTER-APPROVED EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW AND WITH THE FUNDS SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL AUDIT AND REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2023 (estimated)	\$2,487,840
2022 (unaudited)	\$2,205,740
2021 (actual)	\$2,369,249
2020 (actual)	\$1,659,782
2019 (actual)	\$1,925,360

Overall percentage change from 2019 to 2023:	29%
Overall dollar change from 2019 to 2023:	\$562,480

Proposed District Tax Increase:

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase:	\$1,220,000
Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase:	\$2,495,255

ESTES VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

Summary of Written Comments For the Proposal:

Please Vote Yes on Issue A on the May ballot to support the Estes Valley Fire Protection District. This initiative will support your District's efforts to keep our community safe by reducing community risks (including wildfire), improving response times for emergency calls, and maintaining the department's vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

As Estes Park and the surrounding region experiences significant growth, the volunteers and staff at Estes Valley Fire continue to provide exceptional emergency response and fire mitigation and prevention services. The region has been protected by a volunteer fire department since 1907, before the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park (1915) and the Town of Estes Park (1917).

Since 2010 the full-time population of the region has increased 20 percent and the annual number of visitors has jumped nearly 60 percent. With more people in our Valley, calls for service are growing. In 2010, the District responded to 450 calls per year. Now, it responds to an average of 650 calls per year—a 44 percent increase. We continue to depend on our dedicated volunteer base and ask them to do more.

We conducted a strategic planning process and requested input and feedback from you to identify and address numerous challenges: population and visitor growth, increased threats from wildfires, staffing for emergency and prevention, and equipment and facility needs. Based on your responses, Issue A is focusing on:

- Enhancing the volunteer program and providing a 24/7 presence in the fire station through volunteer and career firefighters who are available to respond to emergencies with minimal delay.
- Decreasing wildfire risk by assisting homeowners and HOAs with fuels reduction, outreach and education, and increasing fire breaks.
- Maintaining the District's equipment, vehicles and stations to ensure first-responder safety and extend the useful life of the District's assets.
- Expanding fire-prevention programs for businesses and homes to support existing structures and to keep up with new buildings.

By continuing to invest in community fire protection, the District's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating will continue to stay high. This is a rating used by insurance companies to determine risk and keeping our rating high could potentially reduce the cost of insurance.

Issue A is a dedicated 2.9 mill levy for prevention and operations and would cost about \$151 per year or \$12.60 per month for a \$750,000 home in the District. This is the first tax increase requested since the creation of the District in 2010. In addition to the proposed levy, the District staff and Board are working with the Town to ensure that visitors contribute to the department's funding needs, and we continue to seek out grant opportunities that align with identified priorities.

Voting Yes on Issue A will allow the District to ensure that it continues to meet or exceed your expectations of service, that our staff and volunteers are kept safe through proper training and equipment, and that our community is prepared for the future. Please vote yes on Issue A.

Summary of Written Comments Against the Proposal:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.