

**INTER-CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 2**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INTER-CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 6F TO INCREASE ITS MILL LEVY RATE 3.0 MILLS AND STABILIZE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE**

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Canyon Fire Protection District (the “**District**”) is a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado and a duly organized and existing special district pursuant to Title 32, Article 1, C.R.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has not increased its mill levy in ten years and its property tax revenue has for many years remained relatively flat; at the same time the cost to provide fire protection and emergency medical services has increased significantly; and

**WHEREAS**, a large reason for the increase in costs is the dramatic increase in the number of emergency calls to which the District responds, including a 22% increase from 2015 to 2017, largely associated with increases in population, medical calls and wildfire threats; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1982 a provision was added to the Colorado Constitution known as the “Gallagher Amendment,” which requires adjustments to the rate at which residential real property is assessed for property tax purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1982 the residential assessment rate has been reduced from 21% to 7.2 %, which is a 66% drop, and has resulted in a proportional reduction of property tax revenue to the District necessary to provide vital emergency services; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 the residential assessment rate is expected to drop to approximately 6.1%, which would be a 15% reduction from the current rate, and which would further reduce District revenue needed to provide emergency services; and

**WHEREAS**, if the District does not increase its mill levy and stabilize its revenue, the District would be forced to take offset measures that reduce district services:

- The District would not be able to hire additional daytime Emergency Medical Services (EMS), structural and wildland firefighters to meet the ongoing increase in call volume.

- The District would not be able to hire a Wildland Specialist to provide mitigation consultation, assist with EMS response and assist with important training programs for EMS and firefighters.
- Replacement of fire engines that are beyond their useful life would not be possible.
- The purchase of tactical fire engines needed in order to increase the number of responders to scene, improve firefighter safety, and to better negotiate the various terrain within the District would be delayed indefinitely.
- The District would not be able to update non ADA-compliant buildings, provide potable water, bunking and training facilities for fire and EMS staff; and

**WHEREAS**, instead of reducing District services as outlined above, District voters can authorize the District to increase its mill levy and offset future revenue reductions required by the Gallagher Amendment, and without regard to “**TABOR**” restrictions (Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution) and thereby stabilize District revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s Board of Directors has determined that the public interest and necessity require that the District place before the voters Ballot Issue 6F to increase the District’s general operating mill levy rate by 3.0 mills and to offset future Gallagher Amendment revenue reductions, which would allow the District to provide appropriate and responsive fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act expressly authorizes the District to adopt and distribute in normal fashion a Resolution regarding any ballot issue of import to the District;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Inter-Canyon Fire Protection District as follows:

1. The Board hereby expresses its strongest possible support for Ballot Issue 6F to allow the District to increase its mill levy rate by 3.0 mills and to offset future revenue reductions that would otherwise result from Gallagher Amendment adjustments.

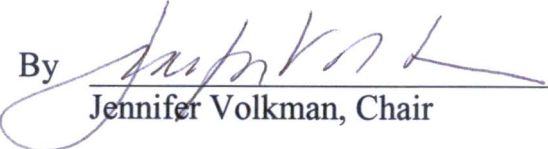
2. The Board further confirms that stabilizing the District’s property tax revenue at the level necessary to provide appropriate and responsive fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services is vitally important and necessary to provide for the safety of District firefighters and the health and safety of all current and future District residents and visitors.

3. The Board urges electors of the District to VOTE YES on Inter-Canyon Fire Protection District Ballot Issue 6F at the November 6, 2018 election.

ADOPTED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018.

INTER-CANYON FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT

By

  
Jennifer Volkman, Chair

Attest:

  
Michael Swenson, Secretary