

SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADVOCATING VOTER APPROVAL OF THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT REPEAL AND PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT RATES MEASURE DURING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

WHEREAS, the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District ("District") is a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado operating pursuant to Article 1, Title 32, C.R.S., for the purpose of providing fire protection and rescue services; and

WHEREAS, the Gallagher Amendment Repeal and Property Tax Assessment Rates Measure (the "Gallagher Amendment Repeal Measure") will appear as Amendment B on the state ballot in the November 3, 2020 Colorado election, as set forth in Senate Concurrent Resolution 20-001; and

WHEREAS, if the Gallagher Amendment Repeal Measure passes, Senate Bill 20-223 of the Colorado General Assembly will take effect freezing property tax assessment rates at the current rates (7.15% for residential property and 29% for non-residential property); and

WHEREAS, previous adjustments required by the Gallagher Amendment have reduced the residential property tax rate from 21% to 7.15%, resulting in significant reductions in residential property tax revenue to the District necessary to provide fire, ambulance, emergency medical and other emergency and life safety services; and

WHEREAS, if the Gallagher Amendment Repeal Measure does not pass, the Residential Assessment Rate is anticipated to drop from 7.15% to 5.88% in 2021, representing nearly an 18% drop in residential property tax revenue to be received by the District; and

WHEREAS, the projected reduction in the Residential Assessment Rate will have a significant impact on fire service agencies throughout Colorado, some of which are neighbors and mutual aid partners of the District, which limits the ability to provide the most effective, regional response to wildfires and other significant emergency incidents; and

WHEREAS, while the District has taken previous bold actions through the unification of several fire agencies to improve service and support long-term financial stability, the projected reduction in the Residential Assessment Rate, coupled with projected decreases in non-residential property values, results in unsustainable losses in

revenue that may necessitate cuts to spending on essential emergency and life safety services; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act authorizes local governments to adopt resolutions in support of or opposition to ballot issues, and it is the desire of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the District to express its overwhelming and strongest possible support of the Gallagher Amendment Repeal Measure; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act also authorizes local governments to distribute in normal fashion an adopted Resolution regarding any ballot issue of importance to that local government;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District affirmatively supports the ballot question regarding the Gallagher Amendment Repeal Measure and urges District electors to vote YES on Amendment B.

ADOPTED this 21st day of September 2020

SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT

By: 
Jim Albee, Chairman

Attest:


Hank Eng, Secretary