

SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A NOVEMBER 4, 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION AND (1) AUTHORIZING A BALLOT QUESTION ON A MILL LEVY INCREASE; AND (2) APPOINTING A DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL

WHEREAS, the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District (“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, Colorado Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the number of emergency incidents and demand for the District’s services have increased by 25% since 2019, with the majority being emergency medical services (EMS) incidents; and

WHEREAS, the District has experienced dramatic increases in the cost of medical supplies, equipment, facilities, and vehicles, such as an 80% increase in the cost of a fire engine since 2019 with a 4-year waiting period to receive the fire engine; and

WHEREAS, the District currently has a property tax rate of 9.25 mills, which has been in effect since 2004 and has allowed the reduction or containment of taxes during consolidations of fire protection districts in the south metro area; however, that mill levy is no longer sufficient to fund the District’s current and future needs; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in property tax law will result in significant reductions in revenues starting January 1, 2026 which, combined with increasing expenses to maintain service levels, will result in an average shortfall of \$50 million per year over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District (“Board”) has conducted extensive stakeholder presentations, polling, focus groups, social media posts, interactive websites, and other outreach to inform and obtain feedback on options to fund the District’s services, and feedback has indicated strong support for an increase in District revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the necessity of maintaining a high level of service to the community, and is dedicated to upholding standards of excellence, reliability, and responsiveness in all services provided; and

WHEREAS, the Board affirms its commitment to prioritize the protection and well-being of all personnel, acknowledging that the safety, security, and professional

development of personnel are essential to the effective operation and success of the District and the safety of residents and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines and declares that the interest of the District and the public interest and necessity require that the District increase its property tax levy and collect, retain and spend all revenues generated from any source as an exemption to the provisions and restrictions set forth in Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution (“TABOR”) and Section 29-1-301, C.R.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines that it is necessary to submit the question of increasing its property tax levy and receiving and spending all revenues received by the District to the eligible electors of the District at the November 4, 2025, special election (“Election”) in accordance with the provisions of the Special District Act (“Act”), the Uniform Election Code of 1992 (“Code”), and TABOR (the Act, Code and TABOR being referred to jointly as the “Election Laws”); and

WHEREAS, the Election is required to be conducted as a coordinated election, and the Arapahoe County, Douglas County, and Jefferson County Clerk and Records (“County Clerks”) are the Coordinated Election Officials for the Election and shall be responsible for mailing the notice required pursuant to Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution (“TABOR Notice”); and

WHEREAS, on or before August 28, 2025, the District is required to enter into Intergovernmental Agreements with the County Clerks regarding the conduct of the Election and mailing of the TABOR Notice; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to cooperate with the County Clerks to provide all necessary ballot titles and notices and various agreements with the County Clerks for the conduct of the Election and mailing of the TABOR Notice.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District in the Counties of Arapahoe, Douglas, and Jefferson, State of Colorado that:

1. The above recitals are incorporated into this resolution as if set forth below.
2. A special election of the eligible electors of the District shall be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at which Election there shall be submitted to the eligible electors of the District the question as stated in the form of ballot title hereafter set forth.
3. The Board hereby designates Barb Andrews as the Designated Election Official on behalf of the District, who is hereby authorized and directed to proceed with any action necessary or appropriate to conduct the Election in accordance with this Resolution, the Election Laws, and any other applicable laws. Among other matters, the

Designated Election Official shall arrange for the required notices of election, including the TABOR Notice, and direct that all other appropriate actions be accomplished.

4. The Board hereby ratifies the execution by the Designated Election Official on behalf of the District the Intergovernmental Agreements with the County Clerks, regarding the conduct of the Election and the mailing of the TABOR Notice.

5. The Election shall be conducted in coordination with the County Clerks in accordance with all relevant provisions of the Election Laws.

6. The ballot title for the tax levy increase and revenue and spending authorization shall be in substantially the form shown on Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

7. Pursuant to Section 1-11-203.5, C.R.S., any election contest arising out of a ballot issue or ballot question election concerning the order of the ballot or the form or content of the ballot title shall be commenced by petition filed with the proper court within five (5) days after the title of the ballot issue or ballot question is set.

8. If any part or provision of this Resolution is judged to be unenforceable or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Resolution, it being the Board's intention that the various provisions hereof are severable.

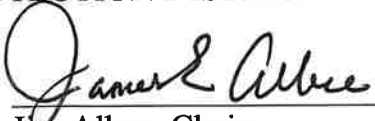
9. Any and all actions previously taken by the Designated Election Official or the officers of the Board or any other persons acting on their behalf pursuant to the Election Laws or other applicable laws, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

10. All acts, orders, and resolutions, or parts thereof, of the Board which are inconsistent or in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency or conflict.

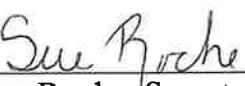
11. The provisions of this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED this 18th day of August, 2025.

SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT

By: 
Jim Albee, Chair

ATTEST:



Sue Roche, Secretary

EXHIBIT A
BALLOT QUESTION

**SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BALLOT
ISSUE 7**

SHALL SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$50,000,000 ANNUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 OR BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE RAISED BY INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S TOTAL MILLS BY 3 MILLS, FOR A TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATE OF 12.25 MILLS, (RESULTING IN AN EXPECTED 2026 ANNUAL TAX INCREASE OF \$18.75 FOR EACH \$100,000 OF RESIDENTIAL VALUE), FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION, AMBULANCE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE, RESCUE, SAFETY, AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENTS, PROPERTY OWNERS, AND BUSINESSES SERVED BY THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING:

- RESPONDING SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO ALL EMERGENCIES BY MAINTAINING FIREFIGHTER AND PARAMEDIC STAFFING LEVELS,
- BEING PROACTIVE IN MAINTAINING EXISTING STATIONS AND FACILITIES AND EXPANDING, REMODELING, AND/OR REBUILDING OUTDATED OR INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE,
- RETAINING AND ATTRACTING HIGHLY QUALIFIED FIRST RESPONDERS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL, AND
- IMPROVING FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND WELLNESS WITH PROGRAMS SUCH AS EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT FOR CARDIOVASCULAR CONDITIONS AND CANCER, MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, AND MANDATORY FITNESS TRAINING AND STANDARDS;

AND SHALL ALL DISTRICT REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW, WITH ALL SPENDING OF SUCH REVENUES REPORTED IN THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT PUBLISHED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AND REVIEWED BY AN EXTERNAL AUDITOR AS WELL AS THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE?