



NORTH ROUTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Winter 2018

Dear Resident,

Winter Greetings to you and your family!

The previous three editions of our newsletters have contained considerable information on how the NRFPD operates, the value and importance of the volunteers, the source and amount of our revenues and the overall financial needs of the District. In the last newsletter, it was announced that a Mill Levy increase was likely.

Your Board of Directors will be discussing and likely adopt a resolution which:

- 1) Provides for the election of candidates to two Board of Director seats
- 2) Requests your approval of a Mill Levy increase to fund additional Fire District personnel
- 3) Requests your approval to enable the Board of Directors to mitigate the impacts of the Gallagher Amendment to the Fire District revenue

These three issues are expected to be presented for your consideration and approval via a mail-in ballot. All ballots must be received by 7:00 pm on May 8th, 2018, a State designated election date.

The basics of the ballot issues are as follows:

BALLOT ITEM 1 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEATS – You will be asked to vote for candidates to fill two Board of Director positions expiring this spring.

BALLOT ITEM 2 - MILL LEVY INCREASE – You will be asked to approve a Mill Levy increase of 4.0 mills which will generate approximately \$141,047 of additional annual revenue for the NRFPD. This additional revenue will be used to pay wages, taxes, and benefits for:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • A full-time Assistant Fire Chief | \$ 85,336 |
| • 2 half-time Fire Fighter (FF)/
Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) | <u>\$ 55,411</u> |
| | \$ 140,747 |

In 2017, in addition to working major wildfires, firefighters and emergency medical technicians responded to over 132 calls from our community. Today, the NRFPD has only one paid staff member,

Chief Mike Swinsick, and he is frequently the only member available to quickly respond to calls during the normal workweek. While we have an additional 14 volunteers to fill out our roster, most work outside of our district and in Steamboat Springs, which often results in response delays due to travel time of those volunteers who leave their jobs to respond to emergencies in the North Routt district. Adding a full-time Assistant Chief and 2 part-time FF/EMTs will result in more personnel being consistently available in the fire district and will significantly reduce emergency response times. Also, the additional paid staff will greatly assist the Chief to accomplish the ever-increasing training and maintenance requirements required to provide a fully capable fire and emergency medical services.

MILL LEVY INCREASE ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

<u>Total</u> <u>Market</u> <u>Value</u>	Total Assessed Value <u>7.2%</u>	Existing Operating Mill Levy 5.25 Annual Tax	Proposed Increase Mill Levy 4.00 Annual Tax	Total Annual Tax
\$300,000	\$21,600	\$113	\$86	\$200
\$600,000	\$43,200	\$227	\$173	\$400

BALLOT ITEM 3 - GALLAGHER AMENDMENT MITIGATION – You will be asked to consider allowing the NRRFPD Board of Directors to mitigate future impacts of the Gallagher Amendment. The 1982 Gallagher Amendment requires a 45/55 ratio between residential property taxes and all other classes of property taxes collected. Because our taxing district has very few commercial and industrial businesses, and despite increases in residential market values, the residential assessed values and resultant taxes collected, continue to decrease to maintain the 45% cap.

PROPERTY TAX REVENUE PROVIDED TO NRRFPD

(does not include Bond debt service)

Revenue decrease from 2010 to 2017 = \$70,329, a decrease of 28%

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017 *</u>
\$255,322	\$263,442	\$229,087	\$233,835	\$195,857	\$190,852	\$188,769	\$184,993

*unaudited

The approval of this ballot item will provide the Board of Directors the ability to increase the Mill Levy by an amount sufficient to offset the decrease in revenue due to the Gallagher Amendment. For example, to offset the decrease in revenue from 2016 to 2017 (\$3,776), the Mill Levy would have to be increased by 0.1071 mills.

We’ve provided the above summary of the three ballot items that we will ask you to vote on May 8th, 2018. Additional information may be found on the NRRFPD website at www.colorado.gov/pacific/northrouttfire or the North Routt Fire Protection District Facebook page.

Should you have questions, feel free to contact any of the Directors or Chief Swinsick directly; you may also leave a message or questions at the NRRFPD non-emergency phone 970-879-6064.

Your Board of Directors, Chief Swinsick, and Volunteers thank you for your continued support.

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