

(For) SCR1049 - Proposition 310- fire districts; funding; TPT increment

YES ON 310 TO SAVE LIVES!

When you dial 911, you rightfully expect your local fire department to show up promptly. If you live in an urban area, response times typically average about five or six minutes. However, if you live or travel outside Phoenix or Tucson, emergency response times can take as long as 30 minutes or more.

These long waits don't occur because rural firefighters and paramedics lack urgency or a commitment to public safety. Rather, Arizona's 144 fire districts have a shortage of manpower, equipment, and resources.

Prop 310 will solve that – and make all Arizonans safer.

Arizona fire districts, largely located along major highways and interstates, are home to more than 1.5 million residents. They represent the first line of defense against the wildfires that sweep across our state each year. And fire districts serve travelers and tourists headed everywhere throughout Arizona – whether those travelers know it or not.

Over the last five years, nearly 2,000 people have been killed in vehicle crashes on Arizona's rural roads. Another 30,000 have been injured. Across the same period of time, fire districts have helped fight wildfires that have ravaged 2.2 million acres in our state.

Those are crisis numbers. This is a crisis situation. Prop 310 is the answer.

Your yes vote on Prop 310 will create a temporary one-tenth-of-a-penny increase in the state's sales tax. That sliver of a cent will ensure our fire district firefighters and paramedics have the staffing, equipment, and training necessary to protect public safety statewide.

To put it in perspective, say you buy a \$10 lunch. Prop 310 will cost you a penny. If you spend \$100 on dinner, it'll cost you a dime.

Prop 310 will save lives. So please join me in voting yes!

Paul Boyer, Glendale

As a Professional Firefighter in Arizona, Paramedic and now Assistant Chief with a career spanning over 23 years in Arizona I support Prop 310. Moreover, I am a concerned citizen, son, parent, taxpayer, and someone who enjoys the outdoors in Arizona. I urge you to consider this modest tax to help ensure our Fire and Paramedic services are properly funded, staffed, and equipped to adequately protect you and your family.

If passed, this funding will be utilized to support emergency services, personnel, and facilities for the pure purpose of saving lives and property throughout Arizona. Fire districts serve all Arizonan's either by directly protecting their residencies or indirectly when driving within the State along all the major interstates. Emergency services operate in the business of minutes and seconds but when resources are inadequate that means you and your family are at risk.

Please vote YES on Prop 310, which proposes one penny for every ten dollars you spend, and this modest

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tax goes away after 20 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Hester
Buckeye Valley Fire District, Assistant Fire Chief

Joe Hester, Assistant Fire Chief, Buckeye Valley Fire District, Goodyear

In all of Arizona there are 35 municipality fire departments and 144 AZ Fire Districts; if you ever travel outside of a city or town, you will be covered by a Fire District. In the event of a medical emergency of any sort (highway accident, mountain rescue, water rescue et cetera), the residents of the Fire District will pay the costs via their taxes. Districts are struggling; 85 to 95% of their revenue is based on property taxes. The costs are outpacing the 5% limited increase (of property taxes) allowed by law. Property values do not reset when property is sold, so there is no financial gain when values increase because of skyrocketing market values. Population and call volume increase but revenues are suffocated by the increased demand on their resources. The Federal government failed to provide pandemic relief funding for the spiraling costs brought on by the Covid-19 mandates and inflation. This scenario is made worse by the rising costs of fuel, equipment, training needs, insurance costs (Health and Workmen's Comp) and funding of the PSPRS retirement system. I support the 1/10th of a penny State sales tax which will ease the burden for struggling Districts and everyone will help carry the financial burden to ensure the safety and well-being of Arizonans and visitors to our State.

Darlene Packard, CAFMA Board Clerk, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Prescott Valley

ARIZONA FIREFIGHTERS: VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 310 TO SAVE LIVES!

As a fire captain and the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona, nearly 9,000 members strong, I am respectfully asking you to help us solve the state's fire district crisis by voting YES on Proposition 310.

This temporary tenth-of-one-cent sales tax won't cost much – just one cent on a \$10 expenditure – but these necessary resources will help protect the 1.5 million Arizonans who live in fire districts. Your YES vote will also protect millions of drivers and passengers who travel the interstate highways and roadways connecting Phoenix, Tucson, Kingman, Flagstaff and Yuma – all of which are served by fire districts.

Our 144 fire districts are so strapped for funding and manpower, 911 emergency calls often take upwards of 30 minutes for a response. As fire fighters and paramedics, we know every minute is vital when you and your family have been in a crash or you're facing a fire. That's why we have worked for years to get Prop 310 on the ballot.

The next time you spend 10 bucks at McDonald's, Prop 310 will cost you a penny. In return, the next time you drive from the Valley to the White Mountains, Flagstaff or Tucson, or travel for a weekend in San Diego or Vegas, the fire districts you pass through will be far better prepared should you face an emergency.

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Over the past five years, we've had about 2,000 fatalities and 30,000 injuries in vehicle crashes on Arizona's rural roads. Over the same time, fire districts have fought wildfires that have claimed more than 2.2 million acres statewide.

These struggling first responders need our help. Please vote YES on Proposition 310 to solve this crisis.

Bryan Jeffries, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona, Phoenix

Proposition 310 May Save Your Life

We have 2 unequal emergency medical service systems in Arizona. Folks who live in cities & towns enjoy well-performing emergency medical systems that have up-to-date equipment, staff, and training.

Residents of rural Arizona (especially unincorporated areas) don't enjoy the same level of emergency medical services as urbanites. It's not just because of the long distances the responders travel when responding to 911 calls. It's because rural areas simply don't have the resources to provide the same level of service that we take for granted in urban and suburban Arizona.

Unincorporated areas need to form their own rural fire & EMS districts with money cobbled together via a special local property tax to have access to fire and emergency medical services. They don't have a city council to go to for funding. They're basically stuck trying to get blood out of a turnip. As a result, rural EMS care is substandard.

The major disparity in the quality of emergency medical care in unincorporated Arizona bothered me when I was the director of the state health department, but I had no way of fixing it.

Now we have a solution. Proposition 310 will supplement rural fire districts with a 0.1% sales tax collected statewide. That's equal to an extra dime on a purchase of \$100. Rural fire districts won't be getting a free lunch though. The lion's share of fire & EMS district funding will still come from local property taxes.

The next time you're driving through rural Arizona ask yourself whether you think an extra dime on a \$100 purchase is worth knowing that someone would help you if something bad happens. Will they have the equipment & training they need to save your life?

If Proposition 310 passes they will, so Vote YES!

Will Humble, Director, Arizona Department of Health Services (2009-2015), Phoenix

Please support Proposition 310 to help Arizona's struggling Fire Districts regain their financial balance. The real estate crash of 2010 started our downhill slide. The economic recovery since would have enabled us to thrive again, except that Proposition 117 (passed in 2012), shifted the tax levy from "full-cash value" to "limited value" for property assessments. Furthermore, Proposition 117 restricted property tax increases to no more than 5% per-year. Montezuma Rimrock Fire (merged with Camp Verde Fire in 2019 to become CCFMD) saw a staggering drop of 64% in valuation during this period and has since only

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recovered at about 5% per-year (Camp Verde dropped 46%). We fell into the financial basement but can now only climb one step per-year to get out!

Somehow, with creativity, we survived. Then came COVID! Do you know that Fire Districts were excluded from receiving COVID relief in the language of both the CARES and ARPA Acts? We estimate that COVID cost our district over \$800,000 in overtime and lost revenues, and we have yet to receive any of these payments to help offset this deficit. Compare this to municipalities, counties and the State that all received millions!

We're not greedy, but we care about the communities we serve, and worry about their future. We watch our costs (impossible now with inflation), while also striving to reward our loyal staff for the heroic services they provide day-in and day-out. We have been awarded grants, conducted annexations, refinanced pension liabilities, and have shared services. This year, we are selling-off real estate that was earmarked for future fire stations just to balance our budget. We are committed to serving our residents and visitors (who don't pay taxes here), but going forward, we desperately need assistance to enable us to carry-on. Please vote in favor of Proposition 310!

Terry Keller, Fire Chief, Cooper Canyon Fire and Medical District, Sedona

Arizona's 144 fire districts provide fire, emergency medical and paramedic ambulance services to communities located in the state's rural and suburban regions, and throughout the state's 15 counties. Fire districts, largely located along major highways and interstates, and amongst the state's vast outdoor recreational areas, are home to more than 1.5 million residents, and protect communities that welcome millions of visitors annually. Fire districts serve travelers and tourists headed everywhere from Las Vegas to San Diego, Mexico to the Grand Canyon. Fire districts provide a majority of the state's paramedic ambulance services in rural areas. Fire districts represent the first line of defense against wildfires that threaten the state's forests, deserts and critical watersheds. As Arizona has grown over the years, the methodology to fund fire districts and their critical emergency response services has not kept pace. Local community property taxes provide a majority of fire district funding, which has left fire districts with a shortage of manpower, equipment, and resources necessary to keep residents and visitors safe. Many of the state's fire districts are currently operating at reduced levels for staffing and deployment. As an example: Bullhead City Fire District (Mohave County) – total firefighter staffing reduced 23%; Summit Fire District (Coconino County) – total firefighter staffing reduced 20%; Sun City Fire District (Maricopa County) – total firefighter staffing reduced 19%; Daisy Mountain Fire District (Maricopa & Yavapai Counties) – total firefighter staffing reduced 15%. Prop 310 will provide the financial resources necessary to improve fire district response services across the state, for the benefit of all Arizonans who travel, recreate and work throughout the rural and suburban areas of this great state. Please vote YES on Prop 310.

John Flynn, Executive Director, Arizona Fire District Association, Scottsdale

Arizona's 144 fire districts provide fire, emergency medical and paramedic ambulance services to communities located in the state's rural and suburban regions, and throughout the state's 15 counties. Fire districts, largely located along major highways and interstates, and amongst the state's vast outdoor recreational areas, are home to more than 1.5 million residents, and protect communities that welcome millions of visitors annually. They serve travelers and tourists headed everywhere from Las Vegas to San Diego, Mexico to the Grand Canyon. Fire Districts provide the largest majority of emergency medical response across the state.

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Fire Districts represent the first line of defense against wildfires that threaten the state's forests, deserts and critical watersheds. They also serve as the state's largest resource for wildfire response throughout an incident.

As Arizona has grown over the years, the methodology to fund fire districts and their critical emergency response services has not kept pace. Local community property taxes provide a majority of fire district funding, which has left fire districts with a shortage of staffing, equipment, and resources necessary to keep residents and visitors safe.

Many of the state's fire districts are currently operating at reduced levels for staffing and deployment. As an example: Bullhead City Fire District (Mohave County) – total firefighter staffing reduced 23%; Summit Fire District (Coconino County) – total firefighter staffing reduced 20%; Sun City Fire District (Maricopa County) – total firefighter staffing reduced 19%; Daisy Mountain Fire District (Maricopa & Yavapai Counties)– total firefighter staffing reduced 15%.

Prop 310 will provide the financial resources necessary to improve fire district response services across the state, for the benefit of all Arizonans as well as others who travel, recreate and work throughout the rural and suburban areas of this great state. Please vote YES on Prop 310.

Scott Freitag, President, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, Prescott Valley

Arizona's Fire Districts are in need of your help. Your YES vote on Proposition 310 will add vital funding for Fire District operations. Fire Districts receive the majority of funding by collecting revenues derived solely from secondary property taxes assessed on real property. In contrast, municipal fire departments are funded through a city's general fund revenues derived from sales tax, property taxes and state shared revenues. The limited revenue stream coupled with 2012's Proposition 117 have resulted in Fire District revenues remaining relatively flat while operating costs continue to rise year over year. Throughout the "Great Recession" and the continuing COVID crisis, Arizona's Fire Districts have done more with less, answering the call for service. We have remained the anchors of trust and public service to thousands of Arizonans and visitors.

Fire Districts serve thousands of Arizonans and tourists in the most rural parts of the state. The costs of providing emergency services to the traveling public and tourists, often outside the Fire District boundaries, are directly borne by the taxpaying citizens of the district. The tenth cent increment is a small price for equity of cost for equity of service.

Being underfunded may, for some citizens, enhance the cachet of nobility and sacrifice for the common good often associated with firefighters, but this will eventually lead to extended response times, inadequate staffing and aging, non-reliable equipment. Your penny on a ten-dollar meal will go a long way toward improvement.

Wherever you call home in Arizona, you will travel through, visit, or have family and friends in, an area covered by a Fire District. Please vote YES to approve Proposition 310. Doing so will allow Arizona's Fire Districts to continue our essential acts of citizenship through the privileged opportunity of being your anchors of trust and public service.

Dirch Foreman, Board Member, Highlands Fire District, Flagstaff

As a small fire department the funds provided by this bill would help to hire more full time employees. Additional personnel would help our response to emergencies providing better service to the community. Funds were slashed and capped in 2012. Budgets are below recession levels inspite of community growth. We are unable to replace older equipment. For example we are still using some of the first models of Jaws

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of Life, some over 20 years old. New models cost over \$47,000 ea ch. Multiple units are necessary in case there are multiple calls to respond to. Our cardiac monitors are over 15 years old. Replacements are approximately \$30,000 each. Our fire trucks are also older and maintenance costs are increasing. The increase in full time residents, a major highway through our district, has increased the number of calls received. Being a small department means backup personnel need to have additional training to respond to emergencies. Funding this proposition, even if you just travel through the district, could mean saving a life and/or getting the help needed in an emergency . We encourage you to support this funding to provide the necessary equipment and personnel when an emergency occurs.

Sorey Michael, EMT/Office Manager, Clay Springs Pinedale Fire Department, Clay Springs

Vernon Fire District
PO Box 400, Vernon, AZ 85940
Office (928) 537-4895 Fax (928) 537-4806

The Vernon Fire District, located in Northern Arizona, is the very reason proposition 310 is presented to the voters of Arizona. We are a community in the White Mountains, between Show Low and Springerville. Our fire district was created when people began to move to the area 15 years ago. Our population in Vernon and our response area has grown from a few hundred to nearly 10,000 during the summer months. Our funding is solely based on property values. Property values in 2011 were over 26 million dollars, they fell to 13 million, in 2017. A 46.8% drop. Values have risen to 16 million dollars, yet that is 10 million lower than 2011. Our current dilemma is, from 2011 to today, our call volume rose 162%, from 257 to 674 and we still don't have the same available funding to operate as we did in 2011. Proposition 310 would allow us the funding we need to recover. Help us meet the needs as the Vernon community grows and have a sustainable funding stream that is not property value based.

Dave J. Niehuis
Fire Chief
Vernon Fire District

Dave Niehuis, Fire Chief, Vernon Fire District, Vernon

VOTE for Prop 310
Arizona Fire District Safety Act
Fire District Funding

Arizona's 144 fire districts are in crisis. This crisis doesn't just impact the residents of these districts, it impacts most Arizonans, as well as tourists, as fire districts are the agencies that serve most major roadways connecting Phoenix, Tucson, Kingman, Flagstaff and Yuma. Fire districts are also the first line of defense for most of our state's wildfires.

The crisis for Verde Valley Fire District and our surrounding districts includes inadequate communications infrastructure, outdated or out of service emergency equipment and lack of staffing for response to the increase in calls for service in our region. The Verde Valley region has become a destination location for tourists who want to enjoy Arizona's wine country, Sedona's beautiful scenery or recreate in one of our many rivers or trails. It is estimated that approximately 3 million people visit this region of the state on an annual basis. Due to the fact that fire districts are solely funded by property tax, the residents of the districts are paying for the emergency services for these 3 million visitors.

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Voting for Prop 301 helps fix this issue and reduces some of the tax burden on the fire district residents, who are essentially paying for fire and EMS for all who visit the areas covered by fire districts. It will also allow fire districts to address equipment and personnel deficiencies and improve the services that they provide. In return, the next time you take a day trip to the White Mountains, or drive to spend a weekend in Sedona, Laughlin or Rocky Point, the fire districts you pass through will be far better prepared should you and your loved ones need help.

Danny Johnson, Fire Chief, Verde Valley Fire District

Danny Johnson, Fire Chief, Verde Valley Fire District, Camp Verde

Dear Voters,

I am writing this letter in support of SCR1049: Proposition 310: fire district; TPT increment. This ballot measure would enact a 0.1% (one-tenth of 1-cent) sales tax for 20 years to provide additional funding for fire districts. As a rural fire district that serves a population of over one and a half million visitors to Mount Lemmon, the potential additional funding to our fire district budget is crucial to attaining the goals set forth in both our mission and vision statements. This will allow for sustaining our current staffing levels, keep equipment operational, and for procuring additional equipment, supplies, and training for our firefighters to mitigate emergency calls effectively and efficiently for service. It is imperative that this legislature pass to not only help the Mount Lemmon Fire District, but all fire districts that are experiencing an increase in call volume while contending with further decreases to their annual budget. This is essential to the citizens that expect and deserve the professionalism and service required for the overall proficiency of public safety.

Joseph Gunia, Fire Chief, Mount Lemmon Fire District, Mount Lemmon

The top priority of government is to keep people safe. I have spent a career on the front lines of fire services, so I understand firsthand what it takes to ensure our first responders can be there when people need them most.

I also know how important it is that government services become more efficient. During my time as a city councilmember, I worked to create innovative partnerships to provide cost effective public safety services. As a professor and researcher, I conducted efficiency studies for Arizona fire districts helping consolidate services to cut administrative costs and reduce redundancy in order to focus more of your tax dollars where they are needed most - emergency response. While Arizona fire districts have taken efforts to increase efficiency, many are struggling to meet the basic response needs of their community.

Our fire districts are not just protecting local residents – they are responsible for protecting much of the ecosystems so vital to our Arizona’s tourism industry and our water sustainability. Wildfires can devastate scenic landscapes affecting state and local tourism revenues. These same fires can contaminate surface drinking water sources, placing further strain on our water supply. Adequately funded fire districts is an issue important to all Arizonans.

The Legislature has referred Prop 310, the Arizona Fire District Safety Act, to the voters. This one-tenth-of-a penny sales tax will generate \$150 million for state fire districts to give them the resources needed to

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protect Arizona's vital resources. I encourage you to learn more and support these important fire districts. Thank you.

Scott Somers, Mesa

Fire Districts in Arizona have been severely underfunded for many years. It is a constant struggle keeping our district's emergency services adequately staffed and our communities safe with the current tax income. The TPT increment is minimal but would help the districts and their communities in a great way. I support Proposition 310 and hope you will join me by voting YES.

John Vail
Chairman Tusayan Fire District

John Vail, Chairman, Tusayan Fire District, Grand Canyon

As a board member of the Vernon Fire District. I am in favor of the passage of Prop. 310. The added revenue created by this proposition would be extremely helpful to our small Fire district. Our property tax base has not kept up with our increase in callouts.

I strongly urge a yes vote to pass SCR1049/ Proposition 310.

Sincerely,
Paul Kovacic
Board Member
Vernon Fire District

Paul Kovacic III, Board Member, Vernon Fire District, Vernon

Vote for Prop 310
Arizona Fire District Safety Act
Fire District Funding

Yes on Proposition 310, the Arizona Fire District Safety Act

Due to the radical housing market crisis of 2009, the difficult reality currently facing Arizona is fire districts need additional funding in order to meet the needs of its rural and urban populations. Period.

Proposition 310 would provide a temporary tenth of a penny increase in sales tax. This would enable districts to better provide fire, emergency, and medical services to residents and travelers.

Please vote Yes on Proposition 310 and help support Arizona by supporting its fire districts.

Thank you.

Dean Koropatnicki
Battalion Chief
Verde Valley Fire District

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Dean Koropatnicki, Battalion Chief, Verde Valley Fire District, Cottonwood

More than 140 Fire Districts throughout Arizona provide wildland firefighting, structural firefighting, emergency medical, and associated emergency services to over one million residents statewide. Many Fire Districts cover Arizonans in areas not covered by cities and/or Towns. Fire Districts have concerns regarding the various limits placed on revenue growth within the fire districts. The current limitations, when taken collectively; have precluded fire districts from maintaining adequate fire and emergency medical service delivery at levels necessary to protect life and property. The limitations include the cap on tax levy limit growth; the tax rate cap; and property value limitations (Prop 117).

Each of these three limitations was legislatively or voter mandated. Each limitation individually has the effect of limiting revenues. Implemented on a cumulative basis, these revenue limitations prevent fire districts from funding essential services on a year-over-year basis. Fire Districts attribute these funding restrictions to significantly diminishing structural firefighting, wildland firefighting, preparedness, and EMS response statewide, especially in rural Arizona. These funding restrictions will continue to reduce fire and emergency medical service delivery in future years.

Laws were passed that set tax levy limits on fire districts to 8% over the prior year's actual levy despite potential unlimited property value reductions. On top of this levy limit, fire districts are restricted to a maximum tax rate of \$3.25 per \$100 of assessed limited property value. As recently as this year, additional laws were passed that reduced commercial property tax rates, shifting the additional fire district revenue burden to local homeowners.

When emergency incidents happen statewide, firefighters appreciate "thoughts and prayers" but what they really need is your SUPPORT of Proposition 310 to keep them SAFE!

Brian P. Tobin
Fire Chief, Daisy Mtn. Fire and Medical Department

Brian Tobin, Daisy Mountain Fire Chief, Daisy Mountain Fire, Anthem

Sponsored by Daisy Mountain Firefighters

Many rural Fire Districts get most of their funding from property taxes. When the housing crunch hit in the mid 2010's many districts lost much of their funding. I am in the Vernon Fire District, and Chairman of the Vernon Fire District Board which is an unpaid position. In fiscal year 2011-2012 the Vernon Fire District had an assessed property value of \$26,184,965 that taxes were paid on. This was what was used to fund the district. In fiscal year 2017-2018 this assessed value was \$13,943,971. That was a 53% reduction in income. With the way the laws are written it is very difficult to make that lost money up. In fiscal year 2021-2022 Vernon is only at \$16,956,372 assessed value, far from just 10 years ago. In a rapidly growing community, where the calls have increased from 257 in 2012 to 674 in 2022, it is very hard to provide the kind of service that is needed. This tax increase will have a huge effect on the level of service that can be offered to the community at a very slight impact to the average citizen. Without this tax, Fire Districts will be asked to do more with less, which is just not sustainable. Please support YOUR Fire Districts and support this bill. Your life just might depend on it.

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John Vehar, Chairman, Vernon Fire District, Vernon

Arizona's Firefighters and the Fire Districts that provide fire and emergency medical services need your help. The firefighters are battling to maintain staffing levels at an safe and acceptable level. Staffing levels directly impact our firefighters ability to safely and effectively respond to medical emergency, motor vehicle collisions, house fires and wilfdfires throughout our State. In most fire districts the number of firefighters on duty in 2022 is considerably less than our staffing levels in 2008. This 1/tenth-of-a-penny increase in the state's sales tax will generate approximately \$150 million annually for the state's fire districts. The Prop 310 funding will help ensure firefighters and emergency responders have the equipment and training needed to provide the basic fire, emergency and medical services to our residents and travelers. Simply put, firefighters will be able to answer the call for help throughout our State. Your help now will help ensure we are able to help later. Please vote YES on Prop 310. Thank you! Patrick Moore-President Arizona Fire District Association/Fire Chief Bullhead City Fire District.

Patrick Moore, President, Arizona Fire District Association, Kingman

I have been blessed with a long fire service career; 26 years with Central Yavapai in Prescott and 10 with Arizona Fire & Medical Authority (AFMA) in the Phoenix valley. I have also had the honor of serving Arizona's 144 fire districts on the Arizona Fire District Association Board. During my career, I have spent a significant amount of time traveling our great State assisting districts and seeing their challenges firsthand. One of the biggest challenges is the shortage of manpower with most fire districts only able to staff their fire trucks with two or three firefighter/paramedics; minimum recommended staffing is four.

Fire districts provide service to much of Arizona. For instance, you are traveling through fire districts on I-17 from the Phoenix city limits until you reach the Flagstaff city limits. I recently witnessed a rollover accident on I-17 with two patients ejected, and worried that the responding truck would not have adequate staffing to treat both critical patients. AFMA covers the I-10 near Tonopah and responds to countless auto accidents with numerous critical patients, yet they also struggle with maintaining adequate staffing.

I worry about my family and friends, both from Arizona and out-of-state, that travel our interstates and rural roadways and the possibility that they may not get the emergency service they need should they get in an accident or have a medical emergency.

Fire districts also provide a substantial portion of the State's wildland fire response resources. Financial constraints and staffing shortages are now impeding the ability to provide early, rapid fire responses which are critical to keeping wildfires small.

This temporary one tenth-of-a-penny increase in sales tax will generate critical emergency service funding. It will ensure all fire districts, throughout Arizona, will be prepared to assist you and your family if necessary.

Mary Dalton, Assistant Fire Chief, Arizona Fire & Medical Authority, Prescott

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The Fire Districts in rural areas with minimal funding lack staffing due to low pay and no insurance, no pension or benefits of any kind. Also, the lack of ambulance services in these areas where the usual wait is 30 minutes or more. Passing Prop. 310 would be a huge benefit to the communities that need fire and medical services. This would go a long way to also provide the Fire Departments with the proper PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) that is not only needed but required to do their job.

Grey Murphy, Board Member Vernon Fire District, Vernon Fire Department, Vernon

I've been employed with a fire district since 2007. When the recession hit, our fire district lost 50% of its revenue. The organization responded with massive cuts across the board to training, equipment, and staffing. We were struggling to maintain the services we provide to our community. At the lowest point of the recession, Prop 117, a voter-approved initiative was applied, freezing fire district budgets at recession levels. Prop 117 was well-intended, but the timing of its application couldn't have been worse. Provisions of Prop 117 have limited the increase to our budget by 5% a year. In a best-case scenario, it will take 10 years to climb out of this financial hole and get back to our pre-recession budget.

Additionally, fire districts provide the majority of wild land firefighting support in Arizona. The State relies on us to send trucks and manpower across Arizona. Due to financial challenges, our staffing is poor, forcing our fire district to turn down assignments. This year, an average of 50% of assignments were turned down, challenging our state's ability to get wild land fires quickly under control.

As we all know, the housing market has never been higher. Fire districts are based solely on property taxes, yet the majority of districts in Arizona are struggling financially, not able to recover their budget levels due to provisions of Prop 117. Imagine what will happen to those districts if the housing market crashes again.

Prop 310 is a real solution. It provides a diversified revenue stream to fire districts through a tenth of a cent sales tax. If you buy \$10 lunch, one penny will go to fire districts. Prop 310 is a game-changer for fire districts to provide the life saving services the community expects and deserves.

John Walka II, Fire Captain, San Tan Valley

The Daisy Mountain Fire District is located in north Phoenix and serves approximately 300 square miles. These areas of service include the communities of Anthem, New River, Desert Hills, Black Canyon City, and The Town of Cave Creek. For any resident, tourist, or industry worker traveling to northern Arizona, the Daisy Mountain Fire District is the primary responding Fire Department for a large portion of Interstate 17. Interstate 17 from Phoenix to Flagstaff is one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the country, and all of it is covered by Fire Districts. The fact is, for any direction of travel outside of the greater Phoenix area you will be passing through a Fire District. It is critical that these Fire Districts maintain proper staffing, provide life-saving equipment, and have highly trained personnel ready to respond to and mitigate any emergency. This small tax initiative will greatly aid the budgets of Fire Districts across the state. Fire Districts have been impacted by significant inflation and industrial insurance premiums. Previous tax initiatives have limited our abilities to overcome these quickly rising financial hardships. Firefighters across the state are asking the voters of Arizona to please support this tax.

Thank you for your support,
Daisy Mountain Firefighters

Eugene Lindsay, L4361 Vice President, Daisy Mountain Firefighter Chapter, Peoria

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I support Prop 310 with a YES vote because the funds secured through the Fire District Safety Act are necessary to ensure a safe and quality fire district for all Arizona residents and visitors. I am a firefighter for Pinewood Fire District where we are proud to serve our community. We believe that our community members deserve the same quality service that Municipal fire departments receive. Our district also covers 25 miles of Interstate 17 which connects Northern Arizona to Southern Arizona. We see our fair share of motor vehicle accidents, car fires, and medical emergencies both in our immediate community as well as along I-17. When you have an emergency, we are coming to help you in your time of need. These funds will allow us to continue to provide quality equipment, training, and the resources necessary to work as an efficient and strong district. I work closely with our Fire Chief, and the budget shortfalls are only getting worse. Cutbacks to the emergency services that all Arizonans deserve, is not the answer. Proposition 310 is the solution to these shortfalls; I encourage all of you to consider voting YES on Prop 310.

Caleb Garcia
President of the United Flagstaff Firefighters
Local 1505

Caleb Garcia, President, United Flagstaff Firefighters, Flagstaff

VOTE YES ON PROP 310

The undersigned Governing Fire Board members support Proposition 310. Arizona fire district revenue comes from property taxes; districts do not currently collect sales tax or income tax. The property owners in our jurisdictions (Sun Lakes, Sun City West, Tonopah, Wittman, and unincorporated Maricopa County) pay for their emergency services and the services provided to all visitors through property taxes. As Board Members our primary duty is being responsible with taxpayer money and providing excellent fire and emergency medical service. We are very fiscally conservative, yet the cost to provide service and the number of emergency responses continues to increase beyond what property owners can afford.

Prop 310 will provide a temporary 1/10th of a cent sales tax (1 cent on every \$10) sales tax so all Arizona residents and visitors will help pay for fire and emergency medical service.

Wildland firefighters have been increasingly necessary in recent years. Proposition 310 will help fund these services in districts that currently cannot afford it. In districts currently supporting wildland firefighting teams, Proposition 310 will enhance current teams' ability to be mobilized to fight wildland fires.

Fire districts with hundreds of square miles of recreational areas and highway and rural roads are called to provide emergency services for travelers and tourists. When accidents occur on Arizona's busy highways, the costs for providing the emergency services are often not compensated for by the victims, as many are not residents. Due to a lack of funding, many districts have had severe reductions in staffing resulting in less than adequate medical treatment at auto accidents. Proposition 310 will ensure a safe number of firefighters and paramedics are available when called to the next emergency that occurs for an Arizona property owner or visitor.

G. David Wilson, Governing Board Chairman, Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, NCFMD, SCFMD, Sun City West; Diane Price, South County Fire and Medical District Board Chair, North

(For) SCR1049 - Proposition 310- fire districts; funding; TPT increment

County Fire and Medical District, Sun Lakes; Tony Sambol, Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Governing Board Member, AFMA, Sun City West; Richard Bookie, Arizona Fire and Medical Authority Board Member, Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Sun City West; John Crawford, Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Clerk, AFMA, Sun Lakes; and Karen Gueltzow, Arizona Fire and Medical Authority District Board Member, Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Tonopah

On behalf of the Pinetop Fire District firefighters, I urge you to vote YES on Proposition 310. Under current law, the State imposes strict expenditure limitations on fire districts. These limitations have affected our ability to maintain and deliver quality emergency medical, fire, and wildfire prevention services to our community. We have had a staffing shortage at fire station 12 since 2008 impacting our ability to respond fire apparatus which increases response times. Pinetop continues to see changing demographics, the increased visitor traffic places a demand on our system and increased emergency responses will continue to impact our services with increased response times causing further erosion of service delivery. Additionally, wildfire threat grows and grant funds to mitigate the threat become harder to obtain. This initiative will generate 0.01% through sales tax that provides revenues to our fire district allowing us to improve our EMS, Fire, and wildfire mitigation services and response. Voting YES will ensure that our firefighters and paramedics are well trained, have adequate equipment, and will respond in a timely manner to your fire or medical emergency. Voting YES will ensure that our fire district can serve our citizens to respond in your time of emergency and reduce wildfire threat year-round.

Make a difference in Arizona's Fire and EMS and vote YES on Proposition 310.

Jim Morgan, Fire Chief

Pinetop Fire District

Jim Morgon, Fire Chief, Pinetop Fire District, Pinetop

On behalf of the Fire Chiefs serving Navajo and Apache County (NAFCA), we urge you to vote YES on Proposition 310. Under current law, the State imposes strict expenditure limitations on fire districts. These limitations have affected our ability to maintain and deliver quality emergency medical, fire, and wildfire prevention services to our communities. Our facilities are failing, EMS and Fire apparatus are aging, and personnel shortages impact our response times. As our communities continue to see changing demographics, the increased visitor traffic and emergency responses will continue to impact our services with increased response times causing further erosion of service delivery. This initiative will generate 0.01% through sales tax that directs lifesaving revenues to rural fire districts all over the state to improve their EMS, Fire, and wildfire mitigation services and response. Whether you travel to see the leaves changing colors in Flagstaff, visit Tombstone to experience the wild west, or fish the lakes in the White Mountains you will likely travel through a fire district. Voting YES will ensure that our firefighters and paramedics are well trained, have adequate equipment, and will respond in a timely manner to your fire or medical emergency. Voting YES will ensure that our fire districts can serve our citizens to respond in your time of emergency.

Make a difference in Arizona's Fire and EMS and vote YES on Proposition 310.

James Morgan, President

Northeastern Arizona Fire Chief's Association

James Morgon, President, Northeastern Arizona Fire Chief's Association, Taylor

(For) SCR1049 - Proposition 310- fire districts; funding; TPT increment

I am asking for your support by voting for Proposition 310. Arizona's fire districts provide emergency medical and fire response services throughout the suburban and rural areas of the state. The residents that live within that district solely support that fire district. However, these fire districts frequently provide life-saving services to non-residents without cost reimbursement. For instance, for the district I serve, 36% of our emergency calls occur outside our district boundaries and into areas not covered by a district or municipality. However, because it is the right thing to do, we continue to respond, but it is becoming unaffordable. The proposition would provide state funds that would allow us to continue responding in those rural areas where no one else will. This is a more equitable approach and ensures that all Arizona residents can continue to receive life-saving services throughout our state.

Jayme Kahle, Fire Chief, Vail

Arizona's fire districts need your help! Voting "YES" for Proposition 310 will provide critical funding for the emergency responders who cover some of our state's most underserved areas. Rural fire districts continue to wrestle with staffing and funding, in large part due to a faulty revenue system that has failed to account for inflationary cost increases over the past 20 years.

We don't think Arizona's fire districts should be forced to choose between repairing a front-line firetruck, paying tuition for a new EMT, or buying personal protective equipment for a firefighter. Unfortunately, this tragic scenario is often very real.

Your "YES" vote will help keep our firefighters and emergency responders safe and healthy. It will give them more reliable and effective fire and emergency medical apparatus, improve their communications, and most-importantly; it will ensure there are more firefighters available to respond to your emergencies.

We're honored to deliver our services personally and privileged to serve Arizona. Please help us in our time of need and rest-assured knowing we'll be ready to help you in yours. Please vote "YES" on Proposition 310.

Mark Savage, Fire Chief, Fry Fire District, Hereford; Jared Haros, President, IAFF Local #4913, Sierra Vista; and Joshua Steinberg, Chairman, Cochise County Fire Association, Pearce

As the Fire Chief of the Hellsgate Fire District (located next to Payson, AZ), I have found that my firefighters truly believe in helping others. They give their all to save others from fires, hazardous material spills/releases, and use their training to stabilize and save people in medical situations. I see firsthand the problems that we have with our current staffing model. Because of outdated laws and propositions that have strangled our and other fire districts' budgets, we must respond on calls with two firefighters. With that staffing model, our crew cannot make entry into a burning home or structure. We must wait an additional 10-15 minutes (at times) for the next engine company to arrive on scene to establish a safe working environment for our personnel. Even on certain medical calls and traffic accidents, my staff is limited in being able to do everything possible to save lives and stabilize the situation. Recently, my crew responded on a semi-truck and pickup truck accident in the early hours of a weekday morning. When they arrived on scene, they found a large semi with trailer that hit a pickup truck and smashed it into the forest. They found a patient, but due to the complexity of the scene and inadequate resources they could not deploy extrication tools to get the entrapped victim out. The crew had to wait an additional 10 minutes for another crew to arrive. The outcome- the patient died. Had we been

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fully staffed with proper equipment, I believe we could have achieved a better outcome. I want to assure all those we respond on that we will do our best to help you in any situation. But we need your help. Please support AZ Fire Districts by voting YES on Prop 310.

Morey Morris, Fire Chief, Hellsgate Fire District, Star Valley

The Pima County Fire Chiefs' Association (PCFCA) is a regional partnership of fire chiefs throughout incorporated and unincorporated Pima County, Arizona's 2nd largest county. Its primary goal is to collaborate to develop and support consistency of emergency service deployment and delivery throughout Pima County.

As service demands have dramatically increased, financial resourcing has not kept pace due to legislation being enacted that unreasonably constrains the revenue growth potential of fire districts in Arizona. This constraint is not to the detriment of the districts themselves, but rather to those they serve – the residents and visitors of the state of Arizona.

Today, most fire districts in Arizona struggle to meet the emergency needs of their communities. While these challenges are the same for all districts regardless of the size of the community being served, nowhere is the impact more obvious than with the districts serving the lightly populated rural or frontier areas of the county and state. In these areas, response times to emergencies border on the extreme, while staffing levels are at best, abysmal. Again, this is not to the detriment of the districts, but to those they serve.

The funding proposed through SCR1049 / Proposition 310 – fire districts; funding; TPT increment is necessary to provide for more consistent, timely, and appropriate emergency service delivery not only within Pima County, but throughout the entire state. Without it, the current trends will undoubtedly continue, and lives will be needlessly lost as a result.

For this reason, the Pima County Fire Chiefs' Association fully supports the passage of SCR1049 / Proposition 310 – fire districts; funding; TPT increment, and sincerely urges the residents of Pima County and the state of Arizona to support us in this effort.

Norman K. "Brad" Bradley III
Chairman, Pima County Fire Chiefs' Association

Norman Bradley III, Fire Chief, Northwest Fire District, Marana; Randy Karrer, Fire Chief, Golder Ranch Fire District, Tucson; Jayme Kahle, Fire Chief, Rincon Valley Fire District, Vail; Karl Isselhard, Fire Chief, Rural Metro Fire Department – Pima County, Tucson; Brian Delfs, Fire Chief, Avra Valley Fire District, Tucson; Marc Meredith, Fire Chief, Sonoita – Elgin Fire District, Patagonia; and Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief, Drexel Heights Fire District, Tucson

Sponsored by Pima County Fire Chiefs Association

After 32 years working for a municipal fire department, it was a common argument in the city when advocating for a tax increase, that sales tax was the "fairest" way to distribute the increase amongst all who use the service, not just residents. This ballot measure is simply asking for all who utilize 911 fire &

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medical responses in the state, residents and visitors alike, to help share the cost of providing adequate resources to accidents, wildland fires, or any situation that calls for first responders. This ballot measure ensures help is on the way from one of the 144 fire districts across our great state.

Mark Burdick, Fire Chief, Arizona Fire & Medical Authority, Glendale

1 July 2022

We, the board of the Mount Lemmon Fire District, are writing in support of Proposition 310, the establishment of The Fire District Safety Fund.

As one of the rural Arizona fire districts responsible not only for the small number of residents but an additional 1.5 million annual visitors to the Summerhaven area atop Mt. Lemmon, it is becoming more difficult to cover our annual operating expenses including salaries and benefits for our 7 employees and equipment maintenance given a decreasing tax base coupled with the erosion of purchasing power due to inflation.

Our district is not alone in finding ourselves in this situation. Many across the state in more rural areas such as ours face similar prospects. Over time this can result in inability to find highly qualified professional individuals to staff our shifts for not only fire but emergency services such as responding to accidents and other medical incidents. Moreover, as equipment ages and or breaks down, it needs to be replaced. Many of the rural districts are the first line of defense when wildfires break out. Unreliable apparatus and short-handed crews can contribute to longer or less effective initial responses to such events which can lead to larger fires burning for longer duration. We hope you'll take this into account as you travel in rural Arizona and strongly consider supporting this important proposition.

The Safety Fund will supplement local property taxes which supply the bulk of the district's annual budgets and allow for upgrading response capabilities for fire and emergency services.

John Perchorowicz, Chair, Mt Lemmon Fire District Board, Mt Lemmon Fire District, Tucson

Proposition 310 will allow Arizona Fire Districts to staff fire trucks with a safe number of firefighters to respond and effectively and efficiently manage fire and EMS calls. Many Arizona Fire Districts are strapped due to old and outdated laws that are leaving us underfunded. They've had to lay off personnel to meet their annual budgets. This has created two-man engine companies that are unsafe and can't meet the demands for service. This number of personnel does not allow for our firefighters to even enter a house or structure fire until the second fire engine gets on the scene to start fire suppression and searches. The 0.1% "Equalization Fund" will allow all Arizonans and even visitors to Arizona help keep our firefighters and those in need safe, All will have the same amount of care, equipment, and resources for their emergency- wherever that occurs. The one penny per \$10.00 spent will raise \$150 million to help sustain the Fire Districts for the next 20 years. In Gila County, all the fire districts and departments have agreed to help support this critical proposition. Gila County fire districts and departments are surrounded by National Forest and cannot "grow out" of our problem. Almost all the fire districts in Gila County have run out of options to fund our fire districts, but many people from other counties, states and countries visit the forests in our county and these visitors do not pay for services that are received. With the additional funding source, our fire districts will operate with the equipment that is needed to perform their work. It will staff additional personnel. And, by state law, professional audits are done to assure we are good stewards of taxpayer money. Please VOTE YES on Prop 310.

Submitted by the Gila County Fire Chief's Association

(For) SCR1049 - Proposition 310- fire districts; funding; TPT increment

Nick Renon, President, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Claypool; David Staub, Vice President, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Payson; Morey Morris, Secretary/Treasurer, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Star Valley; Gary Robinson, Chief at Large, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Globe; John Wisner, Chief at Large, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Pine; Dave Rodriguez, Member, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Forest Lakes; Ron Sattelmaier, Member, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Payson; Steve Holt, Member, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Tonto Basin; Robert Lockhart, Member, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Payson; Phil Paine, Member, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Happy Jack; and Mark Stratton, Member, Gila County Fire Chief's Association, Young

Sponsored by Gila County Fire Chief's Association

I am a husband, parent, former 2-term city councilmember of the state's capital city, a firefighter of nearly 20 years and a native Arizonan. The number one priority of any government is to keep people safe. That is a value I stood by during my time as a policy maker, and one I live my professional life by as a first responder. Unfortunately, that is harder to do in rural fire districts, such as Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical (DMFD) versus Arizona cities and towns. I can tell you firsthand the disparity in fire and EMS services have nothing to do with the commitment, compassion and skill level of each of the women and men of DMFD, but aging or lack of infrastructure and equipment does. On November 8th, we have the ability to change that by voting YES on Prop 310, the Arizona Fire District Safety Act. Proposition 310 will supplement rural fire districts with a 0.1% sales tax collected statewide, which is equivalent to a dime on a \$100 purchase. The majority of fire & EMS district funding will continue to come from local property taxes derived within each fire district. Whether you live in a fire district, or are passing through on one of our highways, or creating memories with your family on our vast public lands, you deserve a quick and adequate response should an emergency occur. As a lifelong public servant, I ask you to vote YES on Prop 310 to create a more consistent and equitable level of fire and EMS care for ALL Arizonans, wherever they may be in our beautiful state.

Daniel Valenzuela, Firefighter & Former Phoenix City Councilmember, Phoenix

Calling ALL ARIZONANS to Vote YES on Proposition 310

Being born and raised in Arizona myself, I take great pride in raising my own 5 children in this amazing state. In fact, over the years we have traveled many times over to every corner of the state, enjoying all that Arizona has to offer. There is truly so much to do and see. The Grand Canyon, the Red Rocks of Sedona, Tombstone, Bisbee, Monument Valley, Flagstaff, Goldfield Ghost Town, Tuscon, the Petrified Forrest, Prescott, and any of our amazing lakes are all amazing in their own right.

With 144 Fire Districts in this state, it doesn't matter where you live or travel, you or someone you love may need the services of a fire district. Traveling from the East Valley to Flagstaff, as an example, you might come across a dozen or so fire districts, many of which are underfunded and understaffed. This means you were to get into a bad car accident, it is likely you won't have the needed resources to take care of your family in the same manner as most municipalities.

The limited funding is due restrictions placed on fire districts during the great recession, a time period that many people across the Arizona struggled financially. Things have changed though and the need to

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support our fire districts has never been greater.

The good news is there is a simple fix - a one tenth of a cent sales tax. That's right, a mere one tenth of a cent. This equates to a dime for every one hundred dollars in purchases. Each of us has the ability to profoundly impact our great state and the communities within. on Prop 310. Let us join together and support our 144 fire districts in voting YES on Prop 310.

Scott Figgins, Queen Creek and Nicole Figgins, Queen Creek

In 2012 Proposition 117 (Arizona Property Tax Assessed Valuation Amendment) was approved which limits the tax assessment on property values to 5% annually for all special taxing districts. This went into effect shortly after home values had plunged due to the recession. It caused Fire Districts across the state to have to slash their budgets, decrease staffing, and deplete their financial reserves just to stay in business to answer the calls for help.

As the state of the economy improved and home values returned to their pre-recession values, municipal fire departments were able to restore their budgets and address any areas of concern. Meanwhile, fire districts that fall under the Prop 117 amendment struggled to catch up.

In the almost 10 years since the passage of Prop 117, Fire Districts have attempted to return to their pre-recession funding and staffing levels. Meanwhile, calls for service continue to increase year after year and the role the fire services play within the community continues to expand. Operating costs have increased exponentially with drastic increases in fuel, tires, and maintenance costs on the vehicles needed to respond to emergencies. The bottom line is that Fire Districts across the state have been expected to do more with less and many of them are at their breaking point.

Proposition 310 is the help that many fire districts desperately need to continue to provide the level of service expected. Much of the state's highways and recreational areas are serviced by fire districts and even though you may not live in an area that is covered by a Fire District they stand ready to answer your call for help as you drive or vacation throughout the state. Vote Yes on Prop 310 to ensure that no matter where you are in the state, help is coming.

Lance Frawley, Fire Captain, Gilbert

I will VOTE YES on Prop 310 to provide our men and women fighting fires the equipment they need, adequately staff our fire departments, and protect our environment. Please join me by voting Yes on the Arizona Fire District Safety Act.

Our firefighters are the front lines of stopping the increasing intensity and number of wildfires in Arizona. The public lands, like national forests, are for everyone to enjoy, no matter where in the state you live. They are our escape from the heat and bustle of the city, and preserves for Arizona's diverse and unique wildlife. Without a well-resourced, well trained, and adequately staffed response, we risk losing much of it.

Currently, fire districts across the state haven't been able to afford to keep staff and have been shrinking while the population they cover has been growing and more people use the lands for recreation. We must

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support this measure to ensure safety, protect the environment, and support our public safety.

Please VOTE Yes on Prop 310. So, when you need services while in our fire districts, whether you're a resident, driving through to your next destination, or recreating on our public lands and have an emergency, your safety isn't compromised.

Lela Alston, Arizona State Senator LD5, Phoenix

As the Chief of a Fire District, I am writing to express my whole-hearted support for Proposition 310. Having a municipal fire department background, I can tell you firsthand the significant discrepancies in funding from our municipal partners. Legislative limitations regarding taxation rules and growth restrictions specific to Fire Districts have severely limited our ability to stay competitive in the market, fairly provide for our personnel and provide the additional services commonplace in municipalities. Most recently, fire districts were forced to balance their already strained budgets through a multi-year pandemic while remaining ineligible for CARES and ARPA funding. Fire district communities were left to absorb all COVID-related costs, while our municipal partners received federal funding.

Fire District funding is primarily based on residential property tax. When funding falls short in a municipality, other funding mechanisms exist to cover unexpected expenses; this is not true for Fire Districts. All Arizona firefighters work the same job providing fire and life safety service delivery, yet Fire District personnel work with fewer resources and less security. Once you leave a city's boundary, most likely, you are in an area served by a Fire District. Vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, and fires still occur; having an adequately funded Fire District only ensures better outcomes for those areas served.

Proposition 310 is directly beneficial to Fire Districts with a clear line of distribution without the red tape. Despite being a small increase, the funding made available through this Proposition will significantly assist ALL Arizona Fire Districts. This critical need will secure our future sustainability and allow us to provide the highest level of service to our citizens, visitors, and those simply passing through.

I truly thank you for your time and consideration of this vital item.

John Whitney IV, Fire Chief, Superstition Fire & Medical District, Tempe

Fire Districts are government agencies that provide 911 responses to mostly unincorporated areas of the state. Currently, the vast majority of funding for fire districts comes from property taxes, with the tax burden being shifted away from commercial properties and more to the residential property owner in recent years. Furthermore, due to Prop 117 being passed in 2012, fire district funding has been cut and unable to recover since the Great Recession. This has forced many districts to merge, consolidate, or form Joint Powers Authorities to cut redundancies and overhead costs, and to improve purchasing power.

The agency I work for is a JPA that is comprised of two fire districts (North County Fire and Medical and South County Fire and Medical) which provide services to Sun City West, Sun Lakes, Wittmann, and Tonopah regions. Despite these massive funding constraints and being proactive through mergers, we have been doing everything possible to ensure that our service delivery meets our customers' expectations; however, at the expense of overworking our responders and administrative staff, along with overextending the lifespan of apparatus and equipment. Moreover, fire districts were overlooked when

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CARES Act and ARPA funds were dispersed to the municipalities and counties to help offset the massive costs of responding to the COVID pandemic- despite being the primary responders to some of the largest communities of the most at-risk population in the state.

Proposition 310 will provide fire districts the necessary funding to provide ALL of the expected services when one calls 911 without continuing to place the majority of the tax burden on the residential property tax. Prop 310's passage, would finally allow fire districts to receive sales tax revenue from tourism, large sporting events, and many other attractions that make Arizona so great which is currently unavailable to us.

Scott Dial, Captain/ Paramedic, Arizona Fire & Medical Authority, Surprise

“Yes” for Proposition 310

Arizona's 144 fire districts are in crisis. Located in rural Arizona and along the major roadways connecting Phoenix, Tucson, Kingman, Flagstaff and Yuma, fire districts are routinely strapped for funding, and short on staffing, equipment, and training. I have been a full-time firefighter with the Verde Valley Fire District, in central Arizona, for 17 years. My agency is one of three fire districts in the Verde Valley that cover hundreds of square miles of territory, including Interstate 17, major highways, miles of rural forest land, rivers, and creeks. Through the years our budgets have been reduced but our call volume has increased. In the last five years, nearly 2,000 people have died in vehicle crashes on Arizona's rural roads. Another 30,000 have been injured. While urban fire departments frequently respond to 911 emergency calls in six or seven minutes, our fire district response times can routinely exceed 30 minutes. Not only does this create serious risk for the 1.5 million Arizonans who live in fire districts, it also impacts the nearly 3 million annual visitors to our region who travel our interstates and rural roadways on day trips, sightseeing tours, and vacations.

In response to this crisis, Arizona's fire fighters have crafted a solution – a temporary tenth-of-a-penny increase in the state's sales tax. If you spend \$10 on lunch, Prop 310, the Arizona Fire District Safety Act, will cost you a penny. This will generate about \$150 million annually for the state's fire districts. These increased resources will take the pressure off our fire fighters and paramedics and help ensure we have the equipment and training we need to provide fire, emergency and medical services to our residents and travelers. Vote “Yes,” on Prop 310 on November 8th.

Ivan Anderson

Firefighter/Paramedic

Verde Valley Fire District

Ivan Anderson, Firefighter/Paramedic, Verde Valley Fire District, Cottonwood

As a long-time fire district board chairman and 35-year firefighter, I ask that you VOTE YES for Proposition 310 to help improve fire district responses to emergency medical incidents, structure fires and early-stage wildland fires. Fire Districts in Arizona- there are over 150 of them statewide- rely primarily on property taxes for funding. Because of tax rate caps, tax levy increase limitations and property value increase limitations, fire districts are limited in receiving increased revenues to fund critical staffing, apparatus, equipment replacement, additional fire station construction due to growth and even basic medical supplies.

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Fire districts do not receive state revenue or even benefit from the state sales tax collected by businesses within their own districts or from personal statewide income tax filings. They do receive a small amount of the statewide Fire District Assistance Tax. However, cities and towns receive substantial funding from sales and income tax in the form of state shared revenues. The cities and towns across Arizona then use that revenue to fund their own better staffed and better equipped public safety services. If approved by voters, the Act will increase the state sales tax 1/10th of 1% or a penny on a \$10 purchase. This critically needed revenue will then be shared statewide with all fire districts.

I have seen rapid growth in my fire district and like other fire districts, we were forced to reduce staffing necessitated by the real estate market downturn several years ago. The levy cap, rate cap and assessed valuation cap has tied our hands and has not allowed us to fund the positions cut.

A YES VOTE will go a long way to help decrease response times, reduce the manpower shortage and provide the training and equipment to save lives.

Brian V. Moore

Board Chairman, Daisy Mountain Fire District

Brian Moore Sr., Fire Board Chairman, Daisy Mountain Fire District, Phoenix

VOTE YES to support the Arizona Fire District Safety Act (Prop 310)

The 144 fire districts across this great state of Arizona need your support more than ever, and you can help by voting yes for Prop 310. It will only cost you one penny on a \$10 lunch to bring more staff, improved response times and newer equipment to the fire departments that Arizonans use on a daily basis. Even if you do not live in a district, I promise you have traveled through one on the way to Tucson, Flagstaff, Las Vegas, California, or even Mexico. Districts fill the gaps that the cities do not cover. We all want someone to respond to our 911 calls, this proposition will help fund those emergencies. Fire districts not only respond to medical emergencies, but also car accidents, hazardous material emergencies, swift water rescues and of course fires. Many times fire districts are the first on scene of the devastating wildfires we have had in our state.

Fire districts do not receive sales tax revenue and must rely on property taxes. During the great recession when property values plummeted, I watched many districts lay off personnel including the Sun City Fire District, where we lost 25% of our front line first responders. This created longer response times, a major decline in our front line apparatus to respond to emergencies, and our facilities falling into disrepair. While property values hit rock bottom, Proposition 117 was passed, which limited property value increases to 5% year over year. This created a perfect storm for fire districts that have yet to have their budgets restored to pre great recession levels.

Please VOTE YES and support the fire districts to ensure a better future for all the residents of Arizona.

Rob Schmitz, Acting Fire Chief, Sun City Fire District, Phoenix