

## **West Point Fire Protection District Ballot Measure Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the ballot measure text?** "To maintain rapid local emergency medical technician and firefighter response within the West Point Fire Protection District, and to continue current 24 hour/day, three personnel staffing of firefighters and emergency medical technicians, shall this measure, imposing an annual special property tax of an additional \$180.00 per year on 1,952 currently taxed District parcels, raising an additional \$351,360 each year, and increasing the District's appropriation's limits consistent with this additional revenue, be adopted?"

**What date and in what format will the vote take place?** The special election will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as a mail-in ballot only. Registered voters will receive their ballots at the mailing address on their voter registration at least two weeks prior to the election date. Ballots can be dropped off in person to the Calaveras County Elections Office by the election date, mailed and postmarked by May 4<sup>th</sup>, or dropped at a ballot drop box.

**Why does the district need additional funds?** The costs associated with the District's emergency response including minimum wage, equipment maintenance, fuel, training, and department maintenance continue to rise, yet the District has not asked for a tax increase since 2007. The District is currently operating on a budget deficit and must find additional revenue sources to keep the department staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

**How will the additional tax revenue be used?** The additional revenue will be used solely for the purpose of providing fire protection and emergency medical response services within the District. The special property tax is collected by the county and 100% of the funds are distributed directly to the West Point Fire Protection District.

**Why didn't the West Point Fire Protection District close after the August 2020 ballot measure failed?** Due to the record 2020 fire season, the District sent strike teams to assist with fires statewide, bringing in significant state revenue. This unanticipated revenue allowed the District to fix the 2020 budget deficit and continue operations for a short period of time. However, strike team revenue is unreliable and fluctuates year-over-year, with some years bringing in zero revenue. The District cannot responsibly budget and plan on annual strike team revenue to fill operating expense gaps.

**Will I be taxed multiple times if I own multiple parcels?** Parcels under the same ownership with a contiguous border will only be taxed once. If you feel that you are being taxed multiple times in error, please contact the West Point Fire Protection District at 209-293-7000.

**I own property within the District. Why didn't I receive a ballot in the mail during the last election?** Only those registered to vote using an address within the District will receive a ballot. Make sure that your voter registration and address is up to date by visiting <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>. If everything is correct and you feel you did not receive a ballot in the last special election in error, please call the Calaveras County Elections Department at (209) 754-6376.

**Will non-property owners receive a ballot as well?** Yes. Anyone registered to vote at an address within the district will receive a ballot.

**What will happen to the District if the vote measure does not pass?** The Board of Directors is committed to analyzing all possibilities to maintain the integrity of the District. However, without additional revenue, the Board will be forced to eliminate 24 hour per day, 365 day per year coverage. The District could move to part-time, limited coverage with the potential to close altogether. District residents would then rely on Cal Fire or outside departments in the event of the emergency. The West Point Cal Fire station is not staffed year-round and relying on them or an outside department could leave residents waiting for significant periods before a call is answered.

**For any additional questions or concerns, please contact the West Point Fire Protection District Board of Directors at [jmarsili@westpointfire.org](mailto:jmarsili@westpointfire.org) or call the District at 209-293-7000.**