

# **ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024- 07**

## **RESOLUTION OF THE ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REQUESTING VOTERS ENERGETICALLY & RESOLUTELY OPPOSE STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES 50 & 108 FOR THE NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> STATEWIDE ELECTION**

WHEREAS Colorado's locally funded fire fighters protect the economy of every community in Colorado;

WHEREAS Colorado's locally funded fire fighters protect nearly 3 million jobs in Colorado;

WHEREAS Colorado's locally funded fire fighters respond to every human-caused and natural disaster in Colorado;

WHEREAS, Colorado's locally funded fire fighters protect Colorado's natural resources, our forests and the quality of our air and water;

WHEREAS Colorado's locally funded fire fighters protect the lives, property, and well-being of our state's 5.9 million residents and 84 million annual visitors;

WHEREAS Colorado's fire protection districts are nearly fully dependent on property tax revenue as their primary or even sole source of revenue;

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado does not provide any reoccurring annual revenue support for fire protection district operations, yet locally funded fire protection districts serve as the cavalry when major disasters and incidents occur;

WHEREAS, both Initiative 50 and Initiative 108 will invalidate prior local budgeting and revenue decisions by fire protection districts' officials and voters, replacing local control of their community with a statewide calculation that will result in billions of dollars of locally lost revenue without any reduction in service or legal obligations;

WHEREAS, Initiatives 50 and 108 will significantly hinder the ability of fire protection districts to provide the fire services, emergency medical services, and emergency rescue services that their constituent communities expect, because fiscal resources will not keep pace with inflation, population growth, aging infrastructure, materials, personnel, capital projects, or provide protections for essential operations from economic downturns;

WHEREAS, Initiative 50 fundamentally alters the local government property tax system, which can be tailored to meet local needs, into a statewide mandated calculation that will hurt local fire protection districts and the citizens, the visitors, and communities they serve, and in particular, rural areas of Colorado;

WHEREAS, the text of Initiative 50, which amends the Colorado Constitution, is so ambiguous that experts are confounded about how it can be implemented, including its impact on current and future governmental obligations, which will lead to years of legal challenges, making property tax an unpredictable and unreliable resource for fire protection districts;

WHEREAS, Initiative 108 states that local governments will be reimbursed from state funds for lost property tax revenue, but that statement is an empty promise because those reductions are too large for the State's budget to sustain reimbursements, and further, the General Assembly has already indicated its disinclination in its recent property tax proposals and laws to provide reimbursements for lost revenue to non-school local governments; and

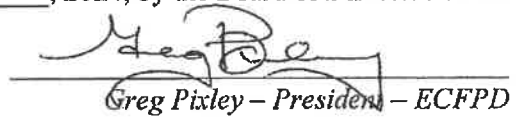
WHEREAS, Initiatives 50 and 108, individually and together, will nullify the short- and long-range planning efforts of Colorado's fire protection districts that are necessary to absorb inflationary pressures, to recruit and maintain adequate numbers of both volunteer and career fire fighters, to support existing and grow new fire & life safety programs, to construct and maintain essential infrastructure, and to respond to the needs and emergencies of Colorado's communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is the position of the Board of Directors of the Elk Creek Fire Protection District that fire protection districts and their constituents are best suited to determine the revenues necessary to meet the needs, expectations, and demands of the communities they serve.
2. The Board of Directors recognizes that fire protection districts are accountable to their local voters, who may act if they believe the taxes they pay are not warranted for the services, facilities, and infrastructure provided by special districts in their communities.
3. Local control ensures that decisions are made by individuals familiar with the local context and directly accountable to our community members. The removal of this control will result in slower decision making, reduced responsiveness, and increased financial burden.
4. The budget of the Elk Creek Fire Protection District is carefully crafted to align with District specific priorities and financial realities. This local control enables us to allocate resources based on immediate needs and changing conditions.
5. Our community is central to our District's operations. The ability of the Board to make financial decisions ensures a sense of ownership and involvement among our residents. This Board of Directors believes the loss of local authority will lead to decreased community support.
6. For these reasons, the Board of Directors concludes that both Initiative 50 and Initiative 108 diminish the ability of Elk Creek Fire Protection District to provide the vital services in a timely and cost effective manner that the public needs, expects, and demands; and, therefore, the ECFPD Board strongly urges a NO vote on Propositions 50 and 108 at the statewide election on November 5, 2024.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 31<sup>st</sup> day of JULY, 2024, by the Board of Directors of the Elk Creek Fire Protection District.

  
Melissa Baker -- Secretary -- ECFPD

  
Greg Pixley -- President -- ECFPD