

Lakeport Fire Protection District

Ballot Measure Facts

1. What would be the results of the ballot measure passing?

- If the measure is approved, the District intends to use funds to once again staff a minimum of 4 people per day and to start addressing some of the capital needs that have been delayed.

2. What amount of revenue increase is needed to return to “normal” staffing levels?

- Approximately \$600,000.00 just for staffing. That does not address capital replacement or repairs.

3. What amount of revenue is expected from the ballot measure?

- The District anticipates that the measure, if adopted, will raise approximately \$1,206,000.00 annually.

4. What are the costs of the ballot measure to the citizens?

- The cost of the election will be between \$25,000.00 and \$30,000.00 dollars.

5. How many calls did the District respond to in 2017?

- 2800- That’s almost 3 times the 938 calls the District responded to in 1997, the year the tax was approved.

6. What is the District’s ISO rating? How will it be affected by reduced staff?

- Our current ISO rating is a 4/4Y with 1 being the best and 10 being the worst. If our staffing continues at its present reduced level our rating will be will be negatively affected and insurance premiums will rise.

7. What happens if the measure does not pass?

- We will continue to staff only 2 personnel per day. This will also cause increased insurance premiums and delays in emergency responses.

8. When was the last time the tax was increased?

- Currently there are 2 separate taxes, one inside city limits and one outside. Both were passed in 1997. The city measure had an inflation adjuster so it has risen slightly over the years, while the District measure did not so it is the same as it was in 1997.

9. Why doesn’t the revenue from ambulance billing cover the District’s expenses?

- The vast majority (85% or more) of the people transported by our service are on government subsidized insurance such as Medicare or Medi-Cal. These payers set their own rates of reimbursement that are far below the cost of providing the service and we are not allowed to “balance bill”, that is charge the patient the difference between our charges and what they reimburse. Further, unlike some medical providers, we cannot just “stop accepting” patients based on their insurance or lack thereof.

10. What type of vote is required to pass the measure?

The measure must receive a 66.67% yes vote to pass.

11. When would the tax measure go into effect?

- If passed in May of 2019 the tax could be placed on the 2019-2020 tax roll. However it could be a year or more before the District fully realizes the additional funds from the passage.

12. Currently the City tax rate is \$1.96 per unit of benefit, or 58.80 for a single family home. Outside of City limits it is \$1.00 per unit, or \$30.00 for a single family home.

13. Property related taxes apply equally to the same types of properties throughout the community. This tax is not related to the property’s value at all, but rather charges the same rate for the same type of property.

14. The District is very limited in its ability to increase revenues. We currently have 3 main sources of funding; 1) property taxes, 2) ambulance fees, and 3) this fire tax. We cannot raise the property taxes, or our apportionment thereof. As stated earlier, most of our ambulance users are on government assisted insurance so it doesn’t matter what we charge, they pay what they pay regardless. We have raised our rates, but that only really affects people with private insurance or who don’t have any. As for reduce expenses, the District has curbed spending on important items such as outside training and education for our folks, maintenance of apparatus and facilities to the barest minimums, and forgone replacement of equipment and apparatus.

15. What is the breakdown of the \$600,000.00 for staffing?

- The \$600,000.00 figure is based on the need for 6 additional staff to return to 4 people per day. It’s actually light considering that the average cost per member before the layoffs was \$116,000.00 per member, but since they would be new hires, they would most likely be under \$100,000.00 total cost for a while.

16. The \$1,000,000.00 figure is actually slightly less. Here’s how you get there:

- 14 FTE’s @ approx... \$120,000.00 each = \$1,680,000.00
- \$1,680,000.00= 80% of \$2,100,000.00
- That leaves \$420,000.00 for services and supplies, but does not cover overtime, part timers, volunteers, etc.

- Shift coverage averages \$100,000.00 per year
- (2) part timers per shift equals \$232,800.00 per year
- So with those added on plus a little for reserves, etc. = \$400,000.00
- So you take the amount we need to staff 4 personnel per day, \$2,500,000.00 and subtract what we get currently in property taxes, fire tax, and ambulance revenues (scene and local IFT only) which equals \$1,507,281.00 and you get \$992,719.00.

17. Example of units of benefit:

- Single Family Dwelling= 30 units of benefit @ 6.14/unit=\$184.20
- Commercial Building, 9000 sq. ft. = 100 units @ 6.14= \$614.00
- Same building with 3 businesses would be 100 units for the building and 1st business, 75 units for each additional business, for a total of 250 units or \$1,535.00.
- Each building on a given parcel is calculated independently, so if you had 4 building as above, on a single parcel, each would pay \$1,535.00 for a total of \$6,140.00.

UNIT OF BENEFIT TABLE AND EXPLANATION

Units of benefit, or benefit units, are used as a way to “rate’ the benefit a particular parcel receives from having fire protection and EMS. As such, developed property receives more benefit, and thus has more units assigned, than undeveloped property. See tables for rates.

Residential

Single Family Dwelling	30 units per dwelling
Mobile Home	30 units per living unit
Mobile in a Park	30 units per living unit
Duplex	30 units per living unit
Multi-Family or Apartments	15 units per living unit

Other

Convalescent and Rest Homes	70 units
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Commercial/Industrial/Institutional

0-999 Building Sq. Feet	50 units per building
1,000-4,999 Building Sq. Feet	75 units per building
5,000-9,999 Building Sq. feet	100 units per building
10,000+ Building Sq. Feet	150 units per building

*****In addition to the above units, the following extra units apply to Commercial/Industrial/Institutional properties*****

More than one business in a building	75 units per additional business
Hotel/Motel 0-10 Rooms	25 units
Hotel/Motel over 10 Rooms	1 unit per room over 10

Vacant Land

Vacant 0-5 Acres	10 units per parcel
5.01-10 Acres	15 units per parcel
10+ Acres	20 units per parcel

Examples

A single family home:

30 units x \$6.14 per unit= \$184.20 per year

Apartment building with 10 apartments:

15 units x 10 apartments= 150 units x \$6.14= \$921.00 per year

Commercial strip mall, 10,000 sq. ft., with 4 businesses:

150 units for building and first business + 225 units for 3 additional businesses=375 units x \$6.14= \$2302.50 per year