

**RESOLUTION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GREATER BRIGHTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**A RESOLUTION ADVOCATING VOTER OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 101, AMENDMENT 60 AND AMENDMENT 61 DURING THE NOVEMBER 2, 2010 ELECTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Brighton Fire Protection District ("**Fire District**") is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, formed pursuant to C.R.S. § 32-1-101, *et seq.* to provide fire suppression, fire prevention, ambulance, emergency medical, emergency rescue, and hazardous materials services (collectively, "**Emergency Services**") to the citizens and property within its jurisdiction, and to individuals passing through its jurisdiction;

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet its Emergency Services obligations and to provide the best possible fire and emergency medical protection to the citizens in the Fire District, the Fire District is dependent primarily on public funding from taxes and borrowing, including without limitation property taxes, specific ownership taxes, and lease-purchase agreements, to pay its administrative and operating costs and the cost of capital improvements, such as fire stations, fire trucks, and firefighting and emergency medical services equipment;

**WHEREAS**, three initiated ballot questions, referred to as Proposition 101, Amendment 60 and Amendment 61, will appear on the statewide ballot for the November 2, 2010 election ("**Election**"), any one of which, if passed, would cause dramatic reductions to the Fire District's public funding and impair its ability to meet its Emergency Service obligations;

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. § 1-45-117(1)(b)(III)(A), expressly authorizes the Board to adopt a Resolution advocating voter opposition to statewide ballot issues during the Election; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined it is important to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens to whom it provides Emergency Services that the Board adopt this Resolution urging all eligible voters to oppose Proposition 101, Amendment 60 and Amendment 61 during the Election.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER BRIGHTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, ADAMS AND WELD COUNTIES, COLORADO:**

1. Since 1888, the Fire District has been providing essential, life-saving Emergency Services to the citizens and property within its 165 square mile service area.
2. The Fire District is dependent primarily on public funding in order to meet its Emergency Service obligations and pay its operating costs. Sources of Fire District funding include, without limitation, local property taxes, specific ownership taxes, and lease-purchase agreements. In 2009, 98% of the Fire District's operating budget was composed of revenue from these and other types of public funding sources. For example, in 2009 the Fire District received:
  - \$5,973,273 from property taxes, constituting 91% of the Fire District's annual operating budget;

- \$450,212 from specific ownership taxes, constituting 6% of the Fire District's annual operating budget;

The Fire District also has the following financial obligations:

- \$3,746,065 in lease-purchase agreements, which were issued for construction of fire stations and purchase of firefighting equipment.
3. The three initiated ballot questions that will appear on the statewide ballot for the Election seek to dramatically reduce specific ownership taxes (Proposition 101), impose onerous conditions on property tax collections (Amendment 60), and cease State borrowing and severely limit the borrowing ability of local governments (Amendment 61). Any one of these ballot questions, if passed, would cause dramatic reductions to the Fire District's public funding and impair its ability to meet its Emergency Service obligations. Should all three of these ballot questions pass, the effect would cripple the Fire District's operations.

(a) Proposition 101:

- Would reduce the Fire District's annual operating revenue by approximately \$400,000, approximately 6% of the Fire District's annual operating budget.

(b) Amendment 60:

- Would allow individuals who own land within the Fire District's jurisdiction to sign petitions and vote on property tax issues affecting the Fire District even if they have never lived in within the Fire District's jurisdiction, the State or the United States.
- Would require local governments to allow petitions from citizens to propose property tax reductions, meaning that one disgruntled individual could force a costly and groundless election at the expense of all other taxpayers.
- Would require all property tax increases to be voted separately from related debt questions, meaning voters could approve bonds but reject the tax necessary to pay for the bonds, an absurd result, as the Fire District cannot issue bonds if it does not have authority to impose a tax to pay for the bonds.
- Would limit any future property tax increases to a 10 year term, meaning the Fire District would have to hold a costly and unnecessary election every 10 years just to continue a tax already approved by the voters.
- Would nullify all past voter-approved exemptions to revenue and spending limits, and limit any future voter-approved exemptions to revenue and spending limits to 4 years. This would place the Fire District's into an immediate financial crisis, as it would dramatically reduce its annual operating revenue without any time to make appropriate reductions in service levels.

(c) Amendment 61:

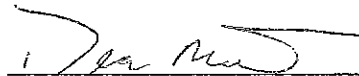
- Would prohibit the Fire District engaging in any type of financing other than bonds, which are expensive and very restricted in their use. Further, the bonds would be restricted to 10 years, making them very difficult to issue and resulting in a much higher interest rate charged to the Fire District and its taxpayers.
  - Would impose a debt limit of 10% of the assessed taxable value of all real property in the local government's jurisdiction for all entities other than enterprises.
  - Once the borrowing is repaid, would require tax rates to decline in an amount equal to its planned average repayment even if the debt is not repaid from taxes, thereby functionally creating a debt prohibition for any borrowing not paid from taxes.
4. The Fire District recognizes that the current economic conditions are difficult for everyone. The Fire District does not wish to, and does not, impose unnecessary or burdensome taxes on any taxpayer; however, the Fire District relies on public funding to finance its essential and lifesaving operations, and the dramatic revenue cuts and limitations imposed by the three initiated ballot questions would have an immediate, crippling impact on the Fire District's operations and the Emergency Services it provides.
5. For all of the foregoing reasons, the Board urges voters to oppose Proposition 101, Amendment 60 and Amendment 61 during the November 2, 2010 election.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010.

BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GREATER BRIGHTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



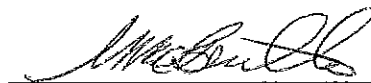
Scott Gerhardt, President



Dean Morris, Secretary



Arlin Riggi, Vice President



Mike Benallo, Assistant Secretary



Frank Serafini, Treasurer