



# Brighton Fire Rescue District

500 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor • Brighton, Colorado 80601  
 Telephone: (303) 659-4101 • Fax: (303) 659-4103 • Website: www.brightonfire.org.

## FACTUAL SUMMARY NOVEMBER 6, 2018 ELECTION FOR VOTER AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE

**THE FIRE DISTRICT.** Since 1980 Greater Brighton Fire Protection District has provided fire suppression, rescue, extrication, hazardous materials, ambulance, and emergency medical services to approximately 150 square miles that include the City of Brighton, and parts of Commerce City, Lochbuie, and unincorporated Adams and Weld Counties.

**SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE.** The Fire District’s population has increased 220% since 2000. Its call volume has increased 20% in the last 3 years. The Board has established a very specific plan for the next five years to address the significant increase in service demands and loss of tax revenue due to the effect of the Gallagher Amendment. This plan includes the hiring of 15 firefighters, improvement of firefighter safety, replacement of vital equipment, and the construction of an additional fire station. The chart below summarizes the plan:

Greater Brighton Fire Protection District - 5 Year Plan				
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire 5 Firefighters</li> <li>• Improve the Capacity of Station 51</li> <li>• Replace Firefighter Breathing Equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire 5 Firefighters</li> <li>• Replace 1993 Engine</li> <li>• Replace 1990 Squad</li> <li>• Replace 2 Brush Trucks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire 5 Firefighters</li> <li>• Improve Training Facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace 2003 Ladder Truck</li> <li>• Replace 2006 Engine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace 2007 Engine</li> <li>• Build New Fire Station</li> <li>• Provide Equipment for New Station</li> </ul>

To accomplish the foregoing plan, the Fire District must increase its property tax.

**THE BALLOT ISSUE.** During its meeting on August 22, 2018, the Fire District’s Board of Directors adopted a Resolution calling for an election on November 6, 2018 to seek voter approval of a property tax increase through the following Ballot Issue, included on the ballot as **Ballot Issue 7F**:

SHALL GREATER BRIGHTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$2,897,826 (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR DOLLAR INCREASE) ANNUALLY, BEGINNING IN LEVY YEAR 2018 (FOR COLLECTION IN CALENDAR YEAR 2019) BY INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S EXISTING PROPERTY TAX BY 3.72 MILLS, TO ENABLE THE DISTRICT TO CONTINUE PROVIDING CRITICAL FIRE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, RESCUE AND OTHER EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES TO ITS FAST-GROWING COMMUNITIES, AND SHALL ALL REVENUE AND ANY EARNINGS ON THIS TAX CONSTITUTE A PERMANENT VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN SECTION 29-1-301 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, AND ANY OTHER LAW?

**ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PROPOSAL.** The property tax increase will increase the amount of taxes the Fire District assesses against taxable property within its boundaries. For voters who support less and smaller government, the Fire District’s increase in tax revenues may be contrary to this objective. Based upon the Fire District’s current assessed valuation, a property tax increase of 3.72 mills would result in the following projected increases in property taxes to homeowners:

- \$200,000 Residence = \$4.46 per month
- \$300,000 Residence = \$6.70 per month
- \$400,000 Residence = \$8.93 per month

**ARGUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL.** The Fire District must have a property tax increase in order to implement its 5-year strategic plan. Without the tax increase, the increasing costs and service demands, and the loss of revenue caused by the Gallagher Amendment, will make it difficult for the Fire District to keep up with increased population, emergency call volume, and inflation, and may adversely affect future staffing, overall firefighter safety, and construction and maintenance of fire trucks and stations. ISO ratings for the Fire District may increase and cause homeowners’ and business owners’ property insurance rates to increase.

*This Factual Summary is being provided in accordance with the authority granted by C.R.S. § 1-45-117(b)(l)*