

**UKIAH VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEASURE V**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT PROPOSING THE IMPOSITION OF A SPECIAL TAX AND ORDERING A SPECIAL TAX ELECTION TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT A SPECIAL PARCEL TAX SHOULD BE LEVIED

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 50077, the District Board of Directors ("Board") gave public notice that a public hearing would be held on July 25, 2024 regarding whether a resolution should be adopted calling for a special tax; and
2. Such duly noticed public hearing was held on July 25, 2024, at which time all interested persons were given the opportunity to address the Board; and
3. After considering the testimony at said public hearing, the Board has concluded that the demand for fire protection services has increased dramatically in the 21 years since the last parcel tax was approved by the voters; and
4. As a result, the District's ability to adequately fund fire protection and prevention services and emergency medical services requires additional revenue that is currently not available to the District, including from existing special taxes, the District's share of as valorem property taxes and other revenues available to the District; and
5. CalFire ranks the Ukiah area as a "very high" fire hazard risk, with increasingly common large fires like the 2017 Valley Complex Fire and the 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire; and
6. Firefighter equipment tools and facilities need upgrades to protect the safety of emergency responders; and
7. Additional resources are needed to provide Ukiah Valley Fire District firefighters and paramedics with the resources they need to do their jobs protecting communities and saving lives each and every day; and
8. To secure the necessary authority to raise the needed additional revenue, pursuant to the authority provided by Government Code Sections 53978 and 50075-50077.5 and Health and Safety Code Section 13911, the Board has determined to submit to the voters the question of whether to impose a special tax for the purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment or apparatus and paying for the salaries, benefits and training of fire-fighting personnel.
9. If approved by voters, all funds raised by this measure must be used within the local community to improve fire protection and emergency medical response services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A special tax election is hereby called to be held on November 5, 2024, in conjunction with the statewide general election to approve or disapprove the levy of the hereinafter described special tax. Upon approval of two-thirds of the voters cast by the voters voting upon the proposition, the District may levy the tax.
2. The tax to be imposed, if approved by the voters, will be effective December 1, 2024, as authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 13911 and Government Code Sections 50075 and 53978 to be used for the specific purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining suppression equipment or apparatus and paying for the salaries, benefits and training of firefighting and paramedic personnel.

**UKIAH VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEASURE V**

3. A special account shall be created into which the proceeds shall be deposited.
4. The Fire Chief or his designees shall file an annual report with the Board of Directors in January of each year indicating both of the following:
 - (a) The amount of funds collected and expended.
 - (b) The status of any project authorized to be funded.
5. The rate of tax to be imposed shall be \$33.50 per unit using the uniform schedules and rates found in Section 7 of Ordinance 97-1. As passed and adopted by the voters of the Ukiah Valley Fire District at the Special Consolidated Election held on March 4, 1997. On the first day of each 12-month period thereafter the unit rate of special tax then in effect shall be increased or decreased by the percentage change over that twelve-month period in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Consumer Price index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ("BLR") or an equivalent index if the BLR index is discontinued. This annual cost of living adjustment shall not exceed two percent (2%).
6. The special tax shall be collected in the same manner and subject to the same penalty as, or with, other charges and taxes fixed and collected by this agreement with Mendocino County on behalf of the District and the County may deduct its reasonable costs incurred for such service before remittal of the balance to the District.
7. This tax shall be in addition to any other tax that the District is authorized by law to collect and receive including, but not limited to, the \$50.00 per unit of special tax authorized by Ordinance 97-1 and the \$10 per unit special tax authorized by Resolution No. 2003-7 approved by the voter in the general election on November 4, 2003.
8. If any section, subsection, sentence, phrase or clause of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution. The Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District here declare that they would have adopted the Resolution and each section despite the fact that one or more sections, subsections, phrases or clauses be declared invalid.
9. Each property owner in the District shall, within (30) days after mailing the notice of the special tax bill for that fiscal year, have the right to file a written appeal with the District protesting the levy of such special tax. The filing of an appeal is not grounds for failing to timely pay the entire amount of taxes specified in the tax bill as due. If in deciding an appeal the special tax is either reduced or increased as a result of the decision by the Board of Directors, the special tax shall either be refunded, or the increased amount collected. The property owner, and/or their designated representative, may appear and present evidence and argument at the protest hearing in support of the appeal.

**UKIAH VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEASURE V**

RESOLUTION 2024-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTION

WHEREAS:

1. Since 2004, 9-1-1 emergency calls for medical and fire emergencies in the Ukiah Valley have increased dramatically, while the number of firefighters on duty has remained static; and
2. CalFire ranks the Ukiah area as a "very high" fire hazard risk, with increasingly common large fires like the 2017 Valley Complex Fire and the 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire; and
3. Firefighter equipment, tools and facilities need upgrades to protect safety of emergency responders; and
4. Additional resources are needed to provide Ukiah Valley Fire District firefighters and paramedics with the resources they need to do their jobs protecting communities and saving lives each and every day; and
5. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 50075 and 53978 and Health and Safety Code Section 13911, the Ukiah Valley Fire Protection District (hereinafter "District"), after conducting a noticed public hearing under Government Code Section 50077, has adopted Resolution 2024-04, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto, calling for an election on November 5, 2024 on a proposed special tax for the purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment or apparatus, and for paying the salaries and benefits for fire-fighting personnel; and
7. If approved by voters, all funds raised by this measure must be used within the local community to improve fire protection and emergency medical response services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS.

1. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is hereby requested to consolidate the District election with the Statewide General Election scheduled to be conducted on November 5, 2024.
2. The District acknowledges that the election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418.
3. The District requests that District Resolution 2024-04 attached hereto be published in the Voter Information Pamphlet.
4. The District requests that the Measure Submitted to the Voters of the Ukiah Valley Fire District read as follows:

TITLE: ADOPTION OF UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

To adequately fund firefighter/paramedic emergency responses to house fires, wildfires, medical emergencies, car accidents; to hire/train firefighters/paramedics; upgrade aging firefighter equipment and life-saving tools, shall the Fire District enact a \$33.50/unit annual parcel tax using the schedule of units in voter-approved Ordinance 97-1 (annual adjustments not to exceed 2%), raising approximately \$987,000/year until ended by voters; annual public reporting; all money used exclusively for local fire and emergency medical services? "[] YES [] NO"

5. The District will submit a ballot argument in favor of the measure by the prescribed deadline.
6. The District requests that Attachment 1 and this ordinance be submitted to County Counsel for the preparation of an impartial analysis.

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
MEASURE V**

ADOPTION OF UKIAH VALLEY DISTRICT PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by the Ukiah Valley Fire Protection District ("District") Board of Directors to seek voter approval of Resolution 2024-04 ("Resolution") to impose a special tax for fire and emergency services. The Resolution was adopted pursuant to Government Code sections 53978 (special taxes for fire and police protection), sections 50075-50077.5 (voter-approved special taxes) and Health and safety Code section 13911 (levy of voter-approved special tax).

If approved by the voters, the special tax is to be assessed on all real property within the boundaries of the Ukiah Valley Fire Protection District (except that of a federal or state governmental agency or other local agency). The rate of tax to be imposed will be thirty-three dollars and fifty cents (\$33.50) per unit, which will be calculated by multiplying \$33.50 by the number of units allocated to each parcel, using the uniform schedule of units in Section 7 of Ordinance 97-1, as passed and adopted by the voters in 1997. The Resolution also imposes annual cost of living adjustments not to exceed two percent (2%) as described in the text of the Resolution. This Measure also requires creation of special account into which the proceeds of this special tax will be deposited.

This special tax, will be in addition to any other tax that the District is authorized by law to collect and receive, including, but not limited to, the \$50.00 per unit of special tax authorized by Ordinance 97-1 and approved by voters in 1997, and the \$10 per unit of special tax authorized by Resolution No. 2003-7 and approved by the voters in 2003.

This Measure also requires the District's Fire Chief or designee, to file an annual report with the Board of Directors each January showing the amount of funds collected, expenditure of the funds, and the status of any project required or authorized to be funded.

A two-thirds (2/3) vote is required for the approval of this special tax prior to becoming effective. The revenue generated by the special tax is to be used for the specific purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment or apparatus and paying for the salaries, benefits and training of firefighting and paramedic personnel. If passed, the tax will become effective December 1, 2024.

A "**YES**" vote will authorize the imposition of the special parcel tax.

A "**NO**" vote will disallow the imposition of the special parcel tax.

Dated: August 9, 2024

s/Charlotte E. Scott
CHARLOTTE E. SCOTT
County Counsel, County of Mendocino

**ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF
MEASURE V**

VOTE YES on MEASURE V to keep Ukiah Valley safe.

Our firefighters are fighting bigger and more dangerous fires, and our paramedics are responding to record number of medical emergencies such as heart attacks, strokes, and car accidents.

Since 2004, 9-1-1 calls for medical and fire emergencies in Ukiah have nearly doubled, while the number of firefighters on duty has remained about the same.

Firefighters are spread thin and often overworked, and existing resources are inadequate to hire and train additional firefighters and paramedics.

CalFire ranks the Ukiah area as a “very high” fire hazard risk, with increasingly common large fires like 2017 Redwood Valley Complex Fire and 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire.

Old fire stations do not meet current earthquake safety standards and have no backup power generation, no sprinklers or modern alarm systems, posing firefighter safety concerns.

Your YES vote on Measure V will allow the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority to:

- Hire, retain, and train firefighters and paramedics to more effectively respond to current services demands, ensuring fast response times for housefires and medical emergencies
- Meet the challenges presented by more frequent wildfires and rising 9-1-1 calls
- Upgrade aging firefighter safety equipment, vehicles, facilities, and life-saving rescue tools
- Update fire states to meet current safety standards

Measure V is fiscally responsible.

- 100% of Measure V funds will remain here in Ukiah Valley to keep our community safe.
- By law, all Measure V revenues must be placed in a separate fund to be used exclusively for fire protection and emergency medical services in our local community.
- Annual public reporting of expenditures is required and will ensure transparency and accountability.

Your YES vote on MEASURE V will provide Ukiah firefighters with the resources they need to do their jobs protecting our community and saving lives every day.

Please join community leaders in voting YES on MEASURE V.

s/Doug Hutchison
Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief Ukiah Valley Fire Authority

s/Anthony Selvitella
Anthony Selvitella, President, Ukiah Pro. Valley Pro. FFA

s/David B. Haas
David B. Hass, Board President Ukiah Fire District

s/Maureen Mulheren
Maureen Mulheren, Second District Supervisor, Mendocino County

s/Mike Mayfield
Mike Mayfield, Division Chief Ukiah Valley Fire Authority.

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED