



RESOLUTION # 2023-15

**DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (DFPD)
GARFIELD AND MESA COUNTIES
De BEQUE, COLORADO**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DFPD
IN OPPOSITION TO THE STATEWIDE PROPOSAL, PROPOSITION HH**

WHEREAS, the vast majority of local governments, but not the State of Colorado, levy a property tax to support essential public services and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, special districts are more dependent on property tax revenue than any other type of local government, as it is often their primary or even sole source of revenue;

WHEREAS, inflation from 2020 to 2023 has increased by nearly 18 percent and special districts have not benefitted from increased sales and use tax receipts to offset increased costs of labor, materials, and services;

WHEREAS, special districts played a historic role in responding to the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, but received few, if any, federal relief funds;

WHEREAS, Proposition HH will mandate reductions in local property taxes for at least ten years, resulting in billions of dollars of lost revenue for local governments without any reduction in service obligations;

WHEREAS, Proposition HH will increase the State's TABOR spending limit, allowing the State to spend billions of dollars more than it did before, while placing a property tax revenue limit lower than allowed by TABOR on local governments;

WHEREAS, the ballot question for Proposition HH indicates that local governments will be reimbursed from state funds for lost property tax revenue, but that those reimbursements are a small percentage of the billions of dollars more that the State will retain, and that most special districts will be ineligible for reimbursements early in the ten-year period of Proposition HH;

WHEREAS, special districts have worked with their local voters to propose and approve property taxes, or to retain and spend revenues therefrom, to support services, facilities and infrastructure needed and desired by the community and, more generally, to support public health, welfare, and safety; and



WHEREAS, Proposition HH undermines the short- and long-range planning efforts of Colorado’s special districts that are necessary to absorb inflationary pressures, to increase salaries and compensation for employees, to support existing and grow new public programs, to construct and maintain government 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 DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (DFPD) AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is the position of the Board of Directors of the DFPD that special 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 special districts are accountable to their local voters, who may take action if the taxes they pay are not warranted for the services, facilities, and infrastructure provided by special districts in their communities.
3. Preliminary reporting from Garfield and Mesa Counties estimate that Proposition HH could/will probably negatively impact our budget by up to \$400,000. This would negatively affect our current plan for much-needed apparatus replacement; and it could also impact our ability to staff enough EMT/EMS personnel for multiple ambulance responses in our district, which would then impact the length of time to respond to an emergency call in the event of multiple calls during the same time frame.
4. For the reasons set forth above, the Board of Directors concludes that Proposition HH diminishes the ability of DFPD to provide the vital services, facilities, and infrastructure for ambulance and firefighting services that the public needs, expects, and demands; and, therefore, the Board strongly urges a NO vote on Proposition HH at the statewide election on November 7, 2023.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of October, 2023 by the De Beque Fire Protection District Board of Directors



DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

By Annette Tanner
Annette Tanner, District Board President

ATTEST:

By Melanie Hansen
Melanie Hansen, District Board Secretary

