



GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 2014

POLLS OPEN
7 a.m. TO 7 p.m.



NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO INCREASE TAXES/TO INCREASE DEBT/ON A CITIZEN
PETITION/ON A REFERRED MEASURE.

For further information, contact:
City and County of Broomfield
Elections Division
Phone 303.464.5857
One DesCombes Drive, Broomfield
www.votebroomfield.org

THIS PAMPHLET CONTAINS SUMMARY STATEMENTS FOR
BALLOT PROPOSITIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF
COLORADO CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE X, SECTION 20.

A 'yes/for' vote on any ballot issue is a vote in favor of
changing current law or existing circumstances, and a
'no/against' vote on any ballot issue is a vote against
changing current law or existing circumstances.

This notice is mailed to each address with one or more
active registered electors.

The information contained in this notice was prepared
by persons required by law to provide summaries of
ballot issues and fiscal information.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 13.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 303.464.5857 OR VISIT
WWW.VOTEBROOMFIELD.ORG.

VOTE IN PERSON AT A VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER

Vote in person at any of these four locations (see map inside back cover).

GEORGE DI CIERO CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING

One DesCombes Dr.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday (Oct. 20-Nov. 3)
8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, October 25
8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, November 1
7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 4

PAUL DERDA RECREATION CENTER

13201 Lowell Blvd.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday (Oct. 20-Nov. 3)
8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, October 25
8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, November 1
7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 4

NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE STATION 66

1750 W 160th Ave.

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 4

NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE STATION 67

13875 S 96th St.

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 4

DROP OFF LOCATIONS (OCTOBER 14 - NOVEMBER 4)

Ballots may be dropped off at any of the voter service and polling centers listed above. You may also drop off your ballot 24 hours/day, 7 days a week at:

GEORGE DI CIERO CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING

One DesCombes Dr.

Official Ballot Drop Box (in front of Motor Vehicle entrance)

PAUL DERDA RECREATION CENTER

13201 Lowell Blvd.

Official Ballot Drop Box (West parking lot)

TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE

**NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
ADAMS, BOULDER, BROOMFIELD,
JEFFERSON AND WELD COUNTIES, COLORADO**

Election Date: November 4, 2014

Election Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Local Election Office:

Designated Election Official: David A. Ramos, Fire Chief, North Metro Fire Rescue District, 101 Spader Way, Broomfield, CO 80020, Telephone (303) 452-9910.

Ballot Title and Text:

NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 4A

SHALL NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$5.1 MILLION ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OR BY SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX RATE OF UP TO 3.5 MILLS, COMMENCING IN COLLECTION YEAR 2015, AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER, RESULTING IN A TOTAL DISTRICT PROPERTY TAX RATE, EXCLUSIVE OF REFUNDS, ABATEMENTS OR DEBT SERVICE, NOT TO EXCEED 13.226 MILLS, TO BE USED BY THE DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER BUDGET EXPENSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- AVOIDING CUTS IN EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MAINTAINING 911 RESPONSE TIMES;
- IMPROVING 911 RESPONSE TIMES IN DEFICIENT AREAS;
- PROVIDING FIREFIGHTERS ESSENTIAL SAFETY GEAR AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS AIR PACKS AND RADIOS;
- REPLACING AGING EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES; AND
- REPAIRING FIRE STATIONS TO ADDRESS CRITICAL SAFETY HAZARDS AND EXTEND THEIR USEFUL LIFE;

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE, OFFSET AND EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW AND AS A PERMANENT WAIVER OF THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH UNDER SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S.?

Actual Historical and Current Estimated Fiscal Year Spending Information:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Spending</u>	
2010 (actual)	\$22,779,015	
2011 (actual)	\$18,153,653	
2012 (actual)	\$18,785,095	
2013 (actual)	\$20,587,230	
2014 (estimated)	\$20,268,266	
Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2010 through 2014:		(11.0%)
Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending over the five year period from 2010 through 2014:		(\$2,510,749)

Proposed District Tax Increase:

Estimated 2015 fiscal year spending without taking into account the tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 4A:	\$19,910,547
Estimated 2015 tax increase authorized by Ballot Issue 4A:	\$ 5,100,000

Summary of Written Comments FOR Ballot Issue 4A:

The following summary was prepared from comments filed by persons FOR the issue:

Passage of Issue 4A will allow North Metro Fire Rescue District to avoid cuts in emergency services and maintain 911 response times.

A growing community with growing emergency needs

North Metro Fire Rescue District's population has grown substantially over the past decade, and 911 call volume has increased at a significantly higher rate. Additionally, emergencies have grown more complex due to an increase in large-scale events. Resource intensive incidents such as weather-related disasters, mass shootings and hazardous material events all increase the preparation and response demands critical to protecting a larger, diverse community.

A problem of declining revenue and increasing costs

Despite growth, the fire district's revenue has not kept pace with expenses in recent years. This is due to the overall decline in property valuations, the increasing rate of inflation and cost of goods, and the much higher rate of inflation associated with fire service equipment and emergency response vehicles. Currently, North Metro Fire operates under a general mill levy of 9.726 – much lower than similar Denver metro fire districts, which average a general mill levy of 15.310. Under its current mill levy, North Metro Fire can no longer maintain its level of emergency services and balance its budget, much less extend services as the community grows.

An unavoidable consequence

North Metro Fire has tried to operate as cost efficiently as possible, deferring and cutting costs where possible. Without additional funding, North Metro Fire will need to reduce the number of firefighters and equipment used daily to respond to 911 calls. This would result in longer response times for residents and businesses.

Additionally, the District will be challenged to provide our local firefighters essential safety gear and communications equipment, such as air packs and radios. The District also lacks funding to replace aging emergency response vehicles and repair fire stations to address critical safety hazards and extend their useful life.

A vote to maintain emergency services and response times

By voting 'yes' North Metro Fire will be able to maintain its current level of emergency service and response times, and ensure the community's protection as it grows.

The estimated monthly tax impact is \$2.32 per \$100,000 of a home's market value – a modest investment with significant benefits to our community. And for seniors who qualify for the Homestead Exemption, the tax impact is even lower.

When it comes to emergency responses, every second counts. Issue 4A deserves our support.

Vote YES on 4A.

Summary of Written Comments AGAINST Ballot Issue 4A:

The following summary was prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST the issue:

North Metro Fire District carries a debt load of \$29,000,000. A new administrative building in Broomfield, and a new training center north of 160th Ave. are responsible for the bulk of this debt. Both of these facilities are grandiose and in the case of the administrative building, larger than many municipal city halls. The training center is also state of the art, but despite past ballot question assurances, underutilized.

This ballot question asks for more tax revenue to fund current operational needs. Voters should give careful consideration before voting on this tax increase. Throwing additional taxpayer money at operational deficits shouldn't be the solution. For the taxpayer, this 3.5 mill levy will equate to \$27.84 increase per 100K of home valuation annually. For example, for a home valued at 200K, a \$55.68 annual increase, and for 300K valuation, \$83.52. This increase far exceeds the 1.5% COLA increase for Social Security last year, creating a burden for many residents of the district.

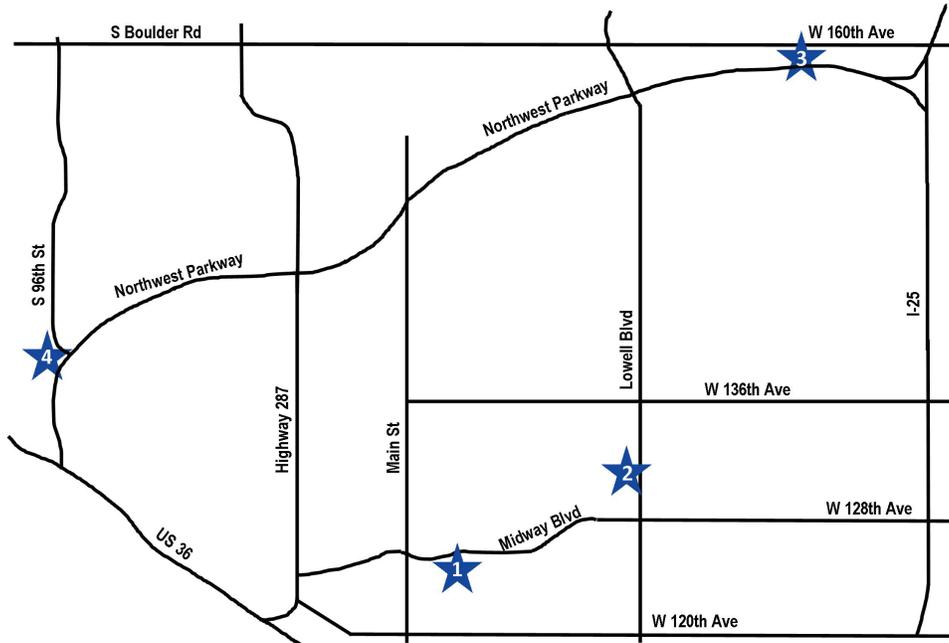
The District uses inflation and decreased home values caused by the recent recession as the cause of the current deficits. They claim both cause increases in operating cost deficits. In reality, home values are recovering, and the District has recognized this recovery, but the extent and speed of that recovery has not been given ample study over time. This steady recovery should reflect increased revenues attributed to rising home values and new construction in the district, thus making this mill levy increase unnecessary. The language of the ballot question itself addresses this potential for changing revenues in subsequent years.

The District chose to initiate medical transport at a time when the budget was in jeopardy due to the excessive debt load they carry coupled with diminished revenues. This was a fiscal decision whose timing was less than responsible. Fire responses only account for 2.5% of calls. Medical calls and the associated billing are not revenue generating, and currently only collect 50% of billed services. The District defends this practice, but is not a model used in many communities throughout the metro area. Taxpayers should not be financing medical transport, more cost effectively accomplished by ambulance services.

Other fire districts (North Washington and South Adams County) have accomplished mergers to achieve better efficiencies and control of costs. With multiple fire districts at the perimeters of the district, there should be administrative conversations about those possibilities rather than asking the voters once again to fund operational spending.

Vote no on Ballot question 4A.

VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER LOCATIONS



- 1 - GEORGE DI CIERO CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING—One DesCombes Dr.
- 2 - PAUL DERDA RECREATION CENTER—13201 Lowell Blvd.
- 3 - NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE STATION 66—1750 W 160th Ave.
- 4 - NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE STATION 67—13875 S 96th St.

The Broomfield City and County Clerk certifies that the Ballot Issue Notices are complete as submitted by the political subdivisions.



City and County of Broomfield
Election Division
PO Box 328
Broomfield, CO 80038



NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
BROOMFIELD, CO
PERMIT #3