

TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES ON A REFERRED MEASURE**

Election Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Election Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Local Election (DEO) Office Address, Telephone Number and Contact Person:

Address: 1017 U.S. Highway 24, Suite A, Woodland Park, Colorado 80863

Telephone number: (719) 686-6692

Contact Person: Teresa Weiss

**UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT BALLOT ISSUE 7A:**

SHALL UTE PASS REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$2,200,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR, OR BY SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT (1.0%) UNIFORM SALES TAX, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, FOR A TOTAL SALES TAX RATE OF ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%) THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE DISTRICT UPON EVERY TRANSACTION OR OTHER INCIDENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH A SALES TAX IS LEVIED BY THE STATE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 26 OF TITLE 39, C.R.S., EXCLUDING GROCERIES, SUBJECT TO THE EXCLUSIONS PROVIDED IN SECTION 32-1-1003(5), C.R.S., SUCH SALES TAX TO BE LEVIED AND COLLECTED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 32-19-112, C.R.S.; AND SHALL ALL DISTRICT REVENUES BE COLLECTED, RETAINED AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE LIMITS PROVIDED BY LAW TO FUND, SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE AMBULANCE, COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC, AND MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPROVING AMBULANCE AND CRISIS SERVICES, REDUCING RESPONSE TIMES, FUNDING THE DISTRICT RESIDENT INSURANCE ONLY BILLING PROGRAM, ADDITIONAL PARAMEDICS AND AMBULANCES, PURCHASING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, AND FUNDING FUTURE FACILITY AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS?

Total District Fiscal Year Spending:

2023 (estimated)	\$5,966,340
2022 (actual)	\$4,931,744
2021 (actual)	\$4,516,640
2020 (actual)	\$4,098,872
2019 (actual)	\$3,533,956

Overall percentage change from 2019 to 2023: 68%

Overall dollar change from 2019 to 2023: \$2,700,000

Estimated first full fiscal year maximum dollar amount of increase: \$2,200,000

Estimated first full fiscal year spending without the increase: \$4,500,000

Summary of Written Comments For the Proposal:

**One cent makes sense! Support your ambulance! Vote yes on 7A!**

**Please approve an additional 1% (1-cent) sales tax for your ambulance, mental health, mobile crisis response, mobile telehealth, and community paramedic programs.**

- Sales taxes are more flexible than property taxes as the **sales tax will exempt groceries and prescription medications.**
- **No increase in property taxes!** If approved, the District will lower our mill levy for 2024, compensating for the increased assessed value for 2024.
- **Visitors to the District contribute financially to support your ambulance.**

## Why are we asking for the needed increase?

**Promises made were promises kept!** Since our last increase, the District added more ambulances, hired additional paramedics, improved wages and benefits, implemented the District resident discount program, and kept the Florissant sub-station open.

Since January 1, 2019:

- Ambulances are busier than ever. Your ambulances have responded to over 17,368 calls, with over half of the growth (8,896 calls) in the past two years.
- **The patients who need us the most call us the most but pay us the least because they have the lowest paying insurance (Medicare and Medicaid).** Subsequently, your ambulance has been underpaid over \$12 Million worth of uncompensated ambulance costs provided to these patients alone.
- Non-district residents (Visitors to the District) consume 36% of ambulance services but pay only 30% of their costs. Non-district residents leave you holding the bag for \$5 Million worth of uncompensated care!
- The need for mental health, mobile crisis response, and community paramedic services is growing. Your ambulance service now provides our community mission-critical mental health, mobile crisis services, mobile telehealth, and alternative urgent care services. Tax dollars are needed to fund these services as we secure long-term sustainable funding.
- **Lingering negative impacts of COVID** continue to strain your ambulance service's resources, including:
  - Cost of medications/supplies have increased 48%.
  - Vehicle, fuel, and maintenance costs have risen 65%.
  - Paramedic shortages caused paramedic salary and benefit costs to soar another unsustainable 46%! Other ambulance services and hospitals are recruiting paramedics by offering higher salaries and better benefits. **We will lose paramedics if we can't sustain our current wages and benefits, and we can't hire additional paramedics to meet growing demands!**

## What will you get if the sales tax passes?

- Providing high-quality ambulance services delivered by exceptional paramedics with no reduction in services.
- Enhancing non-ambulance on-scene urgent care services by expanding the Community Paramedic, behavioral health, and mobile crisis response services ensures you receive the proper care at the right place when needed, at a lower cost!
- **Saving you money on more than just ambulance services!** Providing healthcare options when ambulances aren't needed avoids costly ambulance trips and emergency room visits.
- **Having the best paramedics and EMTs ready when you need them the most!**
- **No increase in property taxes!** If approved, the District will not raise property taxes in 2024 from the higher assessed property values this year.
- **No more surprise ambulance bills for District residents!**

**One cent makes sense! Support your ambulance! Vote yes on 7A**

## Summary of Written Comments Against the Proposal:

No comments were filed by the constitutional deadline.