



CIMARRON HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



1% Sales Tax Measure

FACT SHEET

- **THE TAX:** The Cimarron Hills Fire Protection District (CHFPD) Board of Directors (BOD) has approved placing a 1.0% sales tax measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot for consideration by the district voters. This will increase sales tax within the CHFPD boundaries from 5.13% to 6.13%.

At 6.13%, Cimarron Hills residents and visitors would still pay less sales tax than those in Colorado Springs who pay 8.25%.

- **THE USE:** The sales tax would be used to fund staffing, apparatus & equipment replacement, and fire station construction.
- **COST:** A 1% sales tax increase would add \$1.00 to every \$100.00 of taxable purchase.

If the average district resident spends \$3,000.00 within CHFPD boundaries annually, the new tax will cost them \$30.00 per year.

The tax would go into effect July 1, 2025.

- **EXEMPTIONS TO TAX:** All Colorado State exemptions apply. Items such as groceries, diapers, feminine hygiene products, and prescription medication will not be taxed the additional 1.0%.
- **THE RESULT:** A 1.0% sales tax is estimated to generate approximately \$2.4 million in tax revenue per year.
- **LOCAL CONTROL:** The proposed local sales tax would stay within Cimarron Hills and would not be shared with the County, City, State, or Federal governments. Local control by you – the local taxpayers. The CHFPD Board of Directors are your elected officials and will provide the oversight for how your hard-earned money is utilized.
- **SHARED BURDEN:** Currently, due to property tax funding, Cimarron Hills property owners solely shoulder the cost (100%) of fire and emergency services for all residents, visitors, and those passing through the district. Other than ambulance transport, the visitors and daily commuters using our fire department services pay nothing toward the provision of this service. This includes those using the main arteries from other areas of the county feeding into Colorado Springs (HWY 24, HWY 94, Powers Blvd, and Constitution Ave.) **A SALES Tax shifts the burden, more equitably spreading the cost across everyone who makes purchases within or with businesses located in Cimarron Hills.**

HOW DO YOU VOTE: The election will take place on November 5, 2024 during the El Paso County coordinated election. Your mail ballot should arrive in October. Make your vote count and return your ballot by 7:00 pm on Election Day.



Why is the 1% Sales Tax needed?



- CHFDP needs to replace a **1999 engine**, **2005 engine**, a **2005 ambulance**, and a **2006 brush truck**. These vehicles cost approximately **\$1.9 million** in 2024, with costs rising annually.
- CHFDP needs to renovate a **1974 fire station** that was built to house a volunteer fire department. A fully paid staff of 8 people per day operate 24/7 out of this station.
- CHFDP needs to build a 2nd Station on the south end of the district to address rising population and property construction impacts. This could cost up to \$12 million, depending on construction features and needs.
- CHFDP needs to staff additional personnel per day to accommodate increasing call volume and a consistent occurrence of overlapping calls, currently requiring a need for mutual aid that could take 10-15 minutes to respond. Cimarron Hills Fire Department typically arrives within 6 minutes when not facing overlapping calls for service.
- While Operating and Maintenance costs continue to rise, the department must remain responsive to competitive personnel salaries & benefits, training, and equipment to retain and attract the best emergency responders for our community.
- STATE INTERFERENCE: The Colorado General Assembly has reduced revenue available to fire districts across Colorado without asking your permission. Legislators, politicians, and voters located in Denver, Fort Collins, Pueblo, and Grand Junction should never decide policy for Cimarron Hills. You, the Cimarron Hills voter must decide local issues. The State has dropped the residential assessment rate by 1.5% since 2015, which impacts available revenue to CHFDP.

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