

Elections Code Section 9315

Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Argument In Favor Of Measure __. (300 Words or Less)

In October 1962, fire protection became the second service provided by the Running Springs Water District. Until that time, fire protection had been provided by an all-volunteer fire department. As the needs of the community outgrew the capability of the volunteer fire department, there was a recognized need for change. A local study determined that a local fire department provided by the District would be the most cost effective alternative, while allowing local control by a locally elected governmental agency.

On November 4, 1980, more than two-thirds of the voters of the District approved a fire suppression availability charge of \$65 per year beginning in fiscal year 1980-81. If adjusted for inflation the same fee would be \$158/year in 2014. If this measure is approved by the voters, the revenue will fund the continued locally controlled operation of the Running Springs Fire Department which is still the most cost effective and efficient alternative.

Since 1980, the annual availability charge has not exceeded \$65 per unit of benefit while increases in the cost of providing fire protection and emergency medical services have greatly increased over the last 35 years. The District proposes to adjust the amount of the annual availability charge to keep pace with inflation, so that the District may continue to provide high quality fire protection and emergency medical services to those in need of such services within the District controlled and operated by the locally elected Running Springs Water District Board of Directors.

It is important to make the clear distinction that the CalFire Fire Prevention Fee is not affiliated in any way with the Running Springs Fire Department or Running Springs Water District and does not fund its Fire Department. This CalFire fee is currently being challenged by the Howard Jarvis Tax Payers Association.

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