

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) {269 Words as drafted}

On November 4, 1980, more than two-thirds of the voters of the Running Springs Fire Department approved a fire suppression availability charge not to exceed \$65 per unit of benefit per year beginning in fiscal year 1980-81. If this amount were adjusted for inflation, the charge today would be \$163 per year. Instead, this measure proposes to increase the charge to no more than \$146 per year. This adjustment in the charge will allow the Running Springs Fire Department to continue providing fire protection, emergency medical, ambulance and advanced life support services to the community of Running Springs.

The current fee of \$65 per year generates approximately \$200,000 or roughly 10% of the Fire Department’s \$2 million annual operating expenses. Adjusting the fee to \$146 per year would generate an additional \$250,000 to help fund the continued local control and operation of the Fire Department and also much needed capital equipment needs.

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. This adjustment will help keep pace with inflation, will help preserve local control, and will ensure that local funds are used to provide local benefits.

It is important to clarify that the CalFire Fire Prevention Fee does not provide funding for the Running Springs Fire Department. Revenue from that fee is kept and used by the State of California. The CalFire fee is currently being challenged by the Howard Jarvis Tax Payers Association as an illegal tax, not approved by the voters.

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