

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-2

**RESOLUTION OF THE *BLACK FOREST FIRE RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT*
IN OPPOSITION TO THE STATEWIDE PROPOSAL, PROPOSITION HH**

WHEREAS, the vast majority of local governments, but not the State of Colorado, levy a property tax to support essential public services and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, special districts are more dependent on property tax revenue than any other type of local government, as it is often their primary or even sole source of revenue;

WHEREAS, inflation from 2020 to 2023 has increased by nearly 18 percent and special districts have not benefitted from increased sales and use tax receipts to offset increased costs of labor, materials, and services;

WHEREAS, special districts played a historic role in responding to the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, but received few, if any, federal relief funds;

WHEREAS, Proposition HH will mandate reductions in local property taxes for at least ten years, resulting in billions of dollars of lost revenue for local governments without any reduction in service obligations;

WHEREAS, Proposition HH will increase the State's TABOR spending limit, allowing the State to spend billions of dollars more than it did before, while placing a property tax revenue limit lower than allowed by TABOR on local governments;

WHEREAS, the ballot question for Proposition HH indicates that local governments will be reimbursed from state funds for lost property tax revenue, but that those reimbursements are a small percentage of the billions of dollars more that the State will retain, and that most special districts will be ineligible for reimbursements early in the ten-year period of Proposition HH;

WHEREAS, special districts have worked with their local voters to propose and approve property taxes, or to retain and spend revenues therefrom, to support services, facilities and infrastructure needed and desired by the community and, more generally, to support public health, welfare, and safety; and

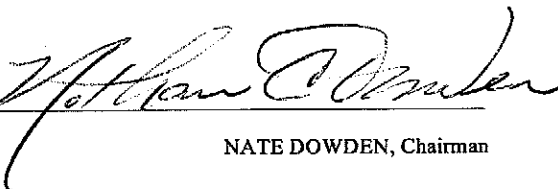
WHEREAS, Proposition HH undermines the short- and long-range planning efforts of Colorado's special districts that are necessary to absorb inflationary pressures, to create competitive salaries and compensation for employees, to support existing and grow new public programs, to construct and maintain government infrastructure, and to respond to the needs and emergencies of Colorado's communities.

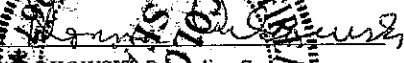
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BLACK FOREST FIRE RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is the position of the Board of Directors of the *Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District* that special districts and their constituents are best suited to determine the revenues necessary to meet the needs, expectations, and demands of the communities they serve.
2. The Board of Directors recognizes that special districts are accountable to their local voters, who may take action if the taxes they pay are not warranted for the services, facilities, and infrastructure provided by special districts in their communities.
3. Proposition HH impacts the ability of the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District to remain on track for long-term strategic planning, including the procurement of necessary lifesaving apparatus and facility improvements. The District apparatus replacement plan and maintenance program will not be sustainable if Proposition HH is approved. Proposition HH will take your property tax money away from your fire district and invest it in State of Colorado programs and projects, not those programs directly related to responding to your fire or emergency medical incident. This initiative will impact recruitment and retention of our firefighters. Fire Districts do not collect sales tax and therefore rely on property tax to ensure firefighters are compensated appropriately and aligning with those agencies funded by sales tax.
4. For the reasons set forth above, the Board of Directors concludes that Proposition HH diminishes the ability of *Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District* to provide the vital emergency medical services, advanced life support ambulance transport, fire protection, hazardous materials response, and customer services that the public needs, expects, and demands; and, therefore, the Board strongly urges a NO vote on Proposition HH at the statewide election on November 7, 2023.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of October 2023 by the Board of Directors of the *Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District*.

BLACK FOREST FIRE RESUCE PROTECTION DISTRICT

By: 
 NATE DOWDEN, Chairman

Attest: 
 DONNA ARKOWSKI, Recording Secretary

