

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOX RIVER & COUNTRYSIDE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT SUBMITS REFERENDUM  
QUESTION FOR JUNE ELECTION**

*Proposed general obligation bonds would fund additional station, upgrade equipment and refinance obligations on more favorable terms*

**St. Charles, Ill. —** Today, the Fox River & Countryside Fire Rescue District submitted a referendum question to appear on the June primary ballot regarding the approval of up to \$13 million in general obligation bonds. The bonds would be used to invest in critically necessary equipment, vehicle and station upgrades and refinance existing obligations.

The Fox River & Countryside Fire Rescue District – which includes the unincorporated areas of St. Charles and Campton townships, as well as the villages of Campton Hills and Wayne – protects more than 30,000 residents in a 38 square-mile area of DuPage and Kane counties. The District’s referendum comes in response to increased demand for emergency services – from a growing and aging population – coupled with the need to replace aging equipment.

“The District has reached a crucial point, as we have seen a 51% increase in the demand for emergency services over the last decade,” said Fox River & Countryside Fire Rescue District Fire Chief Bert Lancaster. “We have made the most of the resources available to us during this period of growth, but we will need to act now to ensure the current and future needs of the community are met.”

If a majority of voters approve the referendum, the District will be able to secure capital for necessary expenses through the issuance of General Obligation Bonds which will:

- Support the purchase of new vehicles replace aging gear that is no longer in compliance to reduce long-term maintenance costs;
- Fund an additional, more centrally located, fire station and provide necessary updates to the two existing stations, which will help reduce response times; and
- Refinance existing obligations to further maximize taxpayer resources and free up annual budget to support staff hiring, training and retention costs.

“The District is primarily funded through property taxes and does not receive funding as part of town or village budgets,” said Fox River & Countryside Fire Rescue District President Kristin LeBlanc. “We have done our due diligence in reviewing the financial options available to us and issuing general obligation bonds are the most effective and fiscally responsible path forward.

ADD ONE / Fox River and Countryside Fire/Rescue District

Being a good financial steward is a priority for us, as we have long been one of the most cost efficient fire protection districts in the western suburbs.”

If approved, taxpayers will see an anticipated property tax increase of approximately \$37.84 annually (or \$3.15 monthly) on a property with an equalized assessed value of \$100,000, or \$130.12 annually (or \$10.84 monthly) on a property with an equalized assessed value of \$300,000. This increase is anticipated to begin with bills issued in 2023. Assessed value is the value of the property per the assessors office and equalized assessed value is 1/3 of that number in the collar counties.

The referendum question will appear on the Tuesday, June 28 ballot during the statewide primary as follows:

*Shall the Fox River and Countryside Fire Rescue District, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois, purchase emergency response vehicles, construct, improve and equip fire stations, pay outstanding debt related to fire station, fire truck and equipment acquisitions and improvements and issue its bonds in the amount of \$13,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?*

Any registered voter can vote in the June primary via a Democratic, Republican or nonpartisan ballot.

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