

FIRE DISTRICT LEVY CAP REFERENDUM

RESOLUTION 22-59

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT 1 OF FLORENCE TOWNSHIP IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX CAP LEVY REFERENDUM ON FEBRUARY 18th, 2023

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45 provides that in preparation of its budget a fire district shall limit any increase in its property tax levy to two percent (2.0%) over the previous year's amount to be raised by taxation, subject to certain exceptions and additions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.46(b), permits a fire district to increase amount to be raised by taxation by a percentage rate greater than two percent (2.0%) where said increase is approved by referendum; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number 1 in Florence Township, in the County of Burlington has called for a referendum question pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.46(b) to be held on the third Saturday in February because it finds it advisable and necessary to increase its 2023 amount to be raised by taxation budget by more than two percent (2.0%) over the 2022 amount to be raised by taxation, to provide and maintain essential district services for the residents of the district; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number 1 in Florence Township, hereby determines that a 21.2 % increase in the amount to be raised by taxation or \$ 626,778.09 in excess of the increase in the amount to be raised by taxation otherwise permitted by a two (2.0%) tax levy cap, will only become effective upon authorization by an affirmative vote of in excess of fifty percent (50%) of the voters casting a ballot at the referendum and,

WHEREAS, this additional amount will be appropriated for the purposes set forth below, increasing the total appropriation for each such purpose from what would otherwise be provided under the limitations of a two percent (2.0%) tax levy cap, as set forth below:

Line item name	Amount for referendum
Full Time Emergency Medical Technicians	300,000.00
Health and Safety	71,000.00
Building Repair replace HVAC units	40,000.00
Fire Department Operational Lieutenant	215,778.09

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the question to be placed on the ballot shall be as follows:

"Shall the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number 1 in Florence Township be authorized to increase the 2023 amount to be raised by taxation in the Fire District annual budget, by \$ 626,778.09 as provided by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45, notwithstanding that its amount to be raised by taxation will exceed the two percent (2.0%) increase limitation.

Yes

No

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

A "yes" vote will authorize the Board of Commissioners of the fire district to adopt the budget that was approved by the Board. N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45 provides a tax levy "cap" of two percent (2.0%) on the amount of increase. This amount can be exceeded when approved by referendum of the voters.

The following are those line items to which the increases apply:

*Full Time Emergency Medical Technicians
Health and Safety
Building Repair replacing HVAC units
Fire Department Operational Lieutenants*

If referendum is approved (a "yes" vote), the amount to be raised by taxation will include this amount.

A "no" vote means that the Board of Commissioners must adopt the budget within the increase limits otherwise set forth by the law.

Florence Township Fire District No. 1 is exceeding the levy cap to address the staffing gap in the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. The budget reflects the addition of supervisory operational fire officers required by NJAC 5:75 and National Fire Protection Association Standard 1720. The Florence Fire Department has had a significant reduction of firefighter staff and operational fire officers. The Florence Fire Department EMS Division has been affected by the National Shortage of Emergency Medical Technicians; this gap has to be addressed by the hiring of full time EMT's.

Yearly maintenance cost, replacement parts, and replacement of older equipment have increased the budget. The current budget reflects the need to replace aging building systems as the department's fire station is 17 years old and systems in the building are the original equipment when the building was constructed.

Health and Safety ensures the Fire District is compliant with National Fire Protection Association requirements protecting firefighters from cancer causing carcinogens by maintaining and cleaning clothing used to fight fires. Also, the funding enables the district to continue being compliant with PEOSHA requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said referendum be, and the same is scheduled for February 18th, 2023, between the hours of 2:00 and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, in the manner provided by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget of the Board of Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of Florence Township for 2023 is hereby authorized to be published in the Burlington County Times issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the budget will be held at the Florence Township Fire District No. 1 401 Firehouse Lane, Florence, NJ 7:00PM January 10th, 2023 pending Department of Community Affairs Local government Services approval at which time and place objections to said budget may be presented by taxpayers or other interested parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution, shall be transmitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, within 3 days after adoption with the recorded vote included thereon.

Board Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
John Fratinardo				
Andrew Popso				
Jason Ryan				
Robert Schoen				
Steven Taylor				