

Hello Association Presidents:

Today I am reaching out to provide information about the upcoming November EMS referendum. Unlike the other 49 states, Wisconsin is the only state that relies so heavily on property taxes to fund critical Fire and EMS services. In Illinois, municipalities receive revenue from multiple sources including but not limited to sales tax, local motor fuel tax, gas utility tax, cannabis tax, home rule sales tax, municipal sales tax, and video gaming tax, in addition, they are able to create Fire and EMS Districts which can levy their own taxes. In Wisconsin, municipal services are funded almost entirely by property tax revenue, and in 2023, per state law, the Village of Fontana can only raise the tax levy by .999% based on net new construction. Municipalities in Wisconsin do not receive a share of sales tax, are unable to create taxing districts for Fire or EMS services, and have continued to receive the same or reduced amount of state shared revenue for more than a decade.

In 2017 voters of the Village overwhelmingly approved a referendum for \$250,000 for 24/7 EMS service. In 2019 the Village began providing paramedic level service. Since that time, the cost of equipment and labor have greatly increased. We have heard from residents on the importance of providing paramedic level service to the property owners in Fontana and we want to be able to continue providing the service; however, in order to do so we need to have the appropriate funding.

On the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot you will find a referendum question on the back side of the ballot that asks the following question:

"Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Village of Fontana for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2023, is limited to .999%, which results in a levy of \$4,196,047. Shall the Village of Fontana be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2023, for the purpose of providing the Village with 24-hour emergency medical services, by a total of 16.160% which results in a levy of \$4,874,124, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$678,077 for each fiscal year going forward?"

YES _____ NO _____

Understandably, most people want to know how voting "yes" will impact them directly. The increase will be an estimated \$46 per \$100,000 of valuation. For example, a property that is assessed at \$500,000 can anticipate an estimated annual increase of \$230 per year or \$19.16 per month.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have. In addition, if you know of any local events where it may be beneficial to have a representative from the Village available to speak about the referendum and answer questions, please get in touch with me. We welcome any opportunity to help inform the public on this topic.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

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