

**RESOLUTION NO. 3009**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN,  
COLORADO, SUPPORTING BALLOT ISSUE 2K**

WHEREAS, a regular election of the City of Golden (“City”) will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, which election shall be held as a coordinated election with Jefferson County pursuant to the Uniform Election Code of 1992, as amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 2996 dated August 22, 2023, the City Council referred the following ballot issue to Golden voters for consideration at the November 7, 2023, regular election:

SHALL CITY OF GOLDEN TAXES BE INCREASED UP TO \$4,675,000 FOR COLLECTION IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024, AND BY SUCH AMOUNTS AS MAY BE GENERATED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, FROM AN AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY IMPOSED AT A RATE OF SIX MILLS TO FUND THE CAPITAL NEEDS AND OPERATIONAL COSTS OF THE GOLDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- ATTRACT, TRAIN, AND RETAIN THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS;
- IMPROVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES;
- ENSURE FIREFIGHTERS HAVE APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY LIFE-SAVING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT;
- PROVIDE EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL EMS, FIRE, AND WILDFIRE RESPONSE;

WITH ALL EXPENDITURES SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT, AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN, AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS OF THE REVENUE FROM SUCH TAXES AND ANY EARNINGS THEREON WITHOUT LIMITATION OR CONDITION AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?; and

WHEREAS, the ballot language for the above-referenced measure has been certified to the Jefferson County Clerk and has been assigned the designation of Ballot Issue 2K; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is authorized to adopt a resolution in support of Ballot Issue 2K pursuant to C.R.S. § 1-45-117(1)(b)(III)(A); and

WHEREAS, when evaluating the May 2023 Cooperative Services Decision Analysis prepared by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI), which compared the cost of

operating a Golden stand-alone Fire Department (“Fire Department”)to consolidation or inclusion options with other regional fire districts, a fully funded stand-alone Fire Department was determined to be the most cost-effective and allowed for the greatest direct local oversight and the continuation of the history and legacy of the Golden Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, City Council is asking voters to impose a property tax of six mills that must be directed to fund the Fire Department’s capital needs and operational costs. Such an amount is based upon the gap that exists between historic City funding levels of a primarily volunteer-based department (approximately four mills) and funding for the appropriately resourced combination Fire Department (a total of 10 mills); and

WHEREAS, other local and regional fire districts mill levies range from 12.161 mills to 14.893 mills; and

WHEREAS, the revenue generated from the proposed property tax will be applied to operational costs of the Fire Department, including attracting, training, and retaining the necessary numbers of firefighters in the Fire Department which will therefore result in the betterment and safety of our community; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that this funding will be directed to personnel expenses which include the career firefighting staff that had been or are currently partially funded via SAFER grants (10 employees over two grant rounds), the addition of Battalion Chief positions for each shift to function as an Incident Commander/Safety Officer, overseeing day-to-day operations, and leading a departmental program, which include Special Operations, EMS, Technical Services, and Wildland. A second training position to ensure proper training programs and resources for both career and volunteer staff as well as coordination of ongoing volunteer academies, along with fire and life safety staff to support investigations and inspection programs to keep up with the volume of building project inspections and plan reviews which are increasingly more complex; and

WHEREAS, according to the ESCI study, the Fire Department’s response times exceed 12 minutes as measured by the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, which is more than or nearly double the NFPA 1720 standard response time of 5:00 minutes for EMS and 6:30 minutes for Fire; and,

WHEREAS, the Fire Department must adjust staffing levels to support efforts to meet standards set forth in NFPA 1720, which requires that 15 firefighters attend structure fires within 9 minutes, 90% of the time; and

WHEREAS, through its leveraging of grant funding the City Council has supported the improved capabilities and reliability of its municipal combination fire department, through an increase in its professional career staff; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supported a volunteer fire academy in 2023 that graduated thirteen personnel to bolster its volunteer firefighter capacity to fifty; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, in the best interest of the City and its citizens, accepted a second SAFER grant from the Federal Emergency Management Authority (“FEMA”) in 2023, which provided temporary funding for the immediate hiring of seven career firefighters; and

WHEREAS, these efforts will facilitate the opening and operation of a second full-time fire station on the south side of the City; and

WHEREAS, a successful combination Fire Department requires incident command, operational, training and technical services, and oversight functions that are appropriately staffed; and

WHEREAS, call volumes of the Fire Department are projected to exceed 2,500 calls for service this year with over 30% of those calls occurring simultaneously, The majority of calls are medical related, and delays may negatively impact outcomes, making appropriate and reliable staffing critical; and

WHEREAS, the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services is the sole responsibility of the City of Golden, there continues to be an increase in demand for fire and rescue services by both residents and visitors alike, and it is in the interest of the public’s health, safety, and welfare to have an appropriately staffed and equipped combination Fire Department available to respond from two strategically located fire stations located within the City; and

WHEREAS, the revenue generated from the proposed property tax will be applied to capital needs of the Fire Department, including appropriate and necessary life-saving medical and firefighting equipment and vehicles to strengthen EMS, fire, and wildfire response; and

WHEREAS, Fire Department funding has increased as it has transitioned to a combination department thereby diverting funding that might otherwise go to other important quality of life and community priority capital projects; and

WHEREAS, a “Yes” vote on Ballot Issue 2K will generate consistent funding to properly fund the Golden Fire Department as a combination department, honoring a history of volunteerism while also being appropriately staffed with improved response times for the safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that passage of Ballot Issue 2K is in the best interest of Golden residents and businesses, and desires to adopt a resolution urging a “Yes” vote on Ballot Issue 2K in accordance with C.R.S. § 1-45-117(1)(b)(III)(A).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN, COLORADO, THAT:**

**Section 1.** The City Council fully and strongly supports the passage of Ballot Issue 2K, which increases property taxes to properly fund the Golden Fire Department as a combination department, honoring a history of volunteerism while also being appropriately staffed with improved response times for the safety of the community.

**Section 2.** The City Council finds that approval of Ballot Issue 2K enables the City to implement the most cost-effective option as compared to joining another fire district in the area and supports proper staffing levels and a thriving Fire Department.

**Section 3.** The City Council strongly encourages all eligible City residents to register and vote in the November 7, 2023 election, which is being conducted as a coordinated election with Jefferson County.

**Section 4.** The City Council strongly encourages all eligible City voters to vote “Yes” on Ballot Issue 2K .

**Section 5.** The City Clerk and City Manager are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary and appropriate action to effectuate the provisions of this resolution, including reporting the passage of or distribution of this resolution through established, customary means, other than paid advertising, pursuant to C.R.S. § 1-45-117(1)(b)(III)(B).

**Section 6.** If any article, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reasons, such decision shall not affect the validity of constitutionality of the remaining portions of this resolution. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each part or parts thereof irrespective of the fact that any one part or parts be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

**Section 7.** This resolution shall take effect immediately its approval by the City Council.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

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Laura M. Weinberg, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Monica S. Mendoza, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Sandra Llanes, City Attorney

I, Monica S. Mendoza, City Clerk of the City of Golden, Colorado, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a certain Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Golden, Colorado at a regular business meeting thereof held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

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Monica S. Mendoza, City Clerk of  
the City of Golden, Colorado