MEASURE F

Ferndale Fire Protection District Special Tax

Measure F asks voters within the existing Ferndale Fire Protection District (FFPD) to approve an updated annual special tax to support local fire and rescue services. The measure is also an important part of the District's proposal to annex its existing Goodwill Response Area.

Why is Measure F being proposed?

FFPD relies on the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department to provide community fire and rescue services. The District is facing increasing costs for equipment, apparatus, insurance, training, communications, and station maintenance, while also responding to emergencies across a large area outside its current boundary without a consistent source of revenue for those services.

What would Measure F replace?

Measure F would repeal and replace the District's existing assessment, which has not been increased since it was first established in 1984 and was subsequently reapproved in 1997 following passage of Proposition 13, and currently generates about $32,000 per year. The proposed special tax is estimated to generate nearly $116,000 per year.

For perspective, today's cost to outfit just one all-risk firefighter with personal protective equipment (PPE) is approximately $10,000. Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), which is carried on the fire engines rather than individually issued, costs an additional $12,000-$15,000 per unit. A new Type 1 fire engine costs approximately $900,000-$1.5 million, with build and delivery times extending up to four years.

How much would I pay?

Parcel Use Category	Annual Tax	Parcel Use Category	Annual Tax
Vacant	$5	Most other commercial uses	$240
Single-Family Residential	$60	Theater	$270
Rural Residential - Non-Hydrant Area	$90	Lodging: up to 5 units	$240
Manufactured Home	$60	Lodging: 6-10 units	$300
Multifamily: 2-4 units	$180	Lodging: 11-19 units	$450
Multifamily: 5-9 units	$420	Lodging: 20+ units	$600
Multifamily: 10+ units	$600	Light Industrial	$300
Office/Retail up to 2,000 sq. ft.	$180	Heavy Industrial	$600

Who votes on Measure F?

Qualified registered voters within the existing FFPD boundary will vote on Measure F at the November 3, 2026 general election. The measure requires approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

How would Measure F revenue be used?

The additional revenue would support sustainable community fire and rescue services, including volunteer recruitment and retention, training, personal protective equipment, emergency medical and firefighting equipment, apparatus replacement, communications, and other operational needs.

Can the tax increase in future years?

Measure F includes a limited inflation adjustment to help the special tax keep pace with rising costs over time. Any adjustment would require action at a publicly noticed FFPD Board meeting, would be tied to the Consumer Price Index, and could not exceed 4% in a year. The Board may approve a lower adjustment or no adjustment at all, depending on the District's needs. This flexibility is intended to help maintain the value of the funding over time and reduce the need to return to voters for a new funding measure as costs increase.

How is Measure F connected to the proposed annexation?

FFPD is proposing to annex its Goodwill Response Area, including Capetown, Upper Bear River Road, and Bunker Hill Road areas, where it is routinely called to provide emergency services. If approved, parcels within the annexed area would become subject to the voter-approved special tax once the annexation becomes effective.

What happens if Measure F does not pass?

FFPD would continue operating under its existing funding structure, including the current assessment, rather than the replacement special tax proposed by Measure F. Without additional revenue, the District would continue to face increasing costs and funding constraints and would need to make changes to reduce costs, which could include deferring apparatus and equipment replacement, reducing training or other operational expenses, or modifying how the District responds to certain types of calls.

Questions? Contact Rick Nicholson, Ferndale Fire Chief, at 707-786-9909 or chief@ferndalefire.org.