

**OFFICIAL NOTICE AND BALLOT
INFORMATION GUIDE**

FOR THE PROPOSED

**FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE SERVICES ASSESSMENT**



FOR THE

YOLO FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

Why Did You Receive This Ballot?

You are a property owner served by the Yolo Fire Protection District (“Yolo Fire” or the “Fire District”). You are being asked to vote on a proposed funding measure to ensure continued and improved fire protection and emergency response services in your area. Your ballot is your opportunity to participate in deciding whether local funding should be approved for continued and improved fire protection, fire suppression, and emergency response services. Your vote on this matter is crucial because only returned ballots will be counted.

Yolo Fire Protection District

Yolo Fire was originally formed in 1939 and provides fire protection, fire prevention and emergency response services to the community of Yolo and the surrounding areas. Yolo Fire covers approximately 52 square miles and serves a population of 1,300.

Yolo Fire responds to over 400 service calls per year, including structure fires, brush fires, vegetation fires, vehicle fires, traffic collisions, search and rescues, hazardous materials incidents and emergency medical calls. In addition, Yolo FPD provides fire prevention, community education, emergency preparedness and other services relating to the protection of lives and property. Yolo Fire is governed by a three-member Board of Commissioners that are elected by the District voters.



Why Is A Funding Measure Needed?

Yolo Fire is funded through a small portion of local property taxes, miscellaneous fees, and a static \$35 dollar per residence special assessment that has remained unchanged since 1997. This existing assessment does not include a cost-of-living index adjustment mechanism. Due to the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment on the existing assessment and rising expenses, the Fire District's current revenue is not adequate to continue providing services at what is considered a safe level for the community.

Yolo Fire is staffed primarily with volunteer firefighters supplemented with a full-time career firefighter and a part-time Fire Chief. The number of volunteers available to respond to calls has decreased in recent years due to increased training demands, while call volumes have increased. In addition, social and economic changes in recent years have resulted in more people commuting to work outside the District area, making it harder for volunteers to be available to respond to emergencies in the District during work hours.

To enter a burning structure, State safety standards generally require four (4) firefighters at the scene, with two (2) firefighters entering the structure and two (2) remaining outside for support - known as the "2 in, 2 out rule." Additional funding means Yolo Fire would have the ability to retain and hire more firefighters to meet the required standards more frequently, and to put out a fire quickly. With a typical residential fire doubling in size every minute, adequate staffing would provide our local firefighters with a strengthened layer of protection for our community, your family, and your property.

With a new funding source, the Fire District would hire an additional full-time firefighter. The Fire District would work to staff the fire station seven days a week 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. This would also allow the Fire District to respond more quickly to calls, and could lower your Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating which could lower insurance rates. The average emergency response time from the Fire Station is between 1-2 minutes, while the average emergency response time, when no staff are available at the Fire Station, is between 4-5 minutes. Rapid response times to fire and other emergencies are vital to saving lives and property.

Why Is A Funding Measure Needed? (Continued)

Despite working on a limited budget, the Fire District's current revenue is not adequate to continue providing services at a level that is safe for the community and costs will still continue to increase over time. With a new funding source, the District would be able to hire full-time staff working a rotating schedule to ensure staffing during daytime hours. Increased personnel on duty would allow for quicker response times during emergencies in the event that volunteers are unavailable.

Yolo County's Commitment To Fire District Funding

Although the Yolo Fire District is an independent Special District and the County of Yolo is not obligated to provide it with any funding, on April 18, 2023 the Yolo County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a Fire Sustainability Funding Proposal to provide matching funds to local Fire Districts that need more revenue, if they pass a new benefit assessment. If this ballot measure passes, Yolo County will provide \$147,424 in matching funds annually to Yolo Fire on an ongoing basis. The proposed rate shown on your ballot reflects a lower rate to provide these services and improvements than would be required if the County had not made this generous offer. If this ballot measure fails, Yolo Fire would no longer be eligible to receive ongoing matching funding.

How Was The Assessment Determined?

The total annual costs of the proposed additional firefighter staffing, apparatus and equipment replacements as needed and other services to be funded by the assessment would be allocated to each property based on the estimated special benefit received. The method of benefit allocation is based on the relative special benefit to a property in relation to a single-family home, the type of property, and its size. The total proposed assessment amount for your property is shown on the enclosed ballot. If you own multiple properties, your ballot will show the total proposed assessment amount for each one.

The types of special benefits would primarily include increased safety and protection of real properties. An Engineer's Report describing the proposed improvements, method and basis upon which the amount of the proposed assessment was calculated, special benefits, budget, and the proposed assessment for each parcel is available for review at the Yolo Fire Protection District at 37720 Sacramento Street, Yolo, CA 95697 and on the District's website <https://www.yolofpd.org>.

What If This Measure Fails?

Without additional funding the Fire District will not be able to continue the current level of service. Over the past 10 years the number of emergencies the District responds to has doubled. Failure of this measure is likely to result in a decline in service levels, reducing response times to your emergencies.

What Would This Measure Provide?

The Fire District has identified the following areas that require additional funding to maintain and improve services. The increased funding would be used to:

Ensure Rapid Response Times To 9-1-1 Emergencies

Funding from this measure would help Yolo Fire maintain and improve rapid response times. Specifically, State safety standards require that when firefighters use self-contained breathing apparatus, a minimum of 2 firefighters work as a team inside the impacted structure. A minimum of 2 firefighters must be on standby as support outside the structure to provide aid or perform a rescue. Essentially, the “2 in, 2 out rule” protects our firefighters but requires sufficient staffing levels. Funding from this measure would increase staffing within the Fire District, allowing firefighters to arrive and assemble on scene faster, effectively reducing the impact of the emergency.

Hire Full Time Firefighters & Volunteer Recruitment

The Fire District would maintain staffing weekdays, eventually becoming staffed daily from 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. with at least one firefighter.

Provide Updated Firefighting Equipment For Our Community

This measure would support improved maintenance, repair, upgrade, and/or replacement of outdated fire apparatus and equipment that are not up to current safety standards.

Public Accountability Standards

The funds from this assessment can only be used to provide fire protection and emergency response services within the Yolo Fire Protection District boundaries.

.How Much Is the Proposed Assessment?

The proposed assessment for your property or properties for 2025-26 is printed on the Official Ballot, which is included with this notice and information guide. The typical base annual assessment for single-family homes is proposed to be \$160.71. The proposed base assessment for other residential property types is calculated based on the number of dwelling units and parcel size. Multi-family dwellings have a proposed base assessment of \$49.76 per unit. Agricultural, commercial, industrial, and other properties are assessed according to their parcel size and type. For example, agricultural property would be assessed at \$3.04 per acre and range land and open space would be assessed \$1.99 per acre. The annual assessment amount a property is proposed to pay would be that property's base rate adjusted by factors like relative fire risk and travel time. For example, if a property is less than five minutes from the fire station, the assessment would be adjusted by a factor of 1.15, and the assessment for a single family home would be \$184.82 ($\160.71×1.15). The total estimated amount assessed to the entire area subject to this assessment would be approximately \$197,494 for 2025-26. For more information refer to the Engineer's Report which is available for review at the Yolo Fire Protection District at 37720 Sacramento Street, Yolo, CA 95697 and on the District's website (<https://www.yolofpd.org>).

Will This Assessment Increase in the Future?

The assessment will be continued annually in future years until the District Board of Commissioners determines that the assessment is no longer necessary. The maximum allowed assessment rate will only be adjusted for inflation by an amount equal to the change in the Northern California (San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward) Consumer Price Index, but not to exceed 3% per year. **The District will not increase the assessment rate for at least 5 years**, commencing no earlier than fiscal year 2031-32. The actual assessment rate will not be raised automatically. The updated proposed budget and assessment rate will be reviewed and approved annually by the District Board at a public meeting. These controls and adjustments will protect the public by keeping assessment revenues in line with the cost of providing fire protection and emergency response services and ensuring inflation adjustments align with community expectations.



Method of Voting

To complete the enclosed official ballot, mark the oval next to either Yes or No, sign the ballot, fold it in half and place it in the provided postage-paid return envelope, and mail it to Yolo Fire Protection District, PO Box 466, Yolo CA 95697. You may also hand deliver it at the public hearing (see below for the time and location). Only official ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition will be counted. Ballots must be received prior to the end of the public input portion of the Public Hearing scheduled on Monday, July 7 2025. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm. If you lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, or want to change your vote before the close of the public hearing, call Yolo Fire at (530) 867-3236 for another ballot. See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions. Ballots are weighted by the proposed assessment amount and will be tabulated accordingly. The assessment will not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in opposition to the assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in favor of the assessment. If the ballot measure passes, the assessment may be levied for the fiscal year 2025-26 and may be continued in future years unless and until ended by the Board.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Monday, July 7, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Yolo Fire Protection District, 37720 Sacramento Street, Yolo, CA 95697. The public is encouraged to attend. Ballots will not be tabulated before the close of the public input portion of the public hearing, but ballots will be public records during and after tabulation. A ballot may be submitted, changed or withdrawn by the person who submitted it before the conclusion of the public input portion of the public hearing. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the public hearing. The results of the tabulation are expected to be announced at the Board meeting that day.

Written Objections

You may find more information about the proposed assessment here <https://www.yolofpd.org>. If you wish to object to this assessment on the grounds that you allege it does not comply with the California Constitution please submit a written objection to Yolo Fire Protection District, PO Box 466, Yolo CA 95697 by July 1, 2025. Do not include your objection with your ballot. The objection must specify the grounds on which you are alleging noncompliance with the California Constitution and include an address where we can respond to your concern(s) in writing. If you fail to submit a timely objection in writing your right to challenge the assessment will be barred.

Yolo Fire Protection District Governance and Transparency

Regular meetings of the Yolo Fire Protection District Board of Directors are held on the first Monday of every month at 37720 Sacramento Street, Yolo, CA 95697. The public is encouraged to attend. Agendas are available on our website at <https://www.yolofpd.org>. Please contact the Fire District at (530) 867-3236 if you need any additional information.

Additional Information

For additional information concerning Yolo Fire Protection District services, the proposed assessment, or this ballot, please contact Chief Dan Tafoya, Jr. at:

Yolo Fire Protection District
37720 Sacramento Street
Yolo, CA 95697
(530) 867-3236