



Deer Mountain Fire Protection District 2026 Ballot Issue 6A

1. Election Overview and Important Dates

This guide serves as a neutral, factual guide regarding Ballot Issue 6A for the Deer Mountain Fire Protection District (DMFPD) election to be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**. The core purpose of this guide is to provide property owners and special electors with documented information on service demands, financial structures, estimated tax impacts, and potential outcomes. This ensures the public has access to the data required to make an informed decision based on the District's current operational requirements and fiscal status.

2. Voter Eligibility and Registration Information

Eligibility Requirements

Under Colorado law (C.R.S. §§ 32-1-103(5) and 32-1-806), an eligible elector for this special district election must be registered to vote in Colorado and meet at least one of the following legal qualifications:

- Be a resident of the Deer Mountain Fire Protection District.
- Own taxable real or personal property located within the District boundaries, regardless of residency status.
- Be the spouse or civil union partner of a person who owns taxable real or personal property within the District.
- Be obligated to pay property taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within the District.

Registration Verification

Voters are encouraged to verify their status at **GoVoteColorado.gov**. By selecting "Find My Registration," users can:

- Confirm current voter registration status.
- Update residential or mailing addresses.
- Review personal voter information.
- Register to vote for the first time.

Designated Election Official (DEO) Contact

If you do not receive a ballot or if you have updated your registration after **September 15, 2026**, please contact the DEO to ensure your information is correct. **Matthew Taylor** Bailey & Peterson **Phone:** (303) 837-1660 **Email:** taylor@b-p-law.com

3. Official Ballot Language: Issue 6A

The following text will appear verbatim on the ballot **DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ISSUE 6A:**

"SHALL DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$361,851 IN 2026 FOR COLLECTION IN 2027, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY OF NOT MORE THAN 6.9 MILLS, WITH SUCH PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR CAPITAL AND GENERAL FUND PURPOSES OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: MAINTAINING VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND INCREASING FIREFIGHTER AND EMT AVAILABILITY LEVELS

TO SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES;PROVIDE FUNDING FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT;PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF AGING APPARATUS FLEET THROUGH A PHASED PATHWAY TO BRING THE FLEET INTO ALIGNMENT WITH CURRENT RELIABILITY, SAFETY AND RESPONSE READINESS EXPECTATIONS;AND ANY FUNDS EXPENDED PURSUANT TO THIS QUESTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO STATE LAWS, REGULATIONS AND DISTRICT POLICIES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY; AND SHALL SUCH TAX INCREASE BE AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LEVY AUTHORIZED FOR THE DISTRICT, PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 29-1-301, C.R.S.; AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND ANY OTHER LAW?”

4. District Profile and Emergency Service Demand

Operational Scope

The Deer Mountain Fire Protection District covers approximately 236 square miles of rural Fremont County. The District protects approximately 1,750 full-time and 440 seasonal residents and currently handles the third-largest call volume in the county, following Cañon City and Florence.

Staffing Levels

The District operates a three-station structure. Station 1 is currently staffed with EMTs and firefighters during weekday business hours (Monday–Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.). Coverage outside these hours relies entirely on on-call personnel. The personnel mix includes:

- 2 Full-time staff members
- 25 Volunteer firefighters
- 3 Part-time EMTs
- 3 Part-time drivers
- Call Trends
- The District has experienced a significant increase in demand for emergency services, particularly medical calls.

Call Volume

Total Calls (2025)	306
Total Calls (As of Sept 2026)	317
Medical Emergency Percentage	63% of total calls
Medical Call Growth	20% year-over-year
Business Hour Call Frequency (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.)	50% of total calls
After-Hours Call Frequency (4 p.m. – 8 a.m.)	50% of total calls

Demographic Factors and Demand

Adults aged 65 and older represent a key demographic in the District and are twice as likely to require emergency medical assistance compared to younger populations.

5. Financial Status and Budgetary Analysis

Structural Operating Gap

The District's mill levy has not increased since 2011. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were added in 2013 without additional funding. The District is currently managing a structural operating gap where recurring expenditures exceed recurring revenues.

- **Recurring Revenue (2026):** \$418,220
- *Property Taxes:* \$373,220
- *Net Medical Billing:* \$45,000
- **Core Operational Costs (2026):** \$646,400
- **Annual Operating Deficit:** \$228,180

Trajectory and Future Projections

The financial gap is projected to widen in the coming year. While 2026 core operational costs are \$646,400, the **2027 Baseline Projection** for expenditures is estimated at **\$ 850,000**. This projection reflects the District's return to fully budgeting for its wildland program, including the costs of deploying crews and apparatus to incidents outside the District (which may be eligible for future reimbursement).

Reserve Usage

To maintain daily service, the District is utilizing a **\$204,000 temporary bridging strategy** from reserves in 2026:

- **Operational Reserves:** \$54,000 for daily continuity.
- **Capital Reserves:** \$150,000 for one-time expenditures (including \$100,000 for a fire apparatus down payment and \$50,000 for Station 1 repairs).

5-Year Tabor Spending History

- **2026 (Estimated):** \$479,920
- **2025 (Actual):** \$521,436
- **2024 (Actual):** \$565,123
- **2023 (Actual):** \$345,403
- **2022 (Actual):** \$935,689*

**Note: 2022 spending included \$330,000 in wildland fire reimbursements and \$230,000 in grant income. The 48.71% reduction in spending from 2022 to 2026 is largely due to the conclusion of those specific wildland deployments and grants.*

Transparency Resources

- **2025 Independent Financial Audit**
- **District Service Plan**

*Both documents can be found at www.DMFPD.org/legal-and-informational-documents

6. Estimated Property Tax Impact

The Proposed Levy

If approved, Ballot Issue 6A authorizes an additional property tax levy of **6.9 mills**, raising an estimated **\$361,851 in 2026 for collection in fiscal year 2027**. *The numbers shown are for 2027 illustrative purposes only and cannot be relied upon to reflect with any certainty the amount of the tax imposed in future years. If you have questions regarding your specific tax implications, please reach out to the Fremont County Assessor's Office.

Impact Table

Property Type	Estimated Annual Increase (per \$100k Value)
Residential Property	\$47.78
Non-Residential Property	\$172.50

7. Comparison of Ballot Outcomes: 'Yes' vs. 'No'

If Approved (Yes Vote)	If Not Approved (No Vote)
Levy Authority: The District will levy an additional 6.9 mills, for an estimated total mill levy of 13.8927.	Status Quo: The District continues to operate under the current 6.927 mill levy.
Revenue Change: Authorizes the District to collect and spend all generated revenues and earnings as a voter-approved revenue change under TABOR.	No New Revenue: The additional \$361,851 in annual revenue will not be collected for the 2027 fiscal year.
Primary Goals: Funding for volunteer recruitment, increased EMT/firefighter availability, apparatus replacement, and ongoing EMS operations.	Service Adjustments: The \$204,000 reserve transfer is a temporary bridge that cannot be sustained. The District would initiate service level adjustments to align with recurring revenue.
Community Survey Favorable Feedback: Survey respondents supported the measure emphasized the essential necessity of rural EMS and fire protection, fast ambulance response times, wildfire threat, inflation since 2011, and protecting an aging population.	Community Survey Opposing Feedback: Survey respondents opposing the measure expressed concerns regarding overall property tax burdens, fixed incomes among seniors, distrust of past management or transparency, preference for volunteer staffing, and suggestions to rely on grants or reallocate existing funds.