

The Avra Valley Fire District provides invaluable fire and medical services to our community.

Fire District revenue is benchmarked to an unpredictable real-estate market.

The Great Recession reduced property values by as much as 50%. Simultaneous with the decrease in the market, crippling regulations were placed on fire districts by Prop. 117. New administrative guidelines changed the way county assessors determine assessed values. This was a triple whammy for fire districts.

Lack of "Local Control" in the form of the tax rate cap prevents communities from having the freedom to choose the level of service appropriate for their population.

Historically, when real-estate markets and assessed values fluctuated, fire districts were able to adjust their tax-rates to maintain stability in revenue. However, the severe decline in housing values between 2008-2014 could not be counter-balanced due to the tax rate cap set by the State legislature at \$3.25/\$100. This resulted in Avra Valley's tax-payers paying less in taxes (good) and a corresponding decrease in the Fire District's budget (bad). Fire districts cannot keep pace with inflation or plan for growth. Saving for capital maintenance and replacement is not possible due to: Inflation, healthcare, liability insurance and Worker's compensation costs.

In 2016 the Arizona State Legislature recognized that crisis is imminent. The affects of the Great Recession and Prop.117 cannot be overcome in the current fiscal environment with the current \$3.25/\$100 rate cap. The only other option for fire districts is to cut emergency services. Reductions in staffing and the use of dilapidated equipment sharply reduces a fire district's ability to deliver competent and effective emergency services to the community.

If the rate cap override is not approved by the voters in November 2017, the Avra Valley Fire District may be forced to reduce staffing, cut training budgets and delay purchases to replace aging, deteriorating and unsafe equipment.

The proposed tax levy override of 25 cents would equal an increase of \$21.20 per year for the average Avra Valley Fire District property owner for each of the five years. (A property with a full cash value of \$100,000)