



# Village of Antioch & First Fire Protection District Property Tax Referendum



April 7, 2015 Consolidated Election

## Public Question on Property Tax to Provide Ambulance Service

This is the question Antioch residents will be asked at the April 7, 2015 Consolidated Election.

“Shall the Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois, be authorized to levy a new tax for the purposes of providing ambulance services, having the additional tax of .25% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein extended on all taxable property within the Village for such purposes?

*(1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$3,407,968, and the approximate amount of the taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is \$4,199,047.55.*

*(2) For the 2015 levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$83.34.*

**Why do the Village and District need an additional .25% of tax revenue to provide ambulance services when they didn't before?** The answer is simple. The Village and District did not provide Ambulance Service to its residents before May, 2013 when Antioch Rescue Squad (ARS), a private organization, declined terms to provide contracted service to the Village. One year later, ARS and the District were unable to reach contract agreement after ARS informed the District that substantial fees would be required. ARS ended up dissolving and liquidated most of its equipment shortly thereafter. In the wake of the ARS departure, the Fire Department now provides ambulance service. The Village and the District are attempting to fund the \$2 million dollar annual cost for the first time, with no public revenue source dedicated for this important life safety operation. A large shortfall now exists after attempting to provide the ambulance service without a dedicated revenue source. That is why the referendum is needed.

**I already have a high tax bill. Don't my taxes already pay for ambulance service?** No. Taxes are levied by the Village of Antioch and First Fire Protection District for fire protection services. In the Village, only about

10% of the property tax goes to support all of the services and programs that are offered by the Village. For a tax bill amounting to \$5,882 for a home valued at the average Antioch price of \$170,000, the Village only receives \$546. In the District, only \$130 goes to support the fire service for the same value home. Your remaining property tax money provides funding to other taxing bodies.

**Is the Fire Department Ambulance Service going to grow into an expensive, full time operation?** No. The Fire Department staffing is a part-time paid on premise model with the use of a contractor to ensure 24-7 ambulance coverage. This is not expected to change anytime soon. This is a very cost efficient model and one that is affordable. No full-time fringe benefits or pensions are required to continue with this plan. The referendum proceeds are projected to be sufficient to staff all three fire stations with fire and ambulance service for the foreseeable future.

**What happens if the Referendum Fails?** The Village has already approved short term and long term budget reductions in order to provide ambulance service to its residents. Short term cuts are able to provide the funding of ambulance services until the revenues from the April 7, 2015 referendum can be realized. In the event of the April referendum not passing, long term budget and service reductions were also approved by the board. Those will be implemented in the next budget cycle dependent on the outcome of the referendum. Long and short term budget and service reductions can be reviewed on the next page, or the Village of Antioch website, [www.antioch.il.gov](http://www.antioch.il.gov) and clicking on the EMS Referendum button to the left.

The failure of the referendum in the fire district comes with serious consequences. The fire district has no alternate source of funding outside of a property tax levy. Only the amount collected by property tax revenues are available to fund fire or ambulance service. That money is not enough to properly fund both. If the referendum fails, the District can only fund one crew. Frequently there is more than one call in the District at the same time. Clearly there will be longer response time to emergencies with the possibility of no public ambulance being available at times.

# #the\_numbers

The Village of Antioch Fire tax rate compared to neighboring communities rates. *It is important to note that some of the communities below (\*) pay **BOTH** a Village tax **AND** a Fire District Tax. In Antioch, you only pay one or the other depending on where you live. Unincorporated residents pay a 0.257 Fire District Tax. Village residents pay a 1.077 Village Tax (.088 of which is allocated for Fire Services). That means of the \$546 collected by the Village of Antioch in real estate taxes for a \$170,000 valued home, \$48.05 is allocated for Fire Protection Services. ANNUALLY.*

## TAX NUMBERS (WITH REFERENDUM)

	Fire District	Village	Combined
Community	Tax Rate	Tax Rate	Tax Rate
Antioch Fire Dist.	0.507		
Village of Antioch		1.221	
Fox Lake	0.474	1.342	
Wauconda*	0.681	1.398	2.079
Lake Zurich	0.695	1.132	
Grayslake*	0.819	0.648	1.467
Lake Villa*	0.780	1.136	1.916
Newport	0.672		
Round Lake*	1.093	1.386	2.479

## BUDGET NUMBERS

	DISTRICT	VILLAGE	TOTAL
<i>COST - OPERATION AND EQUIPMENT</i>	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
<i>REVENUES FROM FEES</i>	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
<i>SHORTFALL</i>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

**Is there another way to fund ambulances? What about a ‘Sales Tax Referendum’?** The most common and stable way to fund ambulance service is with a property tax. The Village looked at the possibility of asking for a ‘Non-Home Rule Sales Tax’ referendum. The Village could ask for a sales tax referendum but by law the tax can only be used by the Village for infrastructure, tax abatement or it could be used to fund ambulance services only until 2021. Sales tax also fluctuates with the economy. After careful consideration, the Village Board decided that the most sustainable way to fund ambulance service is by establishing a property tax by referendum as is currently proposed. The sales tax is not an option for the District. The District’s only possible source of revenue is through property tax.

Learn more...

Let us answer your questions at the Town Hall Meetings.

### Town Hall Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 PM  
Fire Station #3 – 24675 W. Grass Lake Rd.

Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 PM  
Fire Station #1 – 835 Holbek Drive

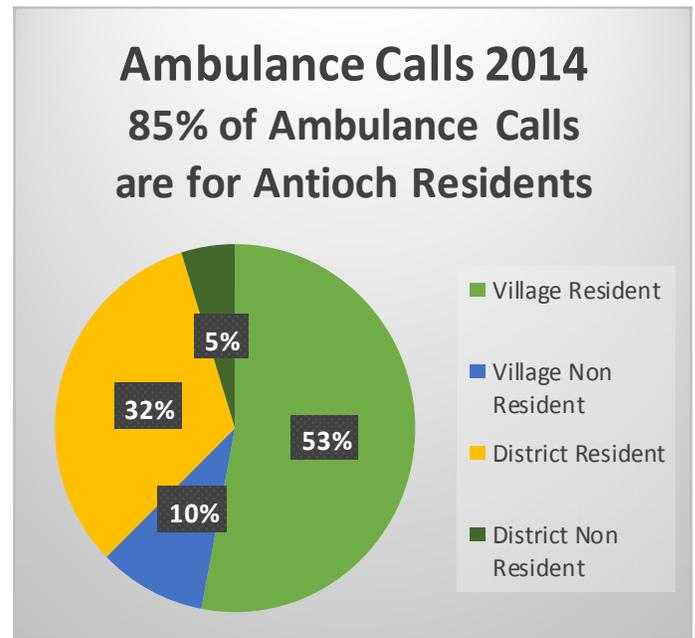
**This increase will be realized on  
your 2016 tax bill**

THE VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO PROVIDE A BALANCED BUDGET OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS. THIS INCLUDED MANY BUDGET CUTBACKS, SERVICE REDUCTIONS AND LAYOFFS. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT FAMILIES MUST MAKE SACRIFICES IN ORDER TO BALANCE THEIR HOME BUDGETS, THE VILLAGE HAS MADE THEIR OWN SACRIFICES. RECENT ACTIONS THAT THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IN BALANCING THEIR BUDGET AND CUTTING COSTS TO THE TAXPAYERS INCLUDE:

- † Capital Funding Reductions - In order to continue to funding ambulance services, the Village of Antioch cut all capital projects in the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. This includes road paving and any project or equipment purchase.
- † Public Works in-house road improvements- \$70,000 annually
- † Reduction in general liability and workman's compensation insurance - \$300,000 annually
- † 34% Reduction in workforce (\$2 million annually)
- † Short Term budget reductions (Resolution No. 14-80) - \$191,510
  - Closing of Fire Station #3
  - Transfer of Senior Center Expenses
  - Department reductions of training & Supplies
  - Easter Parade/Teen Easter
- † Long Term budget reductions (Resolution No. 15-02) - \$530,310
  - Closing of Fire Station #3
  - Transfer of Senior Center Expenses
  - Police Overtime Cuts
  - Membership Dues
  - Stop reserve funding; stagnate reserve growth
  - Personnel

## DON'T THE AMBULANCE BILLING FEES COVER THE COST?

NO. Ambulance billing does not cover the cost to ensure enough ambulances and paramedics are available around the clock to adequately protect the community. In fact, an average of only one quarter of the billing fee is collectable from Medicare, Medicaid, insurance plans or the uninsured. The District and the Village intend to bill only what is necessary to collect the full amounts from Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, etc., however an additional dedicated source of funds is required to cover the costs for over 2,000 ambulance calls annually.



### ELECTION DATES:

**March 10** – Last Day for Voter Registration

**March 23** – Early Voting Begins at Antioch Township Offices at 1600 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa, IL 60046

**April 4** – Early Voting Ends

**April 7** – **ELECTION DAY**

For additional information, please visit:  
[www.antioch.il.gov](http://www.antioch.il.gov) or [www.antiochfire.org](http://www.antiochfire.org)