

DEC 14 2017

VALLEY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY  
Explanatory Statement – FBC Renewal  
February 13, 2018 Special Election

In 2006, voters approved the Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) by more than 60%, and renewed use in 2012 with 76% approval. The FBC has supported about 48% of the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) operating budget. Every six years, approval to continue the use of the FBC funding model is required by state law. Renewing the FBC will allow the VRFA to improve response times and service levels for fire protection, emergency medical calls, training of personnel and the purchase of necessary equipment.

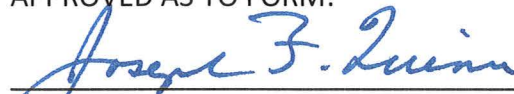
The FBC is based on occupancy type and square footage of structures. It reflects the cost of providing appropriate fire protection services to a particular building. Each year the Board of Governance reviews the FBC in a public hearing to ensure fiscal responsibility of this funding for the coming year. The FBC revenue is restricted by state law to not exceed 60% of the VRFA operating budget. By approving the FBC, state law prohibits imposing an additional property tax of fifty (50) cents per thousand dollars of assessed property value for services otherwise allowed by law. The law allows discounts for senior citizens and for buildings with approved fire sprinkler systems. Property owners may appeal their assessments.

SUBMITTED BY:



Eric E. Robertson, Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Joseph F. Quinn, Attorney