

Algonac *WAVE*

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ALGONAC CITY COUNCIL

Rocky Gillis, Mayor
Ray Martin, Mayor Pro Tem



Mike Bembas
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Dawn Davey
Cathy Harris

Denice A. Gerstenberg
City Manager

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
8AM to 6PM

Closed 12:30PM to
1:30PM.

City Council Meetings
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
at 6PM

www.cityofalgonac.org

Chat with the Mayor

Talk with
Mayor Rocky Gillis
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
4PM at
Algonac City Hall

2024 Proposed Ballot Initiative for Fire Department Services Frequently Asked Questions



In 2024, residents will have an opportunity through a ballot proposal to provide dedicated funding to maintain medical first response services and fire protection. A proposed 1 mill special assessment would cost the average residential home with a \$62,000 taxable value \$62 per year, or \$5.16 per month or just \$0.17 per day.

Why do we need a special assessment district for the Fire Department? Since 2010, calls for medical services in Algonac have increased 118%. With 4,196 residents, Algonac continues to be a growing community with an increasingly aging population. In the past, paid-on-call staff were able to handle all calls. However, now most members work outside of the community and have limited availability. The current full-time staff is fighting to maintain a response time within 3-5 minutes. The faster the response, the less damage to personal property and the better chance of survival. Due to lack of staffing, some local Fire Departments have decided that they will only respond to medical calls if the ambulance provider cannot respond within 8 minutes. *Algonac wants to continue to respond within 3-5 minutes.*

What are the boundaries of the special assessment district? All of Algonac.

Is the city allowed to enact a special assessment district for fire services? Yes, per Public Act 33 of 1951 as amended.

What is the current budget for the Fire Department? \$400,000 for 2023-2024.

Why a special assessment district and not a millage? A special assessment is a charge levied on property within a specific area. A millage is a tax.

How will I pay for the special assessment if it is imposed? If passed, the special assessment will be added to the 2024 summer tax bill.

If I have exempt property, am I exempt from the proposed special assessment? This special assessment cannot be imposed on property that is exempt from property taxes.

I am a veteran exempt from property taxes. Am I exempt from this proposed assessment? No. An exemption from property taxes under PA161 of 2013, MCL 211.7b does not include an exemption from special assessment districts.

Don't I pay enough taxes? The overall millage rate for Algonac will remain the lowest of all St. Clair County cities. There are 3 of the 8 cities and 18 of the 23 townships in St. Clair County who have separate millages for police and/or fire services.

How many years will the proposed special assessment district last? The district will remain in existence until terminated by City Council. Every year there will be a public hearing on the estimated costs and expenses of the Fire Department.

What if this doesn't pass? Services will be unable to continue as is. This will result in slower response times, and possibly a reduction in the ability to respond to medical calls.