

Issue 8 for Fire/EMS At-A-Glance

On May 8, 2018, Hudson voters will be asked to decide on Issue 8, a proposed municipal income tax re-designation for Hudson Fire/EMS, which is not a tax increase. The City of Hudson following are answers to questions and more information to help voters make their decision on this important issue.

What is Issue 8 for Fire / EMS?

Issue 8 is not a new tax. It is a proposed reallocation of an existing tax that was approved by voters in 2004. If passed, Issue 8 would combine tax income currently designated into separate Fire and EMS funds into one fund for both Fire and EMS. If this issue passes, the 2004-designated 9% to EMS and 15% to Fire would be combined into 24% for a single Hudson Fire and EMS fund which could be allocated based on need.

Why is Issue 8 on the Ballot?

Issue 8 is on the ballot to help sustain Hudson's EMS service without raising taxes. While percentages allocated in 2004 were appropriate at that time, the situation has changed over the past 14 years. Facing increased demands, EMS currently is underfunded, while the Hudson Fire Department has more than sufficient funds to maintain its operations.

Will My Taxes Increase?

No, if Issue 8 is passed by voters, there will be no income tax increase.

Will Passage of This Issue Negatively Impact the Fire Department?

No. The Hudson Fire Department has a strong volunteer base and has more funding than is needed to address current and anticipated needs. It will not hurt current operations nor the capital reserves set aside for the Fire Department.

Why Does EMS Need More Funding?

When Issue 3 passed in 2004, the portion of income tax allocated to EMS was sufficient to maintain EMS' largely volunteer operations. Over the past five years, the annual EMS call volume has increased from 1,200 to more than 1,700. As Hudson's population ages, the call volume could continue to increase.

At the same time, volunteerism has decreased to an all-time low both in Hudson and nationwide. Increased call volumes and fewer volunteers has created a need to hire more paid staff to fill the 24/7 EMS shifts, resulting in higher operating costs.



Issue 8 -Hudson Fire/EMS
On the ballot May 8, 2018

Issue 8 At-A-Glance

- Not a new tax.
- Reallocation of existing tax.
- Current tax income of 9% for Hudson EMS and 15% for Hudson Fire of 1% would be combined into a single fund for both.
- Will provide financial stability for Hudson EMS service without additional taxes.
- Fire Department operations will not be impacted.
- As call volumes rise and the number of volunteer medics/EMTs decreases, it will help maintain our EMS service.
- Fire and EMS will continue to operate as separate entities.

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What Other Solutions to Fund EMS Were Considered?

In March 2017, the EMS Sustainability Committee was formed to review EMS operations, including staffing, funding and sustainability. The committee examined combining Fire/EMS, privatizing EMS and reducing staffing. The Committee determined that combining current Fire and EMS funds would be the best solution.

What Cost-Saving Measures Were Implemented to Help Maintain the Financial Viability of EMS?

Over the years, the City has instituted several cost-saving initiatives to help sustain EMS.

- Improved ambulance billing and collection.
- Increased volunteer recruitment efforts.
- Enhanced Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) to encourage volunteer retention.

Will Fire and EMS Operations be Combined?

No. The Hudson Fire Department and Hudson EMS will continue to effectively operate as separate entities.

Where Do I Get More Information?

Visit Hudson's website www.hudson.oh.us and click on [Fire/EMS Ballot Issue](#).

This educational information was provided by the City of Hudson, Ohio, 115 Executive Parkway, Suite 400, Hudson, Ohio 44236. For more information about this Issue, visit our website at www.hudson.oh.us or contact Jody Roberts, Hudson Communications Manager, 330-342-9539.