

## **Argument in Favor of Measure I**

Funding decreases, by failure of previous ballot measures, have negatively impacted the Higgins Fire District's ability to provide critical emergency firefighting and medical services, and subsequently increased response times.

Following the failure of the funding measure of 2015, the District was no longer able to staff the Dog Bar Station; a critical station now closed. Engines from the Combie and McCourtney stations must cover the entire 91 square miles encompassing the District's Response Area. Measure I will fund the reopening of the Dog Bar station and improve critical response times to all areas.

Currently, emergency response times vary between 8 to 15 minutes, whereas the National Fire Protection Association recommended time is 5 to 8 minutes. Public Protection Class ratings have impacted homeowner insurance rate increases and potential cancellations.

Paramedics are certified to administer additional services in critically lifesaving situations. Paramedics can administer medications, start IVs and transfusions, intubations, and manage advanced airway procedures. A certified paramedic on emergency calls will facilitate a greater range of viable lifesaving actions before the private ambulance arrives.

The proposed annual assessment of \$240, consistent with surrounding district assessments, will replace the outdated \$25 annual assessment which has not increased in 40 years, whereas emergency calls for service have increased by 1000%. To offset future cost of living increases, Measure I will provide for a potential annual increase of up to 2.9%, based on the CPI, and as decided by the elected Higgins District Board of Directors.

Measure I will provide funding for paramedic advanced lifesaving services, enhance emergency response times, improve coverage across the District, and maintain, train and equip full-time professional and volunteer firefighters.

Your life. Your home. It's about time.

Vote Yes on Measure I

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Margaret Joehnck, Chair, Friends of Higgins Fire for Measure I

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Sheriff Keith Royal, Ret.

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Ed Scofield, NC Supervisor, District 2

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Donn Coenen, Retired Locomotive Engineer

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Tony Gosalvez, Real Estate Broker

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