

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 001**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE KEY LARGO FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, APPROVING FORM OF VOTER REFERENDUM, REQUESTING PLACEMENT OF REFERENDUM ON BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Key Largo Fire & Emergency Medical Services District (the “District”) is legislatively charged with the provision of fire protection and firefighting services, rescue services and emergency medical services to the residents of Key Largo, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is organized and holds all legal powers set forth by Chapters 189, 191, and 2005-329, Florida Statutes, including but not limited to the annual levy of ad valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s enabling legislation, Chapter 2005-329, Florida Statutes, provides the District with authority to levy ad valorem taxes in an amount not to exceed one (1) mill by annual resolution of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s enabling legislation provides that the District may levy ad valorem taxes in an amount above one (1) mill if such increase is approved by the majority of voters voting in a referendum election; and

**WHEREAS**, since the legislative creation of the District as an independent special fire control district in 2005, the District maintained a budget providing for annual ad valorem taxation in amounts substantially less than one (1) mill until 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has been able to maintain a budget providing for ad valorem taxation of less than one (1) mill by utilizing a primarily volunteer-based staffing system which has become more difficult to maintain due to a rise in local population and significant increases in the cost of housing; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past ten (10) years, Monroe County has experienced a surge of population growth, with an approximately fifteen percent (15%) increase in full-time residents and an approximately forty five percent (45%) increase in housing costs between 2010 and 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the increased cost of labor, materials and equipment required for the District to continue providing high-quality firefighting, rescue and emergency medical services to the residents of Key Largo, the District seeks voter approval to increase the total amount of millage that the District is permitted to levy on an annual basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the District Board of Commissioners wishes to make clear to the voters of Key Largo that it does not intend to levy annual millage at the maximum rate permitted under the requested increase, and that it will continue its longstanding policy of providing high quality firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical services in the most cost-effective manner possible;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KEY LARGO FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. Requesting Placement of Referendum on Election Ballot**

Pursuant to Chapter 2005-329, Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida is hereby directed to call an election on November 8, 2022, for the qualified electors of Key Largo, Florida to vote on approval of an increase in the maximum rate of millage leviable by the Key Largo Fire & Emergency Medical Services District.

**2. Approval of Ballot Question**

The Key Largo Fire Rescue & Emergency Medical Services District Board of Commissioners hereby approves the issuance of a voter referendum requesting an increase in the maximum permissible millage it may levy to provide for fire protection, firefighting services and emergency medical services to the residents of Key Largo, Florida. The substance of said referendum and the ballot title shall be in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

In accordance with the Voting Rights Act, the District Attorney is hereby directed to obtain a true and accurate Spanish translation of the ballot question before this resolution is transmitted to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, and provide said translation to same.


**3. Effective Date**

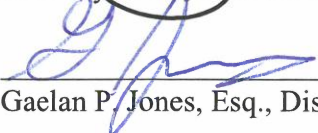
This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Key Largo Fire & Emergency Medical Services District Board of Commissioners.

**[REMAINDER OF PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK]**

DULY ADOPTED by the Key Largo Fire & EMS District Board of Commissioners this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

Board Chair Anthony Allen	NO _____	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice-Chair George Mirabella	NO _____	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secretary Kenneth Edge	NO _____	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Daniel Powers	NO _____	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Frank Conklin	NO _____	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Allen, Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gaelan P. Jones, Esq., District Attorney

**EXHIBIT A**

**INCREASED MAXIMUM MILLAGE RATE FOR KEY LARGO FIRE RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

The Key Largo Fire & EMS District may not levy ad valorem taxes exceeding 1.00 mill without voter approval. The District seeks to increase its maximum millage rate to cover future costs of providing high-quality fire-rescue and emergency medical services to the residents of Key Largo.

Shall the maximum millage rate of the District be revised to 2.00 mills, to fund the continued provision of fire rescue and emergency medical services to Key Largo residents?

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES**

\_\_\_\_\_ **NO**