

# NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CIRCULATE PETITION

*(Pursuant to California Elections Code §§ 9103–9105)*

## **Tuolumne County Fire Protection, Wildfire Prevention, and Fire Services Funding Initiative**

---

**TO:**

County Clerk and Auditor–Controller  
Tuolumne County Elections Office  
2 South Green Street  
Sonora, California 95370

**DATE: 5/22/2026**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the persons whose names appear hereon that they are the proponents of an initiative measure to be submitted to the voters of the County of Tuolumne. The proponents intend to circulate a petition within the County of Tuolumne for the purpose of qualifying this measure for the ballot.

Pursuant to California Elections Code section 9103, the proponents hereby file this Notice of Intention together with the full text of the proposed initiative, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, and request that the County Counsel prepare a ballot title and summary as required by California Elections Code section 9105.

The \$200 filing fee required by California Elections Code section 9103(b) is submitted herewith.

### **STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED PETITION**

*(California Elections Code § 9104 — not to exceed 500 words)*

Fire protection is the most basic responsibility of local government. In Tuolumne County, that responsibility is under direct and immediate threat.

Federal SAFER grant funding that expanded local fire coverage from two stations to five is expiring. The Board of Supervisors has voted to close one of those stations. Without dedicated, locally controlled funding, additional reductions in staffing, response capacity, and prevention work are likely to follow.

At the same time, Tuolumne County faces some of the highest wildfire risk in California. Catastrophic fires have repeatedly threatened lives, homes, watersheds, and the local economy. Fire prevention work — defensible space, vegetation management, fuel reduction, and community preparedness — is no longer optional. It is the difference between a manageable incident and a generational disaster.

This initiative establishes a dedicated 0.75% special transactions and use tax for fire protection and wildfire prevention. Because it is a special tax, the law requires that every dollar collected be spent on the purposes voters approve. Funds cannot be redirected by future Boards of Supervisors to other county departments, contracts, or general government purposes.

The measure further protects current fire stations from closure absent a four-fifths supermajority vote and substantial evidence that equal or greater coverage will be maintained, establishes a long-term Fire Services Rainy Day Fund for disaster resilience, and provides a defined share of revenues to support equipment funding for other local fire districts that participate in mutual aid.

Voters will be asked to reauthorize this measure ten years after passage. If reauthorized, it continues. If not, it ends. The decision remains with the voters — not with the Board of Supervisors.

The proponents submit this measure because the people of Tuolumne County, not their government, should decide how their fire services are funded and how their tax dollars are protected.

## PROPOSERS OF THE INITIATIVE MEASURE

*(California Elections Code § 9103(a)(2) — minimum 1, maximum 5 proponents; each must be a registered voter of Tuolumne County)*

### Proponent 1

Printed Name: **Mathew Galvan**

Residence Address: **21227 Placer Ave, Mi Wuk Village 95346**

Phone / Email: **2095731150**

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Proponent 1 Date

### Proponent 2

Printed Name: **Wyatt Nordvik**

Residence Address: **8520 Old Don Pedro Rd Jamestown, CA 95327**

Phone / Email: **5109351041**

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Proponent 2 Date

### Proponent 3

Printed Name: **Glen Cantrell**

Residence Address: **22631 Cedar Pines Ave, Twain Harte 95383**

Phone / Email: **4085615911**

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Proponent 3 Date

**Proponent 4**

Printed Name: **Diane Knepper**

Business Address: **19930 Inks Dr Tuolumne, CA 95379**

Phone / Email: **2097686572**

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Proponent 4 Date

**Proponent 5**

Printed Name: **Dana Butow**

Business Address: **17145 Nile River Dr, Sonora CA 95370**

Phone / Email: **2095596333**

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Proponent 5 Date

**VERIFICATION AND REQUEST**

The undersigned proponents hereby:

1. Declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that they are registered voters of the County of Tuolumne, are the proponents of this initiative, and intend to circulate the attached petition in accordance with California Elections Code section 9105 and related provisions of the Elections Code;
2. Request that the County Counsel prepare an official ballot title and summary of the measure pursuant to California Elections Code section 9105(a); and
3. Request that the County Clerk transmit a copy of this Notice of Intention, the attached full text of the proposed measure, and this request to the County Counsel as required by law.

Executed at **2 South Green St, Sonora CA**, California, on **[5/22/2026]**.

**Respectfully submitted,**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lead Proponent

Signature Date

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE**

#### ***Tuolumne County Fire Protection, Wildfire Prevention, and Fire Services Funding Ordinance***

The people of the County of Tuolumne hereby ordain as follows:

#### **Section 1. Findings, Purpose, and Protection of Local Fire Stations and Firefighter Services**

The purpose of this measure is to establish dedicated, locally controlled funding exclusively for Tuolumne County fire protection, wildfire prevention, and fire service purposes authorized within this measure, including fire station construction and maintenance; fire apparatus and equipment replacement and modernization; firefighter staffing, training, recruitment and retention; vegetation management and fuel reduction for wildfire prevention; and related operational purposes expressly identified herein.

To that end, this measure restores and protects baseline fire protection and prevention service levels by generating funding for the continued operation and improvement of all County fire stations, including station 56; and round-the-clock staffing thereof, regardless of the contracting mechanism, agency, or organizational structure through which those services are delivered.

#### **Section 1A. Definition of Fire Protection, Wildfire Prevention, and Fire Service Purposes**

For purposes of this measure, “fire protection, wildfire prevention, and fire service purposes” shall include fire suppression, rescue operations, emergency medical response, dispatch participation, communications systems, fire prevention, firefighter safety, training, operational readiness, apparatus and equipment maintenance, mutual aid participation, disaster response, vegetation management and fuel reduction related to defensible space or wildfire prevention, community wildfire preparedness and education programs, station operations, staffing, and other directly related Tuolumne County Fire Department operational support functions.

#### **Section 2. Imposition of Special Transactions and Use Tax**

There is hereby imposed in the unincorporated area of the County of Tuolumne a transactions and use tax at the rate of three-quarters of one percent (0.75%) of the gross receipts of any retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in the County, and a corresponding use tax at the same rate on the storage, use, or other consumption in the County of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer, subject to and consistent with Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251) of Division 2 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

The tax imposed by this measure is a special tax within the meaning of Article XIII C of the California Constitution, the revenues of which shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in this measure. The tax shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing more than 110 days after the effective date of this measure, and shall be administered by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in accordance with state law.

***Estimated annual revenue at the 0.75% rate is approximately \$4.5m.***

### **Section 3. Keeping Fire and Prevention Funds Dedicated to Their Voter-Approved Purposes**

All revenues generated by this measure shall be deposited into a separate special revenue fund and used exclusively for the fire protection, wildfire prevention, and fire service purposes authorized by this measure, and for no other purpose.

Authorized expenditures shall be limited to:

1. Fire station construction, repair, modernization, and maintenance;
2. Fire apparatus, vehicles, communications systems, protective equipment, and related fire service equipment replacement, modernization, testing, repair, certification, and maintenance;
3. Firefighter and fire department staffing costs, including salaries, benefits, recruitment, retention, and related personnel expenses;
4. Firefighter training, certifications, operational readiness, and compliance with state and federal fire service requirements;
5. Wildfire prevention activities, including vegetation management, fuel reduction, defensible space programs, community wildfire preparedness, public education, and related prevention staffing and equipment; and
6. Administrative, financial, auditing, reporting, and compliance costs solely necessary to implement and administer this measure.

No revenues generated by this measure shall be transferred, loaned, appropriated, reassigned, encumbered, or otherwise expended for the primary benefit of any other County department, office, district, agency, authority, contractor, joint powers authority, or governmental entity, or for general governmental purposes unrelated to the fire protection, wildfire prevention, and fire service purposes authorized by this measure.

Revenues generated by this measure may be expended pursuant to mutual aid agreements, joint powers agreements, automatic aid agreements, cooperative service agreements, regional fire service agreements, or other intergovernmental agreements only for the direct costs, personnel, apparatus, facilities, equipment, communications systems, and operational responsibilities of fire protection and wildfire prevention services delivered to or for the benefit of Tuolumne County under such agreements.

Nothing in this measure shall authorize the outsourcing, replacement, dissolution, transfer, or delegation of core Tuolumne County fire protection, wildfire prevention, or fire service responsibilities to another governmental or nongovernmental entity through contract, agreement, consolidation, reorganization, or other administrative action in a manner that reduces the fire protection or prevention coverage delivered to the unincorporated areas of the County.

### **Section 4. Long-Term Fire and Prevention Resilience and Reserve Fund**

As a condition of receiving and expending revenues generated by this measure, all future revenues received by the Tuolumne County Fire Department through assistance-by-hire agreements, strike team deployments, reimbursement agreements, or other fire department operational revenues designated for reserve purposes shall remain exclusively within the

Tuolumne County Fire Department and be deposited into a segregated trust fund hereby established as the “Tuolumne County Fire Services and Prevention Fund”.

The purpose of the fund shall be to provide long-term operational resilience, continuity of fire protection and wildfire prevention services, emergency stabilization, apparatus replacement, disaster recovery, staffing stabilization, facility repair, insurance reserve protection, and protection against future fiscal instability, wildfire disasters, or extraordinary emergencies affecting fire and prevention operations in Tuolumne County.

It is the long-term policy goal of this measure that the reserve balance ultimately equal not less than twenty percent (20%) of the rolling average of the previous five fiscal years of Tuolumne County fire and prevention operating expenditures funded under this measure.

Monies deposited into the fund may be invested solely for capital preservation, liquidity, and prudent stewardship of taxpayer resources through investment vehicles authorized for participation in the California Local Agency Investment Fund (“LAIF”) or other investments lawfully approved and utilized by the Tuolumne County Treasurer-Tax Collector for public funds of equivalent restriction and security. No monies deposited into the fund shall be transferred, borrowed, appropriated, pledged, or otherwise used for non-fire and non-prevention purposes.

### **Section 5. Supporting Other Local Fire Districts With Equipment and Prevention Funding**

To support countywide interoperability, mutual aid readiness, and unified wildfire prevention efforts, a total of 10% of annual revenues generated by this measure shall be allocated among the special fire districts within Tuolumne County solely for fire apparatus, vehicles, communications systems, protective equipment, wildfire prevention work performed within Tuolumne County, and related fire service equipment replacement, modernization, testing, repair, certification, and maintenance.

Any such allocation shall require approval by a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors and compliance with adopted County interoperability, communications, and fire equipment standards. No funds allocated pursuant to this section may be used for non-fire and non-prevention governmental purposes.

### **Section 6. Independent Citizen Oversight, Auditing, and Public Reporting**

The County shall establish a five-member Citizen Oversight Committee to review annual revenues and expenditures, make funding recommendations, and report on compliance with this measure.

The committee shall consist of five voting members appointed by each member of the Board of Supervisors representing each of their 5 districts for a term of 2 years. Qualifications for voting members should include a combination of familiarity with program evaluation, public administration, budget appropriations, local fire services, and forestry, as available from the applicants. The committee shall also include one Tuolumne County Supervisor, the Tuolumne County Auditor/Controller, a representative from the Tuolumne County Fire Department, and a representative from each special fire district within Tuolumne County as non-voting members. Additional ex-officio members may include representatives from entities with insight into and responsibilities for various fire protection-related services within Tuolumne County such as the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Tribal Governments, or others as deemed appropriate by the Board of Supervisors. All meetings of the Committee shall comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act and all applicable California public meeting laws.

The committee shall meet quarterly and provide at least one annual public report to the Board of Supervisors regarding expenditures, compliance with this measure, reserve balances, and the status of funded projects and operations. Annual reports, audits, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, expenditure summaries, reserve balances, and recommendations of the committee shall be publicly posted on the County's website in a reasonably accessible manner.

Any resident, taxpayer, or elector of the County of Tuolumne shall have standing to seek injunctive, declaratory, or writ relief to enforce the provisions of this measure.

### **Section 7. Severability**

If any provision of this measure is held invalid, illegal, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. The voters declare that this measure would have been adopted irrespective of the invalidity of any individual provision.

### **Section 8. Effective Date**

*This measure, having been proposed and qualified by citizen initiative, shall take effect upon certification of its approval by a majority of the qualified electors voting on the measure, consistent with California Cannabis Coalition v. City of Upland (2017) 3 Cal.5th 924 and subsequent California appellate authority.*

---

**END OF PROPOSED INITIATIVE MEASURE TEXT**