



LEARN MORE ABOUT PROPOSITION 495 SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT BOND



The Board of Directors for the Superstition Fire & Medical District voted unanimously to call for a special election to seek voter approval to issue bonds to provide funds to construct, renovate, improve, equip and furnish fire stations and other District facilities, acquire apparatus, vehicles and equipment, and other costs. The \$33.8 million proposal will now appear on a November 4, 2025, Special Election Ballot as Proposition 495.

Superstition Fire & Medical District employs 104 public safety personnel, 24 ambulance personnel, and 14 support civilian staff serving the areas of Gold Canyon, Apache Junction, and Superstition Vistas. The District is an all-hazards organization responding to more than just fires. In fact, 76% of all requests for emergency services include rescue and emergency medical services. The District has maintained response times with an average time of 4:33 on emergent calls.

Over the past ten years, the annual call volume in the Superstition Fire & Medical District has increased by more than 60% from 8,000 calls in 2014 to nearly 13,000 calls in 2024. During the same period, legislative changes affecting fire districts have limited the ability to generate revenue in line with community growth and rising service demands. Increases in the costs of emergency equipment and emergency response vehicles, combined with many of our current resources reaching the end of their useful life makes it difficult to address these issues with current budget resources. The District has called for an election to seek additional funding to meet these needs.

Proposition 495 would provide funding for:

- Firefighter and emergency equipment
- Facility repairs to increase capacity and efficiency
- Training center improvements
- New Fire Station (Station 266)
- Facility improvements for decontamination, air filtration, and cancer mitigation
- Wildfire and water supply vehicles
- Pumper and ladder trucks to replace vehicles beyond their useful life

How much would this proposal cost the taxpayers?

The estimated average tax rate for the proposed bond authorization is \$0.27 per \$100 of your Assessed Limited Property Value (LPV). *Please note: The value used for tax purposes is the Assessed LPV listed on your tax bill. This is not the same as your home's market value or what it might sell for. Here are some examples:*

Home Value Market Rate: \$487,200
Limited Value: \$179,662
Assessed LPV: \$17,966
Annual Cost: \$48.51 annually

Home Value Market Rate: \$492,000
Limited Value: \$183,166
Assessed LPV: \$18,316
Annual Cost: \$49.45 annually

IMPORTANT DATES:

The last day to register to vote: October 6, 2025 Early Voting starts: October 8, 2025

Election Day: November 4, 2025

For more information visit sfmd.az.gov



How are fire districts funded?

Unlike cities and towns which can fund their budgets through a variety of sources including “state shared revenues,” sales taxes, utility taxes and other general fund revenue, fire districts are funded primarily through their property tax. Ten years ago, property tax valuations were switched to be based on limited property value (LPV) and limited to an annual increase of 5%. Further legislation capped the tax rate that districts can levy and reduced valuations on commercial property. The result is that districts recently recovered to 2009/2010 valuations after 15 years.

How did the District develop the bond program?

The bond program was developed over several months through the work of a Citizen’s Advisory Committee who conducted a public process to explore a potential General Obligation bond to address public safety needs, consider improvements, and weigh possible costs to the taxpayers. The committee focused on the history of the District, how fire districts are funded in Arizona, current and future service levels, budgeting and financial issues, capital needs, as well as toured current facilities. Following their deliberative process, the Citizen’s Advisory Committee recommended a special election in 2025 to provide revenue for modern public safety facilities, vehicles, and equipment.

How could the bond impact response times?

Currently, the District has maintained response times with an average time of 4:33 on emergent calls. Additional public safety facilities and equipment could help reduce response times districtwide. Improved coverage keeping our first responders closer to their home stations and new vehicles providing the backup necessary while others are responding to an emergency are examples of how services could be impacted.

How could the bond impact employee recruitment and meeting industry standards?

Adequate facilities and improved training may allow the District to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining future public safety personnel ensuring they have the facilities, equipment, and vehicles necessary to effectively do their job. The proposed projects are also intended to meet modern industry standards for improved methods of equipment storage, decontamination, and cancer mitigation.



How could the bond impact insurance ratings?

ISO (Insurance Services Office) evaluates fire protection capabilities for communities in the U.S., impacting insurance rates for homes and businesses by assessing a fire department's ability to respond to and mitigate fire risks. The District maintains an ISO Class 2 rating which is among the top 3% of all organizations – the bond is intended to improve service and potentially avoid insurance cost increases.

