

AMBULANCE DISTRICT BALLOT MEASURE

Elmore County Voter's Guide for the 2026 General Election



The Situation

Today, the Elmore County Ambulance District is chronically underfunded and creating a multimillion-dollar hole in the county budget. Money for priorities like law enforcement and county employees is being diverted to EMS to cover the shortfall. Tax increases are not keeping up with growth, and Elmore County EMS can no longer maintain the same level of service without a comprehensive overhaul.

Ballot Measure 101

The Ambulance District ballot measure will abolish the current ambulance district and form a new district covering Elmore County.

A newly appointed board of directors will work to develop a self-sustaining, financially solvent district that can maintain the ambulance services Elmore County residents rely on, and ensure other county priorities get the full funding they require.

Why It Matters

The status quo is broken. There is not money in the budget to continue to cover the EMS shortfall and maintain the same level of service. In November, voters will decide if they want to approve a ballot measure to create a new Ambulance District funded through a tax levy, patient billing and development impact fees, or maintain the existing ambulance district and potentially face service cuts.

If Passed, the Measure Will:

- ✔ Provide the tools the county needs to maintain emergency medical services.
- ✔ Put into motion a transition plan to dissolve the existing district and set up the new Ambulance District, with an operational goal of January 2028.
- ✔ The Ambulance District Board's sole mandate is developing a plan for a sustainable future for EMS in the communities. Elmore County Commissioners will appoint the initial board of directors, who will stand for election in November 2027.

If the Measure Fails:

- ✘ The existing ambulance district will remain in a deficit and continue to drain county resources, prompting difficult decisions regarding funding cuts and service reductions.
- ✘ As wages fail to keep pace, hiring and retention will likely become more difficult.
- ✘ Chronic understaffing could affect 911 response times.

Bottom Line

EMS is in the red and will not be able to continue providing the same level of service if a new Ambulance District is not created to develop a sustainable funding model.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if the ballot measure passes?

The current ambulance district will dissolve and be replaced by a new Ambulance District that will create a new self-sustaining funding structure to support emergency medical services in Elmore County today and well into the future.

What happens if the ballot measure fails?

The current ambulance district is creating a deficit in the county budget worth millions, that cannot be rectified with cost saving measures alone across other departments and areas. If voters reject the ballot measure, the county will need to make difficult decisions. All options would be on the table to help make the county budget whole.

How much would the levy be?

At this point, we don't know. The levy amount would be determined by the new Ambulance District Board.

Who would pay for the levy?

Elmore County property owners, including home, business, and landowners, would pay for the levy. The amount each property owner pays will depend on the levy rate set by the Ambulance District Board and the assessed value of their property.

Why can't impact fees by developers make the current ambulance district sustainable?

Under Idaho law, money collected from development impact fees are limited in how they can be spent. Idaho Code §67-8210(2) prohibits using impact fee revenue for purposes other than capital improvement costs, like building new EMS stations or buying new equipment to support growth. Impact fees may not be used to support day-to-day-operations or staff salaries.

If voters approve the Ambulance District ballot measure, newly implemented development impact fees will comprise part of the funding mix to meet the needs of the growing community.

If the ballot measure passes, will I still get help during the transition period if I call 911?

Yes. If a voters decide to create a new district, ambulance services will continue uninterrupted.

Will voters get to choose the new Ambulance District Board?

After an initial slate of directors is appointed by sitting county commissioners, voters will have the chance to elect the Ambulance District Board beginning in November 2027.

How long will the measure last?

The newly formed Ambulance District would last in perpetuity, until or unless voters abolish it in the future.

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