



# PROPOSITION **F**

Tuesday, June 2, 2020





7601 Manchester Road  
Maplewood, MO 63143

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PERMIT NO. 4542

**Paid for by City of Maplewood, 7601 Manchester Rd, 63143.**

Dear Neighbors,

On Tuesday, June 2, 2020, Maplewood voters will decide on Proposition F, a quarter cent fire services sales tax increase. Revenue for the city is relatively static while the cost of services has risen. In particular, the Maplewood Fire Department needs to replace an aging pumper truck and rescue vehicle. Our SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus) and cardiac monitors have reached the end of their useful life.

In addition to equipment replacements, the additional tax revenue will allow us to maintain competitive compensation to attract and retain personnel. The Mayor and Council will work with city staff to determine the best use for these additional funds and find ways to best allocate existing and new resources to continue our excellent level of service and speedy response times. Carefully consider these facts and please turn out to your polling place on June 2, 2020 to vote on Proposition F.

Sincerely,

**Barry Greenberg**

Mayor

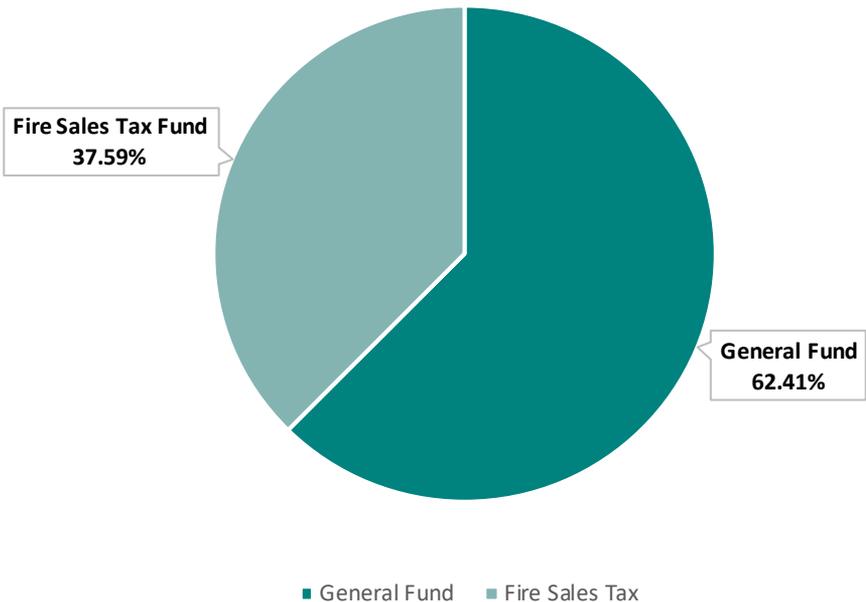
# Sales Tax Proposal

Proposition F, if approved by voters, would generate about \$700,000 of additional revenue per year, the vast majority of which would come from non-residents who visit Maplewood to shop or dine.

The Fire Department's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget is \$3 million, of which 62% is derived from the General Operating Fund. Approximately \$1.4 million of General Fund revenues would still be allocated to the Fire Department. Savings to the General Fund will be used to help off-set rising service costs.

Proposition F is one of many steps the City is taking to meet additional demands while providing services in a cost-effective manner.

## Current Fire Department Expense Distribution





## Maintain Quality of Service

It is vital to maintain the high degree of public safety that the Maplewood Fire Department has provided to our residents.

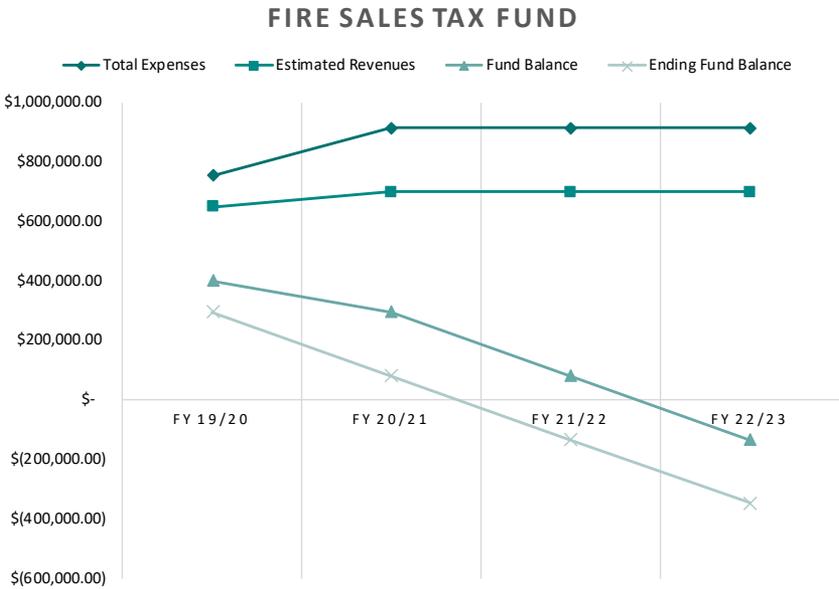
If approved, revenues from the fire sales tax could be used to:

- Replace existing and outdated fire equipment such as turnout gear, radios, cardiac monitors, etc.;
- Pay off debt for the recent purchase of the fire truck;
- Pay off debt for the unanticipated retrofit of the fire rescue truck;
- Assist Maplewood's desire to meet national standards for staffing requirements;
- Transfer employee(s) from the City's General Operating Fund to the Fire Sales Tax Fund; and
- Help the city to retain its current competitive pay structure.

Without the passing of Proposition F, the city will have to consider alternative measures such as cutting services and personnel in an effort to not raise property taxes and other service fees.

# Budget Under Pressure

Maplewood, like many other cities nationwide, is facing declining revenues while the cost of service continues to rise. Sales tax which accounts for 41% of the General Fund revenue has remained stagnant over the last five years. The annual telephone sales tax has declined by 31%, while changes in state legislature continue to play a significant part in declining revenues. Current projections show that without additional revenues, the Fire Sales Tax Fund reserves will be depleted by Fiscal Year 2022-2023.



The City has worked to keep service fees that directly impact residents and business owners flat, has sought greater cooperation with surrounding municipalities to share costs and maintained a lean work force, while still providing efficient and effective services. The City will continue working on ways to create a stable financial future.