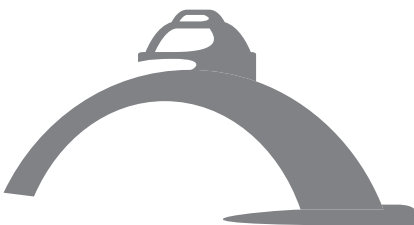


# SPECIAL REFERENDUM ISSUE

## *the Village Voice* Wauconda's Public Information Source

On November 2, 2010

**Your Vote Will  
Decide What  
Our Community  
Will Be in the  
Future...**



### **Town Hall Meeting**

The public is invited to attend a Town Hall meeting on **Thursday, September 23 at 7:00 pm**. The event will be held at the Wauconda High School located at 555 N. Main Street in Wauconda. This will be a great opportunity for residents to learn more about the facts associated with the Wauconda Fire Protection District referendum question on the November 2nd ballot.

### **Mayor's Message**

For the past decade, I have been actively involved in the Wauconda community and its organizations. After serving as a trustee on the Village Board for four years, I currently have the honor of being your Mayor. As in all communities, various issues and opportunities have surfaced, been discussed, acted upon, and resolved. Out of all the items brought before the Board and staff, few have been more important than the Fire Protection District referendum question.

Currently, the Village of Wauconda is the only community in the Fire District that is under contract to pay the Wauconda Fire Protection District for our fire and ambulance services. Residents in the surrounding areas, located in the 50 square mile District boundaries, fund their fire and ambulance services through a separate line item on their Lake County property tax bills.

As some of you may already know, residents have submitted a petition to the Lake County Circuit Court requesting that our community be given an opportunity to decide whether the Village should join the Wauconda Fire Protection District. On July 19th, the Court agreed to their request and the issue will appear in the form of a referendum question on the November 2nd ballot.

This Village Voice newsletter is designed to communicate essential, factual information regarding the referendum question. Please take the time to read this newsletter as you begin to evaluate your position regarding the referendum question. If you have any questions about the issues at hand, please feel free to contact Village Administrator Daniel Quick at 847.526.9607 or Fire Chief David Dato at 847.526.2821.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mark F. Knigge

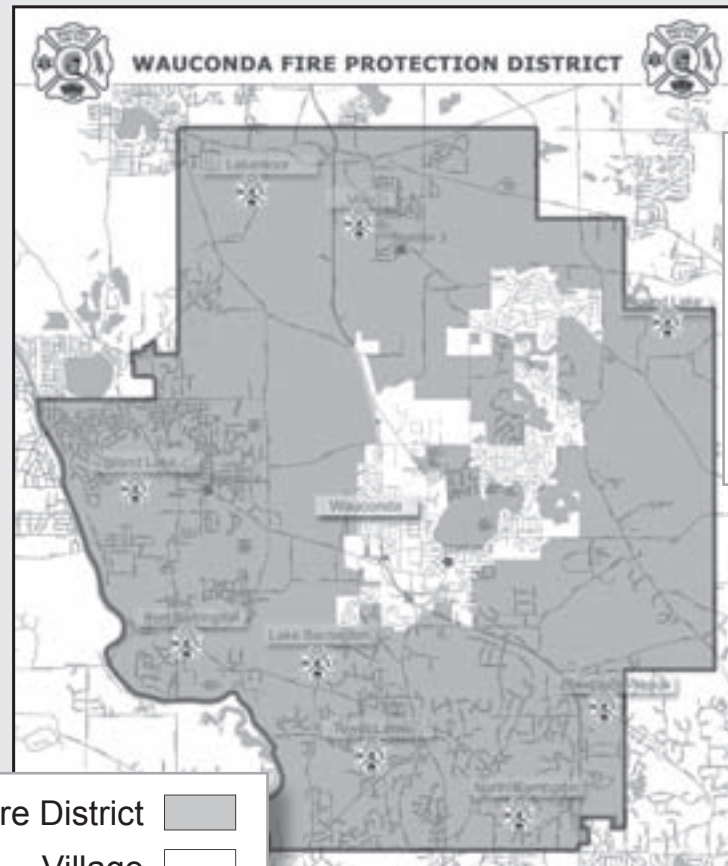


# If Referendum **PASSES**

- The Village of Wauconda would annex into the Wauconda Fire Protection District.
- The funding of the fire and ambulance services would shift to a separate line item on our Lake County Property Tax bills.
- Wauconda residents would receive a 50% reduction in Utility Taxes.
- The Village would reallocate the funds, historically used to pay for the Wauconda Fire Protection District's contract for fire and ambulance services.
- The Village's projected deficit would be offset through 2013.
- Core services would continue.

## What has been done already to address the village's current financial situation?

- Over the last two years: \$2 million in reduced revenues required \$2 million in budget cuts
- Staff reductions of 23% (from 86 to 66 employees)
- Renegotiated health insurance, which saved approximately \$250,000 in FY 2009/2010
- Contracted with the Wauconda Fire District to help oversee building permits and inspection services- reducing operating expenses by approximately \$300,000.00
- The Police Department has taken on the responsibility of code enforcement actions
- Service reductions with minimal impact on residents



The Village of Wauconda is the only community that contracts for fire and ambulance services.

# If Referendum FAILS

The Village Board will make significant reductions to core services in order to offset the following projected deficits:



PASSAGE with 50% Utility Tax Cut:		FAILURE with no Utility Tax Cut:	
<u>YEARS</u>	<u>FUND BALANCE</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>FUND BALANCE</u>
2011-12	\$415,440	2011-12	-\$1,030,756
2012-13	\$251,826	2012-13	-\$2,567,468
2013-14	-\$157,514	2013-14	-\$4,349,905

## *How will the referendum question appear on the November 2nd ballot?*

### Village of Wauconda

#### Public Question Pertaining To The Annexation of Certain Territory To The Wauconda Fire Protection District

Public Question on the annexation of territory consisting of all real estate lying within the boundaries of the Village of Wauconda, Illinois, to the Wauconda Fire Protection District and assuming a proportionate share of the bonded indebtedness, if any.

Legal Description and map of territory available at voting site and [www.lakecountyclerk.info](http://www.lakecountyclerk.info) or request copy at 847-377-2406.

- YES (For joining the Wauconda Fire Protection District)
- NO (Against joining the Wauconda Fire Protection District)

**NOTE:** The Wauconda Fire Protection District has no bonded indebtedness.

# Average Cost

## If Referendum *PASSES*

### Approximate Cost to the Average Homeowner if Referendum Passes:

As seen in the chart below, the approximate Property Tax for a \$200,000 home is currently \$4,138.

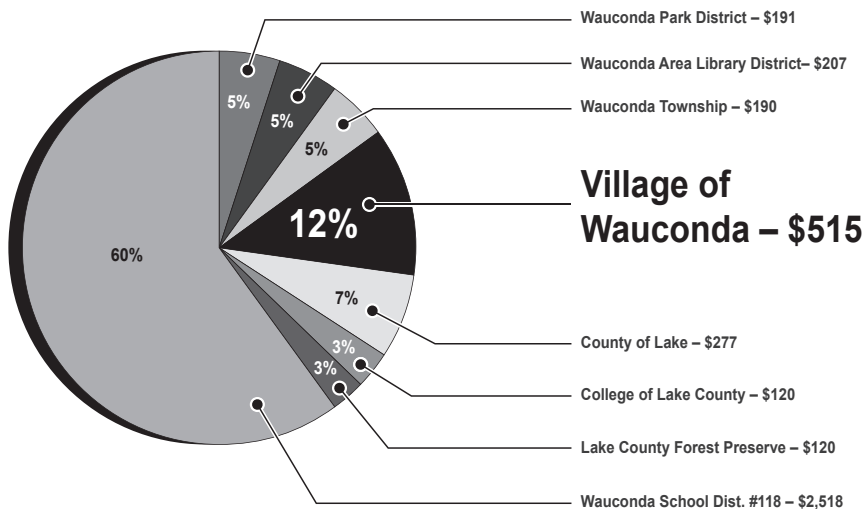
The following is an estimate of the approximate annual increase to this homeowner if the referendum passes:

Annual Property Tax	\$4,138
New Fire/Ambulance Tax	\$ 269
	\$4,407
Reduced Utility Tax (50%)	-\$ 110
	\$4,297

Approx. Annual Increase: \$159 (or \$3.06 per week)



### Property Tax Breakdown by Agency for a home valued at \$200,000 Approximate Property Tax: \$4,138 (In the Wauconda Township Area)



As you can see in the chart to the left, the Village of Wauconda receives approximately \$515 in property taxes on a home valued at \$200,000.

Other forms of revenue are:

- Building Permit Fees
  - State Income Tax
  - Retail Sales Tax
  - Utility Tax
- Significant Loss of Current Revenue

The revenues listed above help fund core services such as Police Patrol, 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, Snow Plowing, Road Maintenance, Lake Safety, and Fire and Ambulance services with the Wauconda Fire Protection District.

# On November 2nd

*Your Vote Will Decide What Our Community Will Be in the Future...*

## If Referendum Passes

### {50% Reduction in Utility Taxes}

#### Programs that will continue if referendum **PASSES**:

- Mosquito Abatement
- Brush Pick-up
- Village Voice Newsletter
- Bangs Lake Seaweed Harvesting
- Fourth of July Fireworks

#### General Services that will continue if referendum **PASSES**:

- Village office and receptionist hours
- Village involvement in special events
- Electronic Recycling
- Parkway Tree Maintenance and Removal Service
- Snow plow response time
- Street light repairs
- Beautification of Public Areas/Streets
- Post storm brush clean-up
- Community Activity Center

#### Public Safety Services that will continue if referendum **PASSES**:

- 9-1-1 Dispatch Center remains
- Police Department maintains current service levels
- Village annexes into the Wauconda Fire Protection District
- Emergency/non-emergency response time is maintained

## If Referendum Fails

### {No Reduction in Utility Taxes}

#### Programs that will be eliminated if referendum **FAILS**:

- Mosquito Abatement
- Brush Pick-up
- Village Voice Newsletter
- Bangs Lake Seaweed Harvesting
- Fourth of July Fireworks

#### General Services that will be affected if referendum **FAILS**:

- Receptionist locations eliminated for Police, Public Works, and Building & Zoning
- Village overtime for special events eliminated
- Electronic Recycling eliminated
- Parkway Tree Maintenance and Removal Service
- Snow plow response time increases
- Reduced street lighting
- Beautification of Public Areas/Streets eliminated
- Post storm brush clean-up eliminated
- Completely rent Community Activity Center - Closed to free community use

#### Public Safety Services that will be affected if referendum **FAILS**:

- 9-1-1 Dispatch Center eliminated
- Police facility closed to Public
- Police Department will limit and/or eliminate services
- Decreased Fire & Paramedic services
- Emergency/non-emergency response time increases

#### Potential Fee Increases if Referendum **FAILS**:

- Increased charges to individuals for Ambulance Transportation
- Introduce Vehicle Sticker Fee
- Increased Building Permit Fees

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## Village Officials

MAYOR

Mark F. Knigge

VILLAGE CLERK

Ginger Irwin

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Patrick Murphy

Lincoln F. Knight

Jean Mayo

Ed Lochmayer

John F. Barbini, Ed.D

Pam Wahl

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Daniel E. Quick

CHIEF OF POLICE

Douglas R. Larsson

## Village Contact Information

Police/Fire Emergency (Voice & TTY)	911
Police Non-Emergency (Voice & TTY)	847.526.2421
Fire Non-Emergency	847.526.2821
Village Hall	847.526.9600
Building and Zoning	847.526.9609
Environmental Quality	847.526.9610
Finance Department	847.526.9600
Public Works	847.526.9610
Water Billing	847.526.9604
J.U.L.I.E. (call before you dig)	800.892.0123
Village of Wauconda website	<a href="http://www.wauconda-il.gov">www.wauconda-il.gov</a>
Police Department website	<a href="http://www.waucondapolice.com">www.waucondapolice.com</a>
Fire District website	<a href="http://www.waucondafire.org">www.waucondafire.org</a>

### VILLAGE HALL OFFICE HOURS

Village Hall is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### MEETING DATES

**Village Board** meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the Village Hall.

**Committee of the Whole** meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the Village Hall.

**Zoning Board of Appeals/Plan Commission** meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the Village Hall, when needed.

**Bangs Lake Advisory Committee** meetings are held quarterly on the fourth Monday of February, May, August, and November at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the Village Hall.

*the Village Voice*

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