

Fire District No. 3

TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS

FIRE DISTRICT LEVY CAP REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT #3 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX CAP LEVY REFERENDUM ON

DECEMBER 4, 2025

RESOLUTION 25-12-04-120

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45 provides that in preparation of its budget a fire district shall limit any increase in its property tax levy to two percent (2.0%) over the previous year's amount to be raised by taxation, subject to certain exceptions and additions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.46(b), permits a fire district to increase amount to be raised by taxation by a percentage rate greater than two percent (2.0%) where said increase is approved by referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number No. 3 in The Township of Hanover, in the County of Morris has called for a referendum question pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.46(b) to be held on the third Saturday in February because it finds it advisable and necessary to increase its 2026 amount to be raised by taxation budget by more than two percent (2.0%) over the 2025 amount to be raised by taxation, to provide and maintain essential district services for the residents of the district; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number No. 3 in the Township of Hanover, hereby determines that a 23.5% increase in the amount to be raised by taxation or \$527,193 in excess of the increase in the amount to be raised by taxation otherwise permitted by a two (2.0%) tax levy cap, will only become effective upon authorization by an affirmative vote of in excess of fifty percent (50%) of the voters casting a ballot at the referendum and,

WHEREAS, this additional amount will be appropriated for the purposes set forth below, increasing the total appropriation for each such purpose from what would otherwise be provided under the limitations of a two percent (2.0%) tax levy cap, as set forth below:

Line item name	Amount for referendum
Salaries and wages and related fringe benefits allow the district to maintain staffing that provides the current level of service required. These increases stem from contractual raises, pension contributions and other benefits required for full time staffing due to decreased availability of volunteers and part time personnel.	\$384,779
Operation and Maintenance funds support basic and advanced training, the replacement of outdated equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment. This ensures operational efficiency and safety. Vendor pricing has also increased over the last 12 months.	\$137,914
Administration, these funds allow for measures in recruiting volunteer members to supplement career staffing and to better provide Fire and EMS services, as well as increased vendor costs due to inflation.	\$4,500.00
Total	\$527,193

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the question to be placed on the ballot shall be as follows:

"Shall the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number #3 in The Township of Hanover be authorized to increase the 2026 amount to be raised by taxation in the Fire District annual budget, by 23.5% or \$527,193 as provided by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45, notwithstanding that its amount to be raised by taxation will exceed the two percent (2.0%) increase limitation.

___ Yes

___ No

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

A "yes" vote will authorize the Board of Commissioners of the fire district to adopt the budget that was approved by the Board. N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45 provides a tax levy "cap" of two percent (2.0%) on the amount of increase. This amount can be exceeded when approved by referendum of the voters.

The following are those line items to which the increases apply:

Administration

Operations and Maintenance

If referendum is approved (a "yes" vote), the amount to be raised by taxation will include this amount.

The Board of Fire Commissioners has identified the following as reasons why this tax increase is necessary:

1. **Rising Operational Costs:** The day to day costs of running a fire department have gone up. Fuel, utilities, insurance, technology, and general maintenance continue to increase each year from inflation alone.
2. **Personnel Expenses:** In order to keep providing the current level of service that we provide, we need to increase personnel on hand to respond to the increased call volume. Associated personnel costs such as contractual raises, pension contributions, and other benefits have increased.
3. **Equipment Upgrades and Maintenance:** Equipment must be kept up to date and in good working condition in order to make sure we are providing the best services and patient care that we can. The replacing of and maintenance of these tools is prudent for successful operation.
4. **Expanded Services or Coverage:** The district has sought to expand our services to better ensure a more effective and efficient response to requests for emergency response services (such as fire and emergency medical services), or comply with updated safety standards and regulations. Expanding services requires additional resources and funding.

These factors, individually or in combination, contribute to the need for increased funding through fire district taxes. The aim is to ensure that emergency services can continue to effectively respond to crises, safeguard the community, and adapt to evolving challenges and demands. The District has always acted in the most financially prudent way to contain costs, however, inevitably, such as in the past year, costs will escalate faster than anticipated.

A "**no**" vote means that the Board of Commissioners must adopt the budget within the increase limits otherwise set forth by the law. In this instance the District would need to scale back staffing and costs associated with effective services, which would eliminate some services and personnel, severely affecting our response capabilities and ability to respond to the emergencies at hand.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said referendum be, and the same is scheduled for **February 21, 2026**, between the hours of **2:00 and 9:00 P.M.**, prevailing time, in the manner provided by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget of the Board of Commissioners of Fire District No. 3 of The Township of Hanover for 2026 is hereby authorized to be published in the Daily Record of Morris County, December 21, 2025

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the budget will be held at the 82 Ridgedale Ave, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927, on January 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM at which time and place objections to said budget may be presented by taxpayers or other interested parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution, shall be transmitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, within 3 days after adoption with the recorded vote included thereon.

It is hereby certified that this resolution is adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners on the **4th** day of December, 2025.

Gary E. Keyser / gkeyser@htfd3.com

Gary E. Keyser, Chairman

Fire District No. 3

TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS

Certification

I, **Gary Keyser**, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 3, Township of Hanover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the Commissioners at a meeting held on the **4th** day of **December, 2025** duly adopted the attached resolution;

RESOLUTION 25-12-04-120 FIRE DISTRICT LEVY CAP REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

This resolution was introduced by Commissioner:

☐ **DeSimone** ☒ **Dugan, Sr.** ☐ **Gallagher** ☐ **Harrington** ☐ **Keyser**

and was seconded by Commissioner

☐ **DeSimone** ☐ **Dugan, Sr.** ☒ **Gallagher** ☒ **Harrington** ☐ **Keyser**

Record of the Vote

	DeSimone	Dugan, Sr.	Gallagher	Harrington	Keyser
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

Gary E. Keyser / gkeyser@htfd3.com

Gary E. Keyser, Chairman