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The City of Bluffdale, Utah

## PROPOSITION INFORMATION PAMPHLET

For the referendum that has been filed to put the approval of Resolution No. 2022-36, entitled, “A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEVYING TAXES WITHIN THE CITY OF BLUFFDALE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23” on the General Election Ballot scheduled for November 8, 2022, for the residents to vote “FOR” or “AGAINST”.

This pamphlet includes:

1. A copy of the referendum application (pg. 2)
2. An argument submitted by the sponsors (pg. 17)
3. An argument submitted by Bluffdale City (pg. 18)
4. A copy of the Fiscal and Legal Impact Statement provided by the Bluffdale City Budget Officer and Legal Counsel (pg. 20)

**TO BE CIRCULATED WITH REFERENDUM PETITION SIGNATURE SHEETS**

Referendum Petition Application

August 19, 2022

Application for a Referendum pursuant to Utah Code, Title 20A, Chapter 7, Section 602 and Utah Code, Title 20A, Chapter 7, Section 613 on Bluffdale City Council's Resolution No. 2022-36 at the Truth in Taxation hearing held August 16, 2022 to "set, establish, and adopt the tax rate of 0.001519 for the purpose of levying personal and real property taxes within the City for the general fund during the Fiscal Year 2022-2023" which exceeds Bluffdale's certified property tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and is a tax increase of 31% according to Salt Lake County Auditor, Chris Harding. Passed by a margin of 3 votes in favor (T. Crockett, W. Aston, M. Hales), 2 against (D. Kallas, J. Gaston).

RECEIVED  
AUG 22 2022  
BLUFFDALE CITY  
3:54 pm  
TL

Name TAMARA LEE RASMUSSEN

Address 14044 S REDWOOD RD BLUFFDALE, UT 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Tamara Lee Rasmussen  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

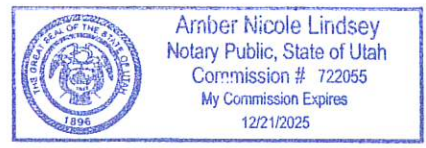
STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Tamara Lee Rasmussen  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]



My commission expires: 12/21/25

[SEAL]

# Referendum Petition Application

August 19, 2022

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BLUFFDALE CITY

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Name Connie Robbins

Address 14455 SO 2585 W.

Bluffdale, UT

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Connie Robbins  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

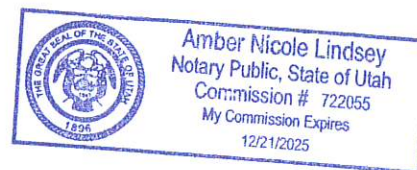
On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Connie Robbins (Connie Robbins)  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]

My commission expires: 12/21/2025



[SEAL]

Referendum Petition Application

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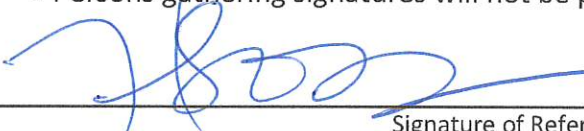
Name Heidi Carlson Sorensen

Address 13920 S. 1835 W

Bluffdale, UT 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.



Signature of Referendum Sponsor


STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

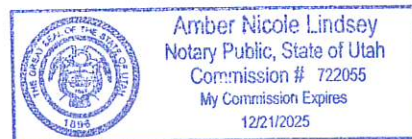
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Heidi Carlson Sorensen

Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: 



My commission expires: 12/21/25

[SEAL]

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BLUFFDALE CITY

3:54 pm  
TT

Name LaMont E Robbins

Address 14455 So 2585 W

Bluffdale UT 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

LaMont E Robbins  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

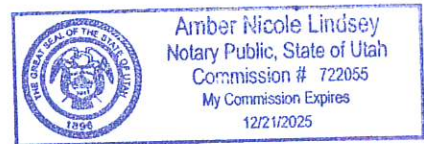
STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

LaMont E Robbins (LaMont Robbins)  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]



My commission expires: 12/21/25

[SEAL]

Referendum Petition Application

August 19, 2022

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AUG 22 2022  
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9:14 PM  
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Application for a Referendum pursuant to Utah Code, Title 20A, Chapter 7, Section 602 and Utah Code, Title 20A, Chapter 7, Section 613 on Bluffdale City Council's Resolution No. 2022-36 at the Truth in Taxation hearing held August 16, 2022 to "set, establish, and adopt the tax rate of 0.001519 for the purpose of levying personal and real property taxes within the City for the general fund during the Fiscal Year 2022-2023" which exceeds Bluffdale's certified property tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and is a tax increase of 31% according to Salt Lake County Auditor, Chris Harding. Passed by a margin of 3 votes in favor (T. Crockett, W. Aston, M. Hales), 2 against (D. Kallas, J. Gaston).

Name Tressa Lee Christensen

Address 2295 W. Spencer Crest Drive

Bluffdale, UTAH 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Tressa Christensen

Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

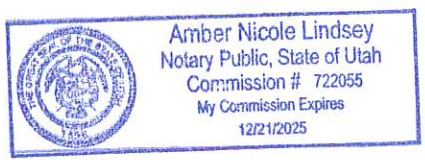
On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Tressa Lee Christensen

Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]



My commission expires: 12/21/25

[SEAL]

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Name Taylene Burnham Lund

Address 13845 S. 2200W.

Bluffdale, UT 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Taylene Lund  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

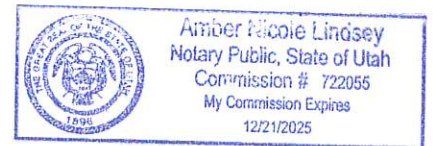
On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Taylene Lund  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]

My commission expires: 12/21/25



[SEAL]

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Name Sara Freeman

Address 14382 S. Heritage View Cove

Bluffdale, UT 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

S. Freeman

Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

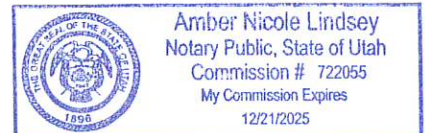
On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Sara Freeman

Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]



My commission expires: 12/21/25

[SEAL]

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*5:54 pm  
TT*

Name Dawna Dewegeli

Address 1520 River Willow Ct. Bluffdale, Utah 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Dawna Dewegeli  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

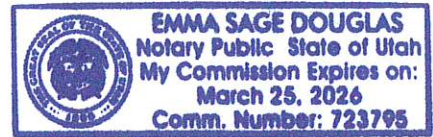
STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Dawna Dewegeli  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: Emma Sage Douglas



My commission expires: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[SEAL]

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August 19, 2022

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Name George H Fish

Address 13951 South 1835 West  
BLUFFDALE UT 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

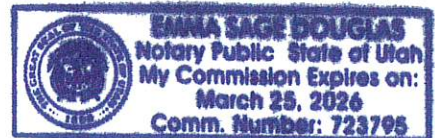
George Fish

Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so

Notary Public: Emma Sage Douglas

My commission expires: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026



[SEAL]

Referendum Petition Application

August 19, 2022

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H

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Name Lillian K Fish

Address 13931 S 1835 W

Bluffdale UT 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Lillian K Fish  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

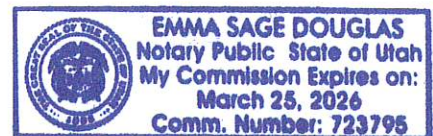
STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Lillian Fish  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: Emma Sage Douglas



My commission expires: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

[SEAL]

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Name Clarence Thomas Morse

Address 14016 So 1850 W  
Bluffdale Utah 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

[Signature]  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

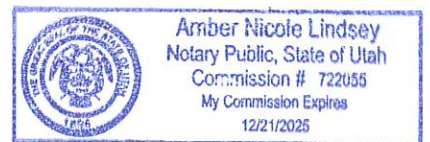
STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Clarence Thomas Morse  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]



My commission expires: 12/21/25

[SEAL]

Referendum Petition Application

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BLUFFDALE CITY

*Handwritten initials: A.W.L. pm #*

August 19, 2022

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Name Alan Walter Lord

Address 3754 W. Pheasant Hollow Ln

Bluffdale UT 84065

I declare:

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- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

*Handwritten signature of Alan W. Lord*

Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

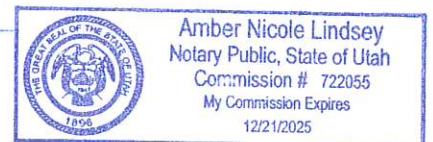
On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

*Handwritten signature of Alan Walter Lord*

Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: *Handwritten signature of Amber Nicole Lindsey*



My commission expires: 12/21/25

[SEAL]

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3:54 pm  
TT

Name Kelly Mower

Address 13842 S. 1950 W  
Bluffdale UT- 84065

I declare:

- I am a sponsor of the above-referenced referendum,
- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Kelly Mower  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

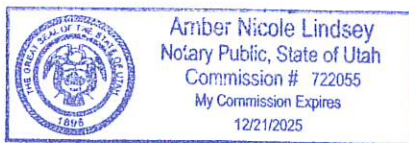
On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Kelly Mower  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]

My commission expires: 12/21/25



[SEAL]

Referendum Petition Application

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Name Lee Reed Crapo

Address 2123 W 14200 S

Riverton UT 84065

I declare:

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- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Lee Reed Crapo  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

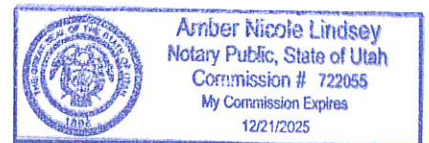
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Lee Reed Crapo  
Referendum Sponsor Name

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Notary Public: [Signature]

My commission expires: 12/21/25



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9:54 pm  
H

Name Jill Launna Mower

Address 13842 S. 1950 W.

Riverton, Ut 84065

I declare:

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- I am a registered voter in Utah, and
- Persons gathering signatures will not be paid.

Jill Launna Mower  
Signature of Referendum Sponsor

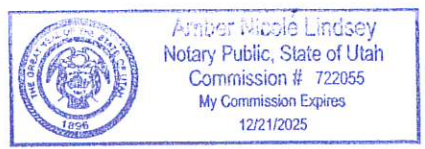
STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

On the 21 day of AUGUST, 2022, before me personally appeared

Jill Launna Mower (Jill Launna Mower)  
Referendum Sponsor Name

to me known to be the person named herein, and duly acknowledged that in signing this document is acting on his/her own volition and is under no constraint or undue influence to do so.

Notary Public: [Signature]



My commission expires: 12/25/2025

[SEAL]

Argument Against Bluffdale Property Tax Increase

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BLUFFDALE CITY

It is highly inappropriate to increase taxes, especially a 31% increase to property taxes, during historic inflationary times. Tax increases negatively impact the poorest among us first. Our city has young families that cannot afford homes, families that cannot pay their utilities and rents due to already existing inflationary trickle down from landlords, families that struggle to put food on tables now, and many in our city on fixed incomes that absolutely cannot afford a 31% increase to property taxes.

*W. M. M.*

Businesses with a property tax increase will pass that down to consumers whose dollar is already decreased in inflationary value.

We support our Fire and Police, recognize their vital work, and want them to be compensated justly. Increasing taxes in grossly historic inflationary times is not the answer, strategic budgeting is.

Signed,

- Tammy Rasmussen 14044 South Redwood Road, Bluffdale, UT 84065
- Connie Robbins 14455 South 2585 West, Bluffdale, UT 84065
- Delynn Summers 14002 South Redwood Road, Bluffdale, UT 84065
- Terri Summers 14002 South Redwood Road, Bluffdale, UT 84065
- Alan Lord 3754 W. Pheasant Hollow Lane, Bluffdale, UT 84065
- George Fish 13931 South 1835 West, Bluffdale, UT 84065
- Lillian Fish 13931 South 1835 West, Bluffdale, UT 84065
- Lee Crapo 2123 West 14200 South, Riverton, UT 84065
- Heidi Sorensen 13920 South 1835 West, Bluffdale, UT 84065

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SEP 12 2022

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4:04 pm

## **Vote For Proposition #10 To Support the City Council's Service Level Commitments**

Many in our City have been asking questions about the increase in the Certified Tax Rate ("CTR"). They have asked how it is calculated, how the increase was determined, and what would be the impact if the City did not increase the rate.

### **How is the CTR Calculated?**

The State and County are the ones that calculate the CTR for us. Last year our CTR was 0.001519. The initial CTR calculated by the State and County for this year was 0.001161. The lower initial rate is due to increased valuations.

### **Why did the City keep the rate from last year?**

The Council has reviewed the City's needs in detail. They concluded that the City would need a property tax increase to increase the service levels of the fire and police departments and maintain the service levels of the other City departments.

To raise additional property tax revenue, the Council approved an increase in the CTR from the 0.001161 initially calculated, to the same rate we had last year, which was 0.001519. This rate increase will generate an additional **\$558,755** for the city.

### **What is the increase per household in Bluffdale?**

The county also provides us with the average home value in Bluffdale. That average is \$691,200. The tax increase for the average Bluffdale home would be \$136 per year or \$11.34 per month. This increase does not include any tax increase from the school district or other taxing entities on your tax statement.

### **Where will the additional money go?**

The City Council approved higher than normal increases in wages for our public safety personnel: our fire department and police department. They also approved funds to hire additional personnel to increase the service levels in both departments. These wage increases for these two departments total **\$620,208**.

Although property taxes are not specifically allocated to our emergency services departments, it is insightful to correlate the cost with the very stable property tax revenue. Historically our property taxes pay about 45-50% of the public safety costs. Without this increase, property taxes will only cover 36% of the public safety cost.

Unlike some other cities that have created expensive service districts for public safety services, our property taxes, including the proposed increase, together with our other tax revenue sources like sales taxes and franchise taxes are used to pay for our public safety departments as well paying for maintaining the service levels of all the other departments in the City. These services include maintaining our streets, parks, trails, and storm water systems, and other services such as recreation opportunities, engineering, planning, building, code enforcement, and administrative services.

If the taxes are not increased, the City Council will need to approve reducing service levels for some or all of the departments, or to approve leaving the service levels at their current budgeted amounts and using some of the City's rainy-day funds in order to make up the difference.

For additional information: <https://www.bluffdale.com/681/Tax-Referendum-Information>.

## **FISCAL AND LEGAL IMPACT ESTIMATE**

### **Fiscal Impact of Repealing the Resolution**

Repealing the resolution increasing the certified tax rate will have an effect on both revenues and expenditures. Both will be reduced as described below.

#### **Effect on Property Tax Revenues**

Repealing the resolution which increased the certified tax rate will decrease the amount of property tax revenue collected by the City of Bluffdale (“City”) by \$558,755 for the current fiscal year 2022-2023 . This revenue decrease only impacts the General Fund where the property taxes are reported.

The property tax revenue also will be decreased in all future years. The decrease in future years is unknown but will be at least equal to the \$558,755 current year decrease.

#### **Effect on Expenditures**

By State Law, individual property taxes do not increase with inflation or increases in property values. Because there is no inflation factor in the revenue, repealing the resolution will reduce the purchasing power of the property tax portion of the City’s revenue.

To offset the decreased purchasing power caused by high inflation, and to overcome ongoing hiring and wage challenges, the City passed the property tax increase. This increase is necessary to meet the departmental service level requirements of the City. In the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget, the City planned to leave most of the department services at the same level they have been. However, both the fire department and the police department were allocated additional funds to increase their respective service levels.

To offset the decreased revenue, the City Council will need to determine which City services to reduce. Because the revenue decreases are both current and future year decreases, those service level reductions would need to continue into the future.

#### **Effect on Bonds or Other Debt**

No effect is anticipated on bonds, notes, or other debt instruments.

#### **Estimated Cost or Saving of Repeal**

Revenue or expenditures for other taxing entities will not otherwise materially change if the ordinance is repealed.

#### **Legal Impact**

Repealing the resolution will not significantly impact any person's vested property rights. Repealing the resolution will affect the budget passed by the City on August 16, 2022. It will create a budget shortfall by making unavailable funds currently earmarked for the salary and benefits of city employees, including public safety personnel. It is unclear at this time whether that would cause any other significant legal impact or liabilities.

### **Summary of Total Estimated Fiscal Impact**

Repealing the certified tax rate will reduce revenue by \$558,755 in fiscal year 2022-2023. The full impact in future years cannot be estimated because future growth of the City is unknown, but revenue will be reduced at least \$558,755 in each future year.

To offset the decreased revenue, the City Council will need to determine which City services to reduce. Because the revenue decreases are both current and future year decreases, those service level reductions would need to continue into the future.