

# RESOLUTION NO.

CITY OF PEORIA

Peoria, Illinois \_\_\_\_\_,

2020

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING A PUBLIC QUESTION TO REFERENDUM  
PERTAINING TO THE FIREFIGHTERS PENSION TAX (ADVISORY REFERENDUM)**

WHEREAS, the City of Peoria is a home rule unit of local government under and pursuant to Section 6 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Illinois and has the authority to exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, including but not limited to the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council may place a public question for Advisory Referendum on the ballot pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/28-2 and the statute on Statutes, 5 ILCS 70/1.11; and

WHEREAS, January 19, 2021 is the deadline to adopt a Resolution placing and advisory public question on the April 6, 2021 ballot; and

WHEREAS, Article 4 of the Illinois Pension Code establishes the rules and benefits for firefighters' pensions; and

WHEREAS, the Pension Board currently decides the investment of the pension fund assets; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2019 the State of Illinois enacted SB 1300 (Public Act 101-0610) that will consolidate the assets of the state's 650 downstate public safety pension funds into two consolidated investment funds, one for police officers and one for firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the law requires the mandatory consolidation of the investment assets of Peoria's firefighter pension fund into the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund no later than June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, once consolidated, the investment of the firefighter pension fund assets will be under the authority and control of the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund but the local board will still determine benefit distribution and determinations, including pension disability awards; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois establishes benefit levels but makes no financial contribution to the firefighters pension funds; and

WHEREAS, the firefighter pension fund receives its' funding from three main sources: (1) individual employees contribution rate of 9.455%, as set by statute, (2) income from the investment of the pension fund assets, and (3) the City's statutorily required payment to make up any shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Insurance has calculated the City's unfunded firefighters pension liability at \$156,000,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City currently levies a Fire Pension Fund Tax pursuant to 40 ILCS 5/4-118; and

WHEREAS, the existing rate is not sufficient to make the required annual contribution; and

WHEREAS, the state funding mandate has required the City to increase contributions to the pension fund and the City has raised that revenue through a combination of other taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, the growing pension cost is forcing the City to cut services; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the firefighters pension levy would ease the financial burden on the City's General Fund and help limit the reduction in services provided to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Pension Fund Tax could be increased without a referendum, however the City Council desires input from its citizens on the question of whether to increase the Firefighters Pension Tax.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, THAT:**

Section 1. The following public question is hereby submitted for the April 6, 2021 election:

Shall the City of Peoria increase its existing Fire Pension tax levy on an annual basis to fully fund fire pensions?	YES	
	NO	

Section 2. Pursuant to the Illinois Election code, the aforementioned public question shall be advisory only.

Section 3. This public question is intended for the April 6, 2021 election.

Section 4. The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the City of Peoria election Commission forthwith.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporation Counsel