

MARK A. MACDONNELL

ATTORNEY AT LAW
437 SIXTH STREET
LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO 81054

(719) 456-2624
FAX NO. (719) 456-2625
e-mail: mark@macdonnell-law.com

April 22, 2010

Division of Local Government
1313 Sherman Street, Suite #521
Attn: Cynthia Thayer
Denver, CO 80203

Via E-mail: cynthia.thayer@state.co.us

Re: Las Animas-Bent County Fire Protection District

Dear Ms. Thayer:

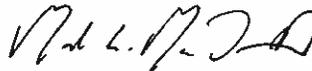
This letter follows your correspondence dated April 14, 2010 to Charmaine Tripp or Budget Officer, Las Animas-Bent County Fire Protection District. The reference in your letter was to the 2010 Statutory Property Tax Revenue Limitation of the Tax Entity: Las Animas-Bent County Fire Protection District (06006/1). As an initial matter, I would state that the letter was mis-addressed both in terms of person and address. In the future, I would request that correspondence from the Department of Local Affairs to the Las Animas-Bent County Fire Protection District be directed to my attention, at 437 6th Street, Las Animas, CO 81054.

Second, as I indicated in our telephone conversation, the Las Animas-Bent County Fire Protection District did in fact have a successful mill levy election to increase the District's property tax revenue or levy for operating purposes. I am attaching to this e-mail the Board of Canvassers Certification showing the successful passage of the mill levy question. I am also enclosing a sample ballot, so that you can review the ballot language (see Referendum 5A on the Sample Ballot).

It is my understanding that with this correspondence and attached documentation, the "Official Notice" has been addressed and that the Division will not be entering an Order to reduce property tax revenues. If my understanding is not correct, I would request that you contact me immediately. If my understanding is correct, I would appreciate follow-up correspondence from you at your convenience indicating that fact.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Mark A. MacDonnell

MAM/km

cc: William Deal

Sample Ballot

Re-1 & 5A

OFFICIAL BALLOT
COORDINATED ELECTION
Bent County, Colorado
November 03, 2009

Style 4 Re 1 and 5A

County Clerk and Recorder

Patti Nickell

"Ballot issues referred by the general assembly or any political subdivision are listed by letter, and ballot issues initiated by the people are listed numerically. A "yes" vote on any ballot issue is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a "no" vote on any ballot issue is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances."

Instruction Text:

Please use a black or blue pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box provided to the left of your choice.

WARNING: Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both."

Referendum 5A

Vote Yes or No

SHALL LAS ANIMAS/BENT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED \$76,761.00 IN 2009 AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL LEVY OF TWO (2) MILLS, ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE LAS ANIMAS/BENT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF AN AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT; AND BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND EXPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES, NOT WITHSTANDING THE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

YES

NO

Office of School Board Director Las Animas School District RE-1

Four Year Terms

Vote for Two

- Joelene Gonzales
- Stacy W. Hays
- Simona Gallegos
- Betty L. Clark
- Matthew A. Chavez
- Robert Sonny Smith

BOARD OF CANVASSERS CERTIFICATION

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF Bent }

This form to be used for OFFICIAL RETURNS only, and to be filed in the appropriate Election Official's Office.

We the undersigned Board of Canvassers of the Election Returns for Las Animas, Colorado, do hereby certify that the attached record(s) consisting of _____ page(s) is a true, full and correct copy of the OFFICIAL Abstract of all votes cast at a Coordinated election, on the 3rd day of November, 2009, as reported by the returns of the several Election Precincts of jurisdiction now in the County of _____.

Witness our hands and seals the _____ day of _____, 2009

Attest:

ELECTION OFFICIAL

L. Edwards
Member of Canvassing Board

By Lynda G. Moss, Deputy
Deputy or Assistant

Shirley J. Quastler
Member of Canvassing Board

Member of Canvassing Board

Member of Canvassing Board



	Ballot Style 8-3	Ballot Style 9-2	Ballot Style 10-1	Ballot Style Re-1 & 5A	STYLE Re-1	Property Owners	TOTALS
LA LIGHT AND POWER							
2 - FOUR YEAR TERMS							
2 - TWO YEAR TERMS							
VOTE FOR FOUR							
LORAN W. BRUNDAGE	192	131	172	X	X	X	495
WILLIAM E. DEAL	173	103	144	X	X	X	420
DAVID R. ENCINIAS	205	124	169	X	X	X	498
K. MICHAEL KESTER	195	111	159	X	X	X	465
CITY COUNCIL							
WARD 8-3							
VOTE FOR ONE							
JANICE LASALLE	219	X	X	X	X	X	219
WARD 9-2							
VOTE FOR ONE							
WARD 10-2							
1 - FOUR YEAR TERM							
1 - TWO YEAR TERM							
VOTE FOR TWO							
MICHAEL DIEZ	X	X	106	X	X	X	106
JUNE GONZALES	X	X	100	X	X	X	100
CLARICE NAVARRO-RATZLAFF	X	X	182	X	X	X	182
ELIZABETH YBARRA	X	136	X	X	X	X	136

Las Animas Re-1																			
School Board																			
FOUR YEAR TERM																			
VOTE FOR TWO																			
JOELENE GONZALES	45	37	46	54	0	X	182												
STACY W. HAYS	79	44	59	154	6	X	342												
SIMONA GALLEGOS	106	69	101	72	3	X	351												
BETTY L. CLARK	35	22	19	44	1	X	121												
MATTHEW A. CHAVEZ	38	34	37	57	3	X	169												
ROBERT SONNY SMITH	199	117	150	269	14	X	749												
REF 5 A FIRE/AMBULANCE																			
YES	225	119	168	272	X	18	802												
NO	42	52	57	96	X	5	252												