

**RUMOR CENTRAL
STATEMENT #1**

The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District Referendum

The following misrepresentation of the facts are circulating.

STATEMENT: The initial five-member Board of the Fire District is appointed by the Governor, 2 members for 2 years and 3 members for 4 years. That means for the first four years, we are at the mercy of the majority of 3 out of 5 appointed Board members. They can raise our Fire Taxes, make long term agreements with the Developer, borrow millions or issue bonds, etc. The list is endless, and we are voting in good faith that they will do right by us. What if they don't? What if they raise our Fire Taxes 25%? There is nothing we can do about it.

FACT: How the Board is appointed is correct. However, the rest of the statement is false.

The referendum puts strict limits on any tax increase. The funding formula consists of 3 parts

- A flat fee of \$124 per rooftop. This fee can only be increased if Florida personal income over the previous 5 years increases.
- \$0.75 per \$1000 of relative improvement value (i.e., market value minus land value.) This 0.75 rate cannot be increased.
- An optional rate of no more than 1 mill on taxable value. This millage rate cannot be increased.