



## **Professional Firefighters of Eastern Missouri IAFF Local 2665**

115 McMenemy · St. Peters, Missouri 63376

*Dennis Murray · President*

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3/17/2026

# **No to the Property Tax Freeze**

For many of our members and the communities we serve, there will be a pivotal decision on the April ballot. Voters in St. Charles, Jefferson, Franklin, and Warren counties are all going to be presented with a property tax measure that would limit how much a home's taxable value can increase for property tax purposes. Tax credits from these measures would result in indefinitely flat revenue growth for fire districts, ambulance districts, schools, libraries, and disability services. These public services, and the members of the community they serve, are all going to suffer drastically by these property tax freeze measures.

Our members' Fire and Ambulance Districts are primarily funded by property taxes. Our industry experiences the same inflationary operating costs as any other, and is permitted to a limited growth of revenue that is tightly restricted by Missouri law. These freezes would eliminate that growth, forcing all of these public services to go back to the voters frequently for new tax levies or otherwise cut critical services. Tax levies are notoriously difficult to pass, and expensive, so this will have dangerous consequences for our residents. As services regress, you can expect the value of visiting and living in our communities to fall as well.

Our leadership team and affiliate IAFF Locals worked alongside Missouri legislators for decades to create a responsible way to replace property tax as our primary funding source. This April, some voters will also see the first fruits of that effort. Propositions F, Fire, & EMS are one-percent sales tax measures dedicated to emergency services that cause a reduction in property tax rates. For many of our members' agencies, these sales taxes could maintain services while providing significant property tax relief for their residents. However, these measures still need to be approved by voters, and in areas with low economic activity, they may not offset the lost revenue from a property tax freeze. The other public services affected by the freeze do not even have such potential funding alternatives available.

We firmly believe that these property tax freezes are dangerous for the public that our members swear to protect. They will force our members' agencies to provide less training, reduce maintenance, and push our life-saving and protective equipment past their service lives. We ask every voter to say no to freeze measures like Prop. RT, Question 1, Prop. T, and SB3, which threaten to dismantle our fire and ambulance services.

Garrett Ryan

Political Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garrett Ryan'.