



El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

515 Main Street Ste. 103 • Placerville, CA 95667

Email: clerk@edcfiresafe.org • Main Office: (530) 647-1700

Board Meeting Agenda April 15, 2026 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

American Legion
4561 Greenstone Road, Placerville

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Roll Call: Sign In
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Consent Calendar **Board Action Item**
 - a. Meeting Agenda: 04/15/2026
 - b. Board Meeting Minutes: 3/18/2026
5. New Business
 - a. El Dorado Ready Campaign Endorsement/Support- **Board Action Items** - Paul Penn
 - Item 1: Endorsement
 - Item 2: Support
 - b. Proposed Office Space – Angel Ball
6. Old Business
7. Executive Board Reports:
 - a. Chairman’s Report & Communication: Ken Pimlott
 - b. Vice-Chair Report: Dorothy Fine
 - c. Parliamentary Report: Paul Penn
 - d. Secretary Report: Angel Ball
 - Elections and Renewals
 - Governance and New Council Formation
 - e. Treasurers Report: Janet Barentson
 - Treasurer Report 03/31/2026 - **Board Action Item**



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8. Partners Reports:

- a. **BLM:** TBA
- b. **CAL FIRE:** Jeff Hoag/Brian Pooley
- c. **Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience:** Tanya Harlow
- d. **EDC Fire Chiefs Association:** TBA
- e. **EDC FPO Association:** TBA
- f. **ENF:** Brad Stewart
- g. **RCD:** Courtney Jackson
- h. **SMUD:** Eric Brown
- i. **PG&E:** Mike Webb
- j. **EDSO:** Lt. Blake Braafladt
- k. **BOR:** Zarela Guerrero/John Hutchings

9. Program Reports:

- a. **Grants & Funding/Grants Committee:** Tamara Johnston
 - CWPP Planning Area Meetings
- b. **Assistance Programs:** Jessica Isabel
 - Chipping
 - Defensible Space
 - Hazard Tree Removal
- c. **Training Committee:** Elizabeth Standeven
- d. **Outreach & Education:** Dorothy Fine

10. Community Council Reports

11. Public Comment – *Time limit is 3 minutes per person.*

12. Good of the Order

- a. There is no Brown Bag Session this month.
- b. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – May 20, 2026

13. Adjourn



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Board Meeting Minutes March 18, 2026 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

American Legion
4561 Greenstone Road, Placerville

1. Meeting Call to Order

9:33am

2. Roll Call: Sign In

In Person: Pimlott, Council, Barentson, Pullin, Penn, Ball, Fine, Gilchrest, Johnston, Hess, Osgood, Payne, Rogers, Willis, Zelinsky, Standeven ZOOM: Boal, Cantelow, Connelly, Hawk, Wagner

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Pimlott

4. Consent Calendar Board Action Item

- a. Meeting Agenda: 03/18/2026
- b. Board Meeting Minutes: 2/18/2026

Consent Calendar approved with no opposition.

5. New Business

NONE

6. Old Business

NONE

7. Executive Board Reports:

- a. Chairman's Report & Communication: Ken Pimlott

Brown Bag topic El Dorado County sales tax initiative presentation by Maia Schneider. Asked folks to attend the Brown Bag to be fully informed on the campaign.

- b. Vice-Chair Report: Dorothy Fine



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Reminded everyone of the giveaways on the back table. The OWPR collaboration meeting had a software program called WUUII that is defensible space assessment software, and Dorothy gave an overview of how it works.

c. **Secretary Report:** Angel Ball

EDCFSC has a logo release form that needs to be filled out when you want to use it. After filling out the form please email it to the clerk at clerk@edcfiresafe.org for E Board approval. Thanked everyone for the insurance certificate requests and said they are going well. Please email the clerk with a cc to the secretary email at secretary@edcfiresafe.org. Forward any events you are having, and Carri will post them to our website Event calendar. The request for a Good standing letter or certificate will be discussed by the E Board.

- Governance and New Council Formation
No New Council requests at this time.

d. **Treasurers Report:** Janet Barentson

- **Treasurer Report 02/28/2026 - *Board Action Item***
- Fiscal Sponsor Fees/Projected Operating Budget

The treasurer will have a new budget proposed next month. Noted 6 grants being closed out as well as new grants that we received. Treasurer's report was approved as presented with no opposition.

The Treasurer explained the fiscal sponsor fees and projected operating budget. We are doing well fiscally for just under 4 ½ years.

Kris Payne noted we are looking for new office space due to lack of space at our current location. Elizabeth Standeven asked if we will be hiring an executive coordinator and Ken Pimlott confirmed that yes, we will be.

8. **Partners Reports:**

a. **BLM:** TBA

NONE

b. **CAL FIRE:** Brian Pulley



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140 firefighters were hired. South Placerville fuel break is moving along well. Unit fire plan yearly update is in progress.

c. **Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience:** Tanya Harlow

MOU between OWPR and EDCFSC was signed. Tanya read the letter from Sue Phillips who is the new CAO. The County is now responsible for the Wildfire Workbook, and they renamed it as the Emergency Preparedness workbook. It will have more comprehensive information related to emergency preparedness as well as wildfire information. The projected date for printing is the end of April. The defensible space working group meets once a month to do inspections which are ongoing. Emphasis areas have been chosen, and Tanya explained the process on how the areas are chosen. CAL FIRE approved the extension on the grant for the county coordinator position until October 2027. Tanya explained what is involved in this position. The Firewise certificate process was explained. The OWPR website has an online mapping tool that will show the Firewise communities.

d. **EDC Fire Chiefs Association:** Tim Cordero

NONE

e. **EDC FPO Association:** TBA

NONE

f. **ENF:** Brad Stewart

The National Forest has been fully engaged with all the county groups. Let them know if there are meetings that are not being attended.

g. **RCD:** Mark Egbert **CK VIDEO**

The Regional Forest Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) supports local and regional capacity that Mark explained as well as the project pipeline on how they are developing new projects. RCD has been working with Grizzly Flats to mitigate the hazardous trees and fuels that are left over from the Caldor fire. RCD is currently working on a PG&E grant for right of way expansion as well as Fire Adapted 50 and Texas Hill projects. They will be updating procurement policies due to legislation passed for paying contractors a prevailing wage. Private landowners are the priority of the RCD. Mark also gave a synopsis of the South County projects.

h. **SMUD:** Eric Brown



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NONE

i. **PG&E: Mike Webb CK VIDEO**

Continuing to improve operations of their system as well as managing the fuels near their power poles. Wildfire Safety Progress map is on their website to see where work is current, completed, and planned. ROE expansions on transmission lines are being worked on. CEMA grants are in progress. Noted the progress of Garden Valley Fire & Georgetown Fire. Ken Pimlott noted Derick Davis and Kevin Johnson are diligently getting things done with their organization.

j. **EDSO: Lt. Blake Braafladt**

Shea Schmidt was the rep today for EDSO and noted good news on two deputies on Camino incident. Matt will be at the Diamond Springs FSC meeting and will be discussing the upcoming evacuation drill, open to all county residents, on April 18th at Union Mine. Capt. Brian Bennett will be taking over next month as the EDSO representative.

k. **BOR: Zarela Guerrero**

NONE

9. Program Reports:

a. **Grants & Funding/Grants Committee: Tamara Johnston**

We now have CA FSC grant money and need to spend it by November 30th or we lose the money. This month we are closing out five CAL FIRE grants with approximately 3,000 acres completed with these grants. Thanked PG&E for the seven grants we received for \$500,000 for AFSCs for small fuel breaks and roadside work. Noted the other grants that are in progress. Jacobie Waters, ENF, noted the work in Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant in Pollock Pines for 350 acres and should be completed by September 2027. Announced planning area meetings that are for people knowledgeable in fire reduction projects and not the public. Lester Lubetkin thanked Tamara, Janet, and RCD on the South County project.

b. **Assistance Programs: Jessica Isabel**



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New programs are launched online. Explained the details of inputting addresses. Hazardous tree applications are anticipated to launch in mid-April. Ken Pimlott noted that we are now managing this program in house.

- Chipping - YTD
 - Jobs Completed – 62
 - Acres Cleared -106
 - Cubic Yards Chipped-18,255
 - Total Cost - \$25,989.37

- Defensible Space - YTD
 - Parcels Evaluated – 76
 - Parcels Cleared – 29
 - Of the Parcels Cleared:
 - 8-veterans
 - 27-seniors
 - 9-low income
 - 13-disabled
 - Average Cost Per Parcel - \$1,286.48
 - Total Cost - \$48,876.47

- Hazard Tree Removal - YTD
 - Parcels Completed – 24
 - Trees Identified – 36
 - Trees Cut – 86
 - Average Tree Cost - \$609.66
 - Average Job Cost - \$2,561.91
 - Total Cost - \$61,052.50

c. **Training Committee:** Elizabeth Standeven

Thanked our partner agencies CAL FIRE and OWPR for all their work involved with getting the training together. March 23rd from 9am-4pm is the assessor refresher training at the American Legion Hall. April 13-14 is the training for new assessors that will be at the American Legion Hall as well. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table.

d. **Outreach & Education:** Dorothy Fine



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AFSCs send events to Carri to post on Facebook and our Event Calendar on our website. Thanked Elizabeth Standeven for stepping up to be at the Home & Garden show on May 1-3. May 2 is the Placerville Wildfire Safety Day at the Midtown Mall in Placerville. The County Fair is June 18-21 and we still need volunteers. We will be updating equipment for events with the CA FSC grant money we received.

10. Community Council Reports

Ken Rogers-Logtown FSC -Senator Alvarado-Gill spoke at our March meeting and is cosponsoring four bills that are listed on her website for details. We will be having a green waste day in May.

Karen Pullin Mosquito FSC – Displayed boundary maps that the CA Fair Plan needs for people to receive insurance discounts. Community wildfire evacuation history map was also brought to show. Thanked their new chiefs in Mosquito-Scott Bravo and command staff who are very supportive. Spring Into Action Brunch is March 28th with CAL FIRE reps that will be there and will be advocating free assessments. On May 30th, we will have the OES Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation event announcing the new red flag warning program.

Hassan Ebrahimi-Nuyken– Sierra Springs FSC – Noted all the damage from the recent snowstorm in their community. March meeting discussed agreement with their HOA on how to handle their downed trees. Thanked PG&E, Tamara Johnston and Mark Egbert for getting their grant of \$100,000 that will help with the work on Starkes Grade and Sierra Springs. The communities' green waste event will be May 2nd.

Paul Gilchrest Greater Cameron Park FSC - Wildfire Preparedness Symposium March 12th. Insurance agents, KB Homes and IBHS were in attendance as well as OWPR. Cameron Park has California's first wildfire prepared home plus community. Reach out to CAL FIRE for 3 D sand box demos to show how your community can burn. Noted how WUI discounts are available for home hardening. Explained the advertising process for the symposium.

Bob Hess Coloma Lotus FSC – Praised the Cameron Park Wildfire Preparedness Symposium in Cameron Park. For our \$705,000 roadside fuel reduction grant CAL FIRE came up with roadside ambassadors for ROEs. April 19th is our public meeting with Tanya Harlow and Elizabeth Standeven speaking on assessment programs. Our five Firewise certificates will go on Facebook.

Lester Oak Hill FSC – Our Community Day picnic is April 25th at Oak Hill fire station for wildfire education. May 9th is our green waste day at Oak Hill's fire station.

Tamara Johnston Georgetown FSC – Our 2nd Annual Divide Wildfire Expo is April 11th at the IOOF Hall 10am-3:30pm. They will be doing Facebook ads and Georgetown Gazette for



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advertising. There will be mastication equipment, and a chain saw demo by Dave's Tree Works. Bob Hess will film the meeting inside the hall.

Paul Penn Diamond Springs FSC – EDSO will have a meeting tonight at the Diamond Springs Firemen's Hall to go over the evacuation exercise in April. Union Mine will host the evacuation exercise on April 18th. Paul also suggested that the AFSCs share information that works for them when planning events.

11. Public Comment – *Time limit is 3 minutes per person.*

Kris Payne noted Davey "Doc" Wiser passed away recently. The Mosquito bridge is about ready to do closures. 515 Main Street will have space available when we leave.

Hugh Council – Suggested to make an outline of successes of putting on events to share with councils. After June he won't be here to help set up the room before the meetings and asked if anyone can volunteer to help.

David Zelinsky - Brochures for his May 2nd event from 10am-2pm at 681 Main Street Placerville are on the back table.

Hassan Ebrahimi-Nuyken- Reported that at the United Policy Holders WRAP meeting they talked about non admitted insurers who don't meet state requirements for admitted insurance companies are in the CA Fair Plan beware of these companies. Private equity firms are getting involved as well.

12. Good of the Order

1. A Brown Bag Session will be held at 12:30 following the meeting. The topic will be the **El Dorado Ready Campaign** presented by Maia Schneider, Executive Director, Business and Strategy Development, Marshall Medical.
 - a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – April 15, 2026

13. Adjourn

11:56am

Meeting minutes typed by Carri Lueck, Administrative Assistant, El Dorado County Fire Safe Council



Click here to read [Full Text of the Initiative | El Dorado Ready](#)

The El Dorado County Emergency Preparedness, Healthcare Access and Wildfire Prevention Initiative

What is El Dorado Ready?

El Dorado Ready is a partnership of local healthcare leaders, firefighters, paramedics, public safety leaders, business leaders and others working to keep the residents and communities of El Dorado County safe and healthy. We must do more to prepare for emergencies by ensuring rapid 9-1-1 emergency response, preserving access to emergency rooms and quality healthcare services, and reducing the risk of wildfires in our communities.

Why are local healthcare and public safety leaders joining together to improve emergency preparedness?

In El Dorado County, lifesaving emergency preparedness and response is provided by an integrated and inseparable continuum of services that starts with the volunteers and professionals who help plan for, mitigate and prevent disasters, continues with the firefighters and paramedics who respond to emergencies and transport patients to local emergency rooms which provide life-saving medical care in emergencies, enabling patients to live healthy and productive lives. Approximately 80% of 9-1-1 emergency calls in El Dorado County are for medical emergencies like heart attacks, strokes, and accidents that require rapid response and often require patients to be transported to the nearest hospital emergency room.

How do these efforts impact Marshall Hospital?

By law, all hospitals must meet stringent building safety standards by 2030 – just a few years from now. Any hospitals that do not meet these standards by the deadline will likely lose their license to operate and be forced to close. With aging facilities dating back to its founding in 1959, many of Marshall's core facilities do not meet the standards required by law and will likely be forced to close unless upgraded.

Why can't Marshall fund upgrades to meet required building safety standard without this initiative?

Like all smaller, independent hospitals, Marshall faces declining state and federal funding and is impacted by the rapidly rising cost of providing healthcare. Marshall has limited options to finance upgrades to hospital facilities to meet mandated requirements, without significantly impacting healthcare services provided and the financial viability of the hospital. In recent years, many hospitals like Marshall have been forced to close due to similar pressures, leaving those communities without a local hospital and Emergency Room. Many others are currently at risk of closure.

How would the closing of Marshall impact the health and safety of local residents?

Marshall is the primary healthcare provider serving residents of the western slope of El Dorado County, from Echo Summit to Sacramento County. Marshall's Level III Trauma Center is one of only two Emergency Rooms in El Dorado County and the only Emergency Room in the County west of Echo



Summit for victims of heart attacks, strokes, accidents and other emergencies requiring rapid treatment. Without Marshall and its Emergency Room, many residents of western El Dorado County would be more than an hour away from the nearest Emergency Room. When seconds are the difference between life and death, access to a nearby Emergency Room is essential for the safety of the community.

How would the closing of Marshall impact the local economy?

With over 1,400 employees, Marshall is the largest employer in western El Dorado County and a major contributor to the local economy. If Marshall wasn't here, the loss of jobs and related economic impact on the surrounding area would be catastrophic. Without the community's support, Marshall won't be able to provide the services local residents and visitors need and deserve.

Hospital building safety and seismic mandates have been in place for years. Why is Marshall just addressing this now?

Marshall has already spent over \$70 million to meet the state mandate. Marshall has achieved the 2020 "safe and standing" requirement. The looming 2030 deadline added additional structural requirements and mandates that hospitals be prepared to remain fully open for at least three days after a major seismic event, which means three days of operational water, gases, power, fuel, food, supplies, etc and it's these additional costs – which do nothing to enhance or improve access to care – that Marshall has left to complete. California's Health Care Access & Information division (HCAI) has set forth a series of milestones for hospitals to meet to comply with the 2030 deadline and Marshall is meeting those milestones on schedule.

Other than meeting legally required state building standards, why must local healthcare facilities be upgraded?

Emergency medical care and medical technologies are advancing rapidly, and local doctors, nurses, specialists, paramedics, and firefighters need access to the latest advances in medicine and treatments for heart attacks, strokes, injuries, cancer, and other diseases.

Are rapid 9-1-1 emergency response times at risk?

Local fire departments and protection districts that provide rapid 9-1-1 emergency medical response and firefighting are underfunded and have experienced cuts. Without stable, locally-controlled funding to support local fire districts, rapid emergency response times will increase, endangering the health and safety of El Dorado County residents. In emergencies like heart attacks, strokes, and accidents, seconds can be the difference between life and death. Preserving rapid 9-1-1 emergency response and quick access to the nearest emergency room and healthcare facility will save lives.

Why are local fire districts underfunded?

Allocations of property tax revenues set in the 1970s and 1980s reflect a time when most local fire departments relied heavily on volunteer firefighters. These same funding allocations remain in place today and cannot support a modernized, professional fire department. Furthermore, in the early 1990s, the State of California shifted approximately 10% of local property tax revenue to the State.



This funding has never been restored and has reduced funding for some local fire departments by millions annually.

How do the funding challenges for local fire districts impact fire protection and emergency response?

Historically, El Dorado County has historically responded to fires with a “two strike team,” meaning when a major fire occurs, 10 engines with two chiefs would respond. With funding reductions, local fire districts now struggle to respond with one strike team with five engines and one chief. It is common for all ambulances to be responding to calls at the same time, leaving only one or no available ambulances to respond until calls are completed, delaying response times.

How do these issues impact attracting and retaining qualified and experienced firefighters and paramedics?

Firefighter and paramedic recruitment and retention is a significant problem within the fire service across the nation. El Dorado County’s proximity to the Sacramento Valley and Bay Area add to the challenge as firefighters can easily transition to those departments for 40-60% higher wages. Increasingly, firefighters come to El Dorado County for their first few years of training and experience and then leave the County for better pay. This leaves our communities with fewer qualified and experienced firefighters and paramedics.

How can we reduce the risk of a devastating wildfire?

Wildfires are growing faster, deadlier, and more common. Reducing wildfire risk by removing fire hazards, providing early and reliable emergency fire alerts and communications, and planning fast and safe evacuation routes are more important than ever.

How do funding challenges impact wildfire prevention and risk reduction?

Local fire districts operate at a minimum staffing level, which inhibits the ability to expand into programs such as vegetation management, defensible space inspections, property owner support and education, and other programs. With additional funding, local fire districts can focus more resources on proven prevention strategies.

Why is local access to a hospital and emergency room so critical?

Many areas of El Dorado County can easily be cut-off from outside help during major fires, earthquakes, storms, or other disasters. Having local access to emergency medical care, an emergency room with reasonable wait times, medical clinics, and a full-service hospital is critical for residents to receive medical care during emergencies.

What is El Dorado Ready seeking to accomplish?

The leaders of El Dorado Ready have developed a comprehensive plan to strengthen El Dorado County’s emergency preparedness system, including rapid 9-1-1 emergency response, maintaining access to emergency medical care and strengthening our county-wide wildfire prevention planning. To keep El Dorado County healthy and safe, a stable source of locally controlled revenue is needed that



will require voter approval in the form of a citizens' initiative called the El Dorado County Emergency Preparedness, Healthcare Access and Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

How would improved emergency preparedness be funded?

If approved by a majority of El Dorado County voters, the initiative would increase the local sales tax rate paid by residents and visitors in El Dorado County by a modest 3/8¢ to provide stable, locally-controlled revenue exclusively for emergency preparedness by ensuring rapid 9-1-1 emergency response, preserving access to emergency rooms and quality healthcare services, and reducing the risk of wildfires in El Dorado County.

Could funding from the initiative be taken away or diverted by the county, state or federal governments?

No. All funds from this measure would be used and controlled locally for emergency preparedness, healthcare access, and wildfire prevention and suppression only. No funds from the measure could be taken away or redirected by the county, state, or federal governments.

Will this initiative create jobs in El Dorado County?

Yes. The initiative will create good jobs for local residents by:

- Ensuring fire departments are fully staffed
- Investing in vegetation management, creating fire breaks, improving evacuation routes, and other wildfire prevention work
- Creating construction jobs for healthcare facility improvements

What is the economic impact of this initiative?

These dollars would be reinvested locally, producing \$100M - \$150M in increased annual economic activity in our county.

How much would this initiative cost?

This measure would add just 4¢ to a \$10 purchase, 38¢ on a \$100 purchase, and \$3.80 on a \$1,000 purchase. On average, most households spend about 20% of their income on taxable purchases. With the median household income in El Dorado County of \$106,000, the typical local resident would pay just \$63 per year or about \$5 per month.

Would visitors from outside of El Dorado County share in the cost of improving emergency preparedness?

Yes. As a major transportation corridor and tourist destination, an estimated \$1 out of every \$3 paid in sales tax in El Dorado County is paid by a visitor from outside the County. A 3/8¢ increase in the local sales tax rate will provide over \$13 million annually in reliable, local revenue to prepare for emergencies while minimizing the cost to local residents.



Are there any exemptions to the cost of this initiative?

Yes. Groceries, prescription medicine, diapers and other essential purchases are not subject to sales tax, helping to ensure the cost is not a burden to those on fixed or limited incomes.

Would the initiative require fiscal accountability and transparency protections?

To ensure funds from the initiative are used as promised, an independent oversight committee comprised of El Dorado County residents is required to oversee the use of funds and report their findings to the public.

How would funding from this initiative be distributed?

Funding from the El Dorado Ready initiative would be distributed throughout all of El Dorado County to support fire prevention, emergency response and local healthcare. Specifically, Marshall receives revenue to support \$125M in bond issuance to fund capital improvements. After the debt service is paid annually, 5% of the remaining revenue would be allocated to a non-profit such as the El Dorado Fire Safe Council to be distributed to local organizations for wildfire prevention work. The remaining revenue, approximately 49%, would be allocated to local fire districts proportionally based on the number of engine companies operated by each district.

How does El Dorado County’s sales tax rate compare to neighboring communities?

Even with this measure, the sales tax rate in most of El Dorado County will remain lower than neighboring communities like Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento, so it will not put local businesses at a disadvantage. Sales tax for large purchases like cars are taxed based on where the car is registered, so there is no incentive to shop around for lower sales tax rate.

How does wildfire risk threaten El Dorado County’s economy?

The high risk of wildfire poses a significant threat to the local economy in El Dorado County. For example, the Caldor Fire (Aug–Oct 2021) burned 221,835 acres across El Dorado, Amador, and Alpine counties, disrupted tourism, damaged property, and severely degraded air quality. Estimated direct tourism spending losses exceeded \$268 million, with total impacts reaching \$400 million when including multiplier effects.

Will these efforts impact the availability and cost of homeowners insurance in El Dorado County?

With the growing threat of wildfire to properties in El Dorado County, homeowners and property insurance are becoming more expensive and difficult to secure. Investing in wildfire prevention and ensuring adequate numbers of firefighters are available to provide local fire protection can help stabilize the cost and availability of homeowners and property insurance for local residents and businesses, as has happened in other communities who have passed similar initiatives.

When will this initiative be on the ballot?



El Dorado Ready must collect signatures from local voters to qualify for the ballot. The initiative is planned for the November 2026 General Election ballot.