

Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen Ordinance

Ordinance Dated 2026 Ordinance Number

AN AMENDED AND RESTATED ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 12-16-22-13, WHICH FORMED THE NORTHEAST ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; ORDINANCE NO. 12-16-22-15, WHICH FORMED THE NORTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; ORDINANCE NO. 12-16-22-14, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 12-16-22-14, WHICH FORMED THE SOUTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; AND ORDINANCE NO. 12-16-22-16, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 01-13-23-01, WHICH FORMED THE WEST CENTRAL ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AND ESTABLISHING BY MERGER AND EXPANSION ONE UNIFIED FIRE & EMS PROTECTION DISTRICT WITHIN ALLEN COUNTY TO INCLUDE THE NORTHEAST ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, THE NORTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, THE WEST CENTRAL ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, THE SOUTHWEST ALLEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, ALL PARTICIPATING UNITS OF THE EAST CENTRAL FIRE & EMS TERRITORY, AND JACKSON, MADISON AND MONROE TOWNSHIPS (INCLUSIVE OF MONROEVILLE), ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA.

WHEREAS, the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District ("Northeast") was created by the Allen County Commissioners (the "Commissioners") pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-12 on December 16, 2022, by Ordinance Number 12-16-22-13;

WHEREAS, prior to the creation of the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, the Town of Grabill, the Town of Leo-Cedarville, unincorporated Cedar Creek Township, Springfield Township, and Scipio Township were the contiguous political subunits of government which constituted the participating units of a fire territory pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-19 et seq.; and provided fire protection and emergency medical services to the area now and historically served by the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District;

WHEREAS, the Northwest Allen County Fire Protection District ("Northwest") was created by the Commissioners pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-12 on December 16, 2022, by Ordinance Number 12-16-22-15;

WHEREAS, to the creation of Northwest, the Town of Hometown, unincorporated Washington Township, unincorporated Eel River Township, and unincorporated Perry Township were the contiguous political subunits of government which constituted the participating units of a fire territory pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-19 et seq. and provided fire protection and emergency medical services to the area now and historically served by Northwest;

WHEREAS, West Central Allen County Fire Protection District ("West Central") was created by the Commissioners pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-12 on December 16, 2022, by Ordinance Number 12-16-22-16, and as further amended on January 13, 2023, by Ordinance Number 01-13-23-01;

WHEREAS, Aboite Township and Lake Township were the contiguous political subunits of government which were the initial boundaries of the historical West Central service area;

WHEREAS, Southwest Allen County Fire Protection District ("Southwest") was created by an Ordinance adopted by the Commissioners pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-12 on December 22, 1986, and as further amended on December 16, 2022, by Ordinance Number 12-16-22-14;

WHEREAS, unincorporated Wayne Township, unincorporated Pleasant Township, Marion Township, and Lafayette Township were the contiguous political subunits of government which were the initial boundaries of the historical Southwest service area;

WHEREAS, the City of Woodburn, the City of New Haven, Maumee Township, Milan Township, Jefferson Township, and Adams Township entered into a Woodburn New Haven Fire & EMS Protection Territory Agreement on March 1, 2021, wherein the cities and townships formed the Woodburn-New Haven Fire & EMS Protection Territory (the "Territory");

WHEREAS, effective March 20, 2026, the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, Southwest, and all participating units of the Territory entered into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement wherein all parties agreed to join the Territory (the "Interlocal Agreement"), effective December 31, 2026;

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2026, the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District resolved to join the Territory pursuant to its Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District Resolution to Join the Woodburn-New Haven Fire EMS Protection Territory;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2026, Northwest resolved to join the Territory pursuant to its Northwest Allen County Fire Protection District Resolution to Join the Woodburn-New Haven Fire EMS Protection Territory;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2026, West Central resolved to join the Territory pursuant to its West Central Allen County Fire Protection District Resolution to Join the Woodburn-New Haven Fire EMS Protection Territory;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2026, Southwest resolved to join the Territory pursuant to its Southwest Allen County Fire Protection District Resolution to Join the Woodburn-New Haven Fire EMS Protection Territory;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2026, the City of Woodburn ordained to approve the expansion of the Territory to include the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2026, Maumee Township resolved to approve the expansion of the Territory to include the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2026, Milan Township resolved to approve the expansion of the Territory to include the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2026, Jefferson Township resolved to approve the expansion of the Territory to include the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2026, Adams Township resolved to approve the expansion of the Territory to include the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2026, the City of New Haven ordained to approve the expansion of the Territory to include the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest;

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2026, the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2026, Northwest resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2026, West Central resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2026, Southwest resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2026, the City of Woodburn ordained to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2026, the City of New Haven ordained to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2026, Maumee Township resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2026, Milan Township resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2026, Jefferson Township resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2026, Adams Township resolved to withdraw from the Territory, effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District, Northwest, West Central, Southwest, the City of Woodburn, the City of New Haven, Maumee Township, Milan Township, Jefferson Township, and Adams Township all now desire to become one unified fire district;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 2026-5-2 adopted on May 11, 2026, Madison Township declared its intent and support to also be included within the unified district by ordination as amended and revised by the Allen County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, pursuant to a resolution adopted on May 11, 2026, Monroe Township declared its intent and support to also be included within the unified district by ordinance as amended and revised by the Allen County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 05202026 adopted on May 20, 2026, Jackson Township declared its intent and support to also be included within the unified district by ordinance as amended and revised by the Allen County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 2026-1 adopted on June 3, 2026, the Town of Monroeville declared its intent and support to also be included within the unified district by ordinance as amended and revised by the Allen County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, the Monroeville Volunteer Fire Department, Monroeville Emergency Medical Services, Inc., and Hoagland Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., have each provided letters of support for a unified district to the Allen County Commissioners;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. _____ adopted by the Commissioners on July 10, 2026, effective January 1, 2027, the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District's name shall be amended from the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District to the Allen County Fire & EMS District ("Allen County Fire & EMS"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11 et seq. and Indiana case law, the Commissioners have statutory authority to amend the ordinance which created the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District to unify Northeast, Northwest, West Central, and Southwest by merger, (ii) to change the District's name, (iii) and to add to the service area to include the Town of Woodburn, the City of _____.

of New Haven, Maumee Township, Milan Township, Jefferson Township, Adams Township, Jackson Township, Madison Township, and Monroe Township (inclusive of Monroeville):

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen that:

1. Unification of Fire Districts and Territory. As set forth and agreed upon by Northeast, Northwest, West Central, Southwest, and all participating units of the Territory in the Interlocal Agreement—and Madison Township, Jackson Township, Monroe Township, and the Town of Monroeville as evidenced by their respective resolutions—it is each their desire to become one unified fire district: To that end, the territory presently contained within Northwest, West Central, Southwest, the City of Woodburn, the City of New Haven, Maumee Township, Milan Township, Jefferson Township, Adams Township, Madison Township, Jackson Township, Monroe Township (inclusive of the Town of Monroeville) shall, effective January 1, 2027, be added to that of the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District such that all of the aforementioned territory is effectively merged into the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District. Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District shall be the sole surviving fire district following the merger. Pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-7(2), as a result of the merger, the service area of Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District shall expand to include the following, which is also further detailed on "Exhibit A":

1. The historical Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District service area, specifically, the Town of Grabill, the Town of Leo-Cedarville, unincorporated Cedar Creek Township, Springfield Township, and Scipio Township;
2. The historical Northwest service area, specifically, the Town of Huntertown, unincorporated Washington Township, unincorporated Eel River Township, and unincorporated Perry Township;

1. The historical West Central service area, specifically, unincorporated Aboite Township and Lake Township;
2. The historical Southwest service area, specifically, unincorporated Wayne Township, unincorporated Pleasant Township, and Lafayette Township;
3. The historical service area of the Territory, specifically, the City of Woodburn, the City of New Haven, unincorporated Maumee Township, unincorporated Milan Township, unincorporated Jefferson Township, and unincorporated Adams Township;
4. Madison Township, Jackson Township, and Monroe Township (inclusive of the Town of Monroeville);
5. Name. Pursuant to Ordinance No. _____ adopted by the Commissioners on July 10, 2026, effective January 1, 2027, the name of the Northeast Allen County Fire Protection District shall be amended to the Allen County Fire EMS District.
6. Purposes. Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-11-7(3)-(4), the purposes of the Allen County Fire Protection District shall be those purposes permitted and approved by law, including but not limited to those purposes particularly set forth in Indiana Code 36-8-11-4(a):
7. Fire protection, including the capability for extinguishing all fires that may be reasonably expected because of the types of improvements, personal property, and real property within the boundaries of Allen County Fire EMS;
8. Fire prevention, including identification and elimination of all potential and actual sources of fire hazard;
9. Emergency medical services (regulated under IC 16-31-3), basic life support, or advanced life support;

1. d. Prevention of hazards that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage; and
2. e. Other purposes or functions related to fire protection and fire prevention.

4. Board of Fire Trustees: The Allen County Fire Protection District shall be under the control and direction of a governing Board of Fire Trustees, which Trustees must be qualified by knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to fire protection and related activities of the Allen County Fire Protection District: Because Allen County is a county having a population of more than three hundred fifty thousand (350,000) and less than four hundred thousand (400,000), and because the appointment of the governing board pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-12 would exceed nine (9) members, the Commissioners opt to appoint the governing board pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-12.1. Therefore, the Board of Fire Trustees shall be comprised of nine (9) members to be appointed as follows:

1. a. Six (6) trustees appointed by the Commissioners;
2. b. Three (3) trustees appointed by Allen County Council (Council) after the Commissioners;
3. c. All future appointments shall be made by the Commissioners before the Council;
4. The initial term of a trustee appointed under this Section 3 is as follows:
5. i. Two (2) Commissioner appointments and one (1) Council appointment for a term of one (1) year;
6. ii. Two (2) Commissioner appointments and one (1) Council appointment for a term of two (2) years; and
7. iii. Two (2) Commissioner appointments and one (1) Council appointment for a term of three (3) years.

1. iv. The terms shall expire on the first Monday of January of the year their appointments expire;
2. v. As the initial terms expire, each new appointment is for a term of four (4) years;
3. If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Fire Trustees, the Allen County legislative body shall appoint a trustee with the qualifications specified in Indiana Code 36-8-11-12(b) for the unexpired term;
4. e. Notwithstanding the foregoing,
5. i. Recognizing the importance of establishing a strong, representative, and experienced Board of Fire Trustees for the Allen County Fire and EMS District; and
6. That the success of unification depends upon continued collaboration, regional trust, and leadership that reflects the diverse needs of all areas of Allen County; and
7. Desiring that the appointment of the Allen County Commissioners and Allen County Council be made in a manner that promotes operational knowledge, geographic balance, and continuity of existing cooperative efforts;
8. A concerted and good-faith effort shall be made by the Allen County Commissioners and the Allen County Council to select individuals who are geographically diverse and who possess meaningful fire service, emergency medical service, safety, or related governance experience; and public
9. v. A good-faith effort should be made to consider qualified individuals currently serving on existing district boards, territory boards, and representatives from Southeast Allen County who are prepared to participate in and support ongoing countywide unification efforts.

This subsection e. shall be interpreted as a statement of intent designed to preserve the collaborative relationships already established among participating entities, encourage broad regional participation, and promote continuity of leadership during the transition toward a unified countywide fire and EMS system — and nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the statutory appointment authority of the Allen County Commissioners or Allen County Council, but rather serves as a declaration of the shared intent to pursue balanced, qualified, and unifying appointments:

1. Officers. Annually at the January meeting, or at the time of their first meeting in the case of the original Board of Fire Trustees following the merger detailed herein, the members of the Board of Fire Trustees shall elect among themselves a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. The members shall review and amend or otherwise adopt the by-laws of Allen County Fire EMS for operating the fire district.
2. Duties of the Board of Fire Trustees. The Board of Fire Trustees shall have the duties, responsibilities, and powers as set forth in Indiana Code 36-8-11-15. All members appointed must comply with Indiana Code 36-8-11-12.
3. Ratification of Actions of Board of Fire Trustees. All actions taken by the Board of Fire Trustees prior to January 1, 2027, reasonably necessary to act on behalf of and for the benefit of Allen County Fire EMS are hereby ratified.
4. Committees. The Board of Fire Trustees may appoint such committees and sub-committees as they deem appropriate. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, it may be appropriate to create committees that demonstrate an acknowledgment and preservation of the rich history and traditions of each original fire district and territory, and to address areas of local concern.
5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective as of the 1st of January, 2027. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to comply with the requirements of Indiana Code 36-8-11-12.1(c) the day

The Board of Fire Trustees must be fully established before August 1, 2026. Furthermore, upon appointment, qualification, and taking the oath of office pursuant to law, the Board of Trustees shall immediately have all those powers, duties, and obligations necessary to complete all requirements and obligations regarding the unification, including but not limited to setting a budget and tax levy pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-8-11-18.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEN

Ronald Turpin, Commissioner, District 1

Therese Brown, Commissioner, District 2

Richard Beck, Commissioner, District 3

Jacquelynn Scheuman, Auditor, Allen County

Exhibit A

Map of Allen County Fire & EMS Service Area

[to be added later]