

Resolution Number \_\_\_\_\_

**A resolution of the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, submitting to the qualified electors of the City of Missoula, at an election on June 4, 2024, the question of whether the City of Missoula shall be authorized to permanently levy up to 34 mills per year, currently raising approximately \$7 million annually, for the purposes of providing additional funding or financing for Fire and Emergency Services including apparatus, vehicles, equipment, operations, personnel, facilities, and training.**

**WHEREAS**, the Missoula Fire Department provides emergency services for structure fire, wildland fire, Emergency Medical Services, hazardous materials response and 12 different rescue response capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missoula Fire Department provides Critical Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services which improves patient outcomes and saves lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missoula Fire Department spends thousands of hours annually maintaining those proficiencies on and off duty; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency call volume has increased without a significant increase in personnel or response capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in call volume and population has affected City Fire Department response time to an incident and our station reliability; and

**WHEREAS**, Missoula established the Fire Department's Mobile Support Team to provide for a non-law enforcement-based response dedicated to those experiencing a mental health crisis. This service was started with federal grant dollars that are no longer available; and

**WHEREAS**, Missoula Fire Department funding has not kept up with the growing demand for services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals.

1.01 Authorization. A city council is authorized pursuant to Section 15-10-425, Montana Code Annotated, to exceed the statutory mill levy limit and increase its mill levies for a specified purpose by conducting a mill levy election as prescribed by law.

1.02 Fire and Emergency Services Mill Levy. The City Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the City, for the purpose of paying or financing a portion of the costs of fire and emergency services including apparatus, vehicles, equipment, operations, personnel, facilities, and training to seek authority to permanently levy up to 34 mills per year currently raising approximately \$7 million annually.

1.03. Definition. For the purpose of this mill levy election, the term "fire and emergency services," as used in the ballot question below, means emergency responses typically provided by a fire department, including all fire responses as well as Emergency Medical Services, Mobile Support Team, hazmat, and rescue response.

Section 2. Calling of the Election. The City Council does hereby call and direct to be held in the City of Missoula on June 4, 2024, in conjunction with the municipal general election on said date, an election for the purpose of voting on the following question:

For the purpose of providing additional funding or financing for Fire and Emergency Services including apparatus, vehicles, equipment, operations, personnel, facilities, and training shall the City Council of the City of Missoula be authorized to exceed the statutory mill levy

provided for in Section 15-10-420, M.C.A. by permanently levying up to 34 mills, which would raise approximately \$7 million in 2024.

If this mill levy proposition is passed, it is estimated that, using current assessed values of taxable property, it would increase property taxes on a home valued at \$100,000 by \$46 in the first year, on a home valued at \$300,000 by \$138 in the first year, and on a home valued at \$600,000 by \$276 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

Section 3. Conduct of Election. All qualified electors of the City shall be entitled to vote at the mill levy election. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the election and details of this election to the Missoula County Election Administrator as soon as practicable and in any event on or before the date required by the Missoula County Election Administrator. The Missoula County Election Administrator is requested to give notice of the close of registration and thereafter prepare printed lists of the qualified electors in the City entitled to vote in the election in the City and to conduct the election in the form and manner prescribed by law.

Section 4. Notice of Election. The Missoula County Election Administrator is hereby authorized and requested to cause notice of the election and holding of the election to be given by publishing notice at least three times no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election in the Missoulian, a newspaper of general circulation in Missoula County. The notice of election as published shall read substantially as shown on Exhibit A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and made a part hereof).

Section 5. Form of Ballot. The ballot shall be printed in substantially the following form, with such revisions as are necessary or appropriate:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words "Fire and Emergency Services - Yes" if you wish to vote for the mill levy; if you are opposed to the mill levy, completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words "Fire and Emergency Services - No"

For the purpose of providing additional funding or financing for Fire and Emergency Services including apparatus, vehicles, equipment, operations, personnel, facilities, and training shall the City Council of the City of Missoula be authorized to exceed the statutory mill levy provided for in Section 15-10-420, M.C.A. by permanently levying up to 34 mills, which would raise approximately \$7 million in 2024.

If this mill levy proposition is passed, it is estimated that, using current assessed values of taxable property, it would increase property taxes on a home valued at \$100,000 by \$46 in the first year, on a home valued at \$300,000 by \$138 in the first year, and on a home valued at \$600,000 by \$276 in the first year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

☐ Fire and Emergency Services levy - Yes

☐ Fire and Emergency Services levy - No

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Claire Trimble  
City Clerk

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Andrea Davis  
Mayor