

Emergency Response

Levy

FY2025



June 2023 Emergency Proclamation

**City of Missoula
EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION
Resolution Number 8684**

WHEREAS, people experiencing houselessness in our community, state, and region have increased dramatically since the pandemic, with numbers appearing even higher this spring and summer; and

WHEREAS, the federal government supplied one-time resources through programs such as the American Rescue Plan Act to assist local governments with issues such as houselessness during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, a variety of factors including rapid acceleration in housing costs and inflation contributes to the increasing number of people facing houselessness in our community, and without additional federal or state support these numbers are likely to increase; and

WHEREAS, the number of people needing shelter and housing assistance continues to far exceed the community sheltering and supportive housing capacity, which has grown into an acute problem this year; and

WHEREAS, this lack of capacity is forcing people to shelter outdoors in places not suitable to maintain a healthy human habitation, which can lead to: high levels of stress that may exacerbate substance abuse issues, cleanliness challenges that result in infections and disease, and exposure of individuals to the elements; and

WHEREAS, the increased concentration of people sheltering outdoors creates an imminent threat of harm to the individuals sheltering outdoors, especially during unusually hot or cold periods; and

WHEREAS, people forced to shelter outdoors are also contributing to public safety, environmental, and health issues that impacts all Missoula residents and the situation demands emergency action to prevent or mitigate suffering, injury, loss or other damage.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Jordan Hess, Mayor of the City of Missoula, hereby declare that a state of Emergency exists as of June 9, 2023, in the areas of emergency sheltering, and I direct City of Missoula staff to assist the nonprofit provider community during the pendency of this emergency with financial resources, facilities, and technical assistance necessary to avert or minimize the immediate peril to life and property, and to mitigate further suffering, injury, loss or other damage associated with this Emergency.

Dated this 9th day of June, 2023.

Emergency Levy Authorized, § 10-3-405, MCA

- Emergency levies are authorized by state law to recover the expenditures made in responding to the emergency declared in the Mayor's proclamation.
- In FY24, the City of Missoula spent more than a million dollars to stand up operations to provide emergency shelter at the Johnson Street facility.
 - These expenditures were necessary to avert or minimize the immediate peril to life and property.
- The City would use the funds from the emergency levy to continue to provide emergency shelter for FY25.

10-3-405. Levying emergency tax -- disposition of surplus. (1) The governing body of the city or town or the governing body of the county, or both, shall estimate expenditures and levy an emergency millage to cover the expenditures. The millage levied by the governing body of the city or town shall not exceed 2 mills on the municipality's taxable valuation. The millage levied by the governing body of the county shall not exceed 2 mills on the taxable valuation of the county outside the municipalities.

(2) No expenditure of revenue received from the millage shall be made without approval of the appropriate levying body.

(3) An additional levy or levies may be made by the appropriate levying body, providing that the sum of the levies for emergencies as set forth in this section shall not exceed 2 mills in any one year.

(4) All levies under this section may be passed only by a unanimous vote of the appropriate body.

(5) Funds levied for an emergency and remaining when no further expenditures are necessary shall remain in a separate emergency fund and shall be used only for expenditures arising from future emergencies.

Proposed Emergency Levy

- The proposed emergency levy would collect two mills, or \$414,009.
- The resolution approving the levy directs that the funds be deposited in a special fund to be used to fund emergency shelter operations in FY25.
- The resolution approving the levy must be approved by a unanimous vote of City Council.
- The emergency levy provides one-time funds; not an ongoing obligation.
 - Alternative would be to increase the general fund levy, which would add these funds to the baseline budget.