

RESOLUTION NO. 20-__

A RESOLUTION REFERRING ORDINANCE NO. 20-____, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BILLINGS CITY CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR A PERMANENT MILL LEVY INCREASE TO FUND FIRE, POLICE, 911, AND RELATED PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES, TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON _____, 2020.

WHEREAS, the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 20-____ amending the Billings City Charter to provide for a permanent mill levy to fund fire, police, 911 and related public safety expenses; and,

WHEREAS, by law the ordinance must be submitted to a vote of the people; and,

WHEREAS, a majority of the electors voting on this question must approve the ordinance to amend the Billings City Charter; and,

WHEREAS, the ordinance should be referred to a vote of the people at a special mail ballot election to be held on _____, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:

1. **REFERENCE:** Ordinance Number 20-____, being an Ordinance amending the Billings City Charter to provide for a permanent and cumulative mill levy to fund fire, police, 911, and related public safety expenses, is hereby referred to a vote of the people at a special mail ballot election to be held _____, 2020. A full copy of Ordinance Number 20-____ is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "A", and by this reference is made a part hereof.

2. **FORM OF BALLOT:** The form of the ballot shall be as provided by law and similar to the following:

In addition to the mill levies authorized by Sections 1.02, 1.03, 1.04 and 1.05 of the Billings City Charter, the Billings City Council may levy not to exceed the amount of mills set forth hereafter for the purpose of funding the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Fire Department, Police Department, 911, and related public safety expenses.

The Billings City Council amended the City Charter in Ordinance 20-____. It is the intent to replace the current public safety mill levy in Section 1.05.1 of the City Charter approved by voters in 2004 in Ordinance 04-5288 with proposed Ordinance 20-____. This current proposed City Charter amendment must be approved by voters. If approved by voters, Ordinance 20-____ shall amend the City Charter and replace and repeal Ordinance 04-5288. The effect of approval will increase funds for public safety by increasing the number of mills from 40.17 to 60 and will impact property owners as described below. The effect of disapproval will be to retain the current levy in Section 1.05.1 in the City Charter which was approved by voters in 2004 in Ordinance 04-5288.

Shall the City be authorized to levy millage sufficient to raise the following amounts:

Approximately \$12,240,000 in FY 2021 (60 mills);
Approximately \$12,240,000 in FY 2022 (60 mills).

The property tax impact and increase on a home valued at \$100,000 is approximately \$81.00 per year in FY 2021, which is approximately \$27.00 more than the current amount authorized by ordinance 04-5288. The impact on a home valued at \$200,000 is approximately \$162.00 for FY 2021, which is approximately \$54.00 more than the current amount authorized by ordinance 04-5288.

The foregoing mill levy is non-cumulative, but permanent. The mill levy for FY 2021 shall continue indefinitely in future Fiscal years. This levy is in addition to any other mill levies authorized by City Charter or law.

- FOR** amending the City Charter to replace ordinance 04-5288 with a mill levy increase for Police, Fire, 911, and related public safety expenses as provided in Ordinance 20-____.
- AGAINST** amending the City Charter to replace ordinance 04-5288 with a mill levy increase for Police, Fire, 911, and related public safety expenses as provided in Ordinance 20-____.

3. **CERTIFICATION:** The City Clerk shall certify this resolution and

Ordinance Number 20-____ to the Yellowstone County Election Official as provided by law.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND PASSED by the Billings City Council this ____ day of _____,
2020.

CITY OF BILLINGS

By _____
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

Denise Bohlman, City Clerk

Draft #1 5/18/2020