

RESOLUTION NO. 20-__

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

WHEREAS, on [date of second reading] the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 20-____ amending the Charter of the City of Billings to provide for a non-cumulative, permanent mill levy to fund fire, police, 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 Charter of the City of Billings; 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 Charter of the City of Billings to provide for a permanent mill levy to fund fire, police, 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 as follows:

Summary: In 2004, voters passed a public safety levy capped at \$8.2 million, which was then the equivalent of approximately 60 mills. This ballot measure asks voters to approve or disapprove repealing the 2004 levy and replacing it with a provision authorizing a permanent annual levy capped at 60 mills. The amount raised by the new levy would be approximately \$12,240,000 and would change as the taxable value of the city changes.

Proposal: On [date of second reading] the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 20-_____ referring this ballot to the voters for their consideration. If approved, this ballot measure would repeal the current Section 1.05.1 of the City Charter and replace it with the following language:

Section 1.05.1 Mill Levy to Fund Fire, Police, and Related Public Safety Expenses.

For the purpose of funding the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the fire department, police department, and related public safety expenses, the City Council shall levy the following number of mills which will raise the estimated amount of money as follows:

FY 2021	\$12,240,000	60 Mills
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The foregoing mill levy is permanent and shall continue indefinitely in future fiscal years. This levy is not cumulative, which means the number of mills will not increase over time. This levy is in addition to any other mill levies authorized by Charter or law.

Residential Property Impact: If approved, the annual property tax increase in fiscal year 2021 on a home valued at \$100,000 is approximately \$27.00 more than the present levy or approximately \$81.00 per year in total. The annual property tax increase in fiscal year 2021 on a home valued at \$200,000 is approximately \$54.00 more than the present levy or approximately \$162.00 per year in total. The effect of disapproval will be to retain the current levy in Section 1.05.1 in the City Charter.

Shall the City be authorized to levy 60 mills to support fire, police, and related public safety expenses?

- FOR** repealing the current City Charter section 1.05.1 and replacing with new section 1.05.1 as set forth above which provides for a permanent, non-cumulative 60 mill levy commencing in fiscal year 2021 for police, fire, and related public safety expenses as provided in Ordinance 20-_____.
- AGAINST** repealing the current City Charter section 1.05.1 and replacing with new

section 1.05.1 as set forth above which provides for a permanent, non-cumulative 60 mill levy commencing in fiscal year 2021 for police, fire, 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