

**RESOLUTION 24-\_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2025  
MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE'S 69th SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the 69th Montana State Legislature will begin January 2, 2025. It is important to identify legislative priorities to guide city administration, staff, local elected officials, and our lobbyist; and

**WHEREAS**, included within our legislative priorities are our closest legislative partners, the Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT), and the Yellowstone County attorney's office. The MLCT is an incorporated, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of 127 Montana municipalities. The League's sole purpose is the cooperative improvement of municipal government in Montana. It acts as a clearinghouse through which the municipalities cooperate for their mutual benefit. Billings has active board representation in the MLCT.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BILLINGS, MONTANA  
CITY COUNCIL** adopts the following priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session:

1. Public Safety - Support legislation providing enhanced safety, health and security for Billings residents; fight drug abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking and associated crime; reduce vagrancy, homelessness and increase resources for mental health services.

This support includes the following proposed or potential legislation:

- a. Generally revise theft laws (Sen. Usher's SB 95)
- b. Youth Court Act revisions (Rep. Mercer's HB 614)
- c. Revise laws relating to dangerous drugs (Rep. Baum's HB 301)
- d. Support, in general, the Yellowstone County Attorney's and the Montana County Attorneys Association legislative priorities.
- e. Support legislation to expand the incarceration capacity at the state level.
- f. Support laws to increase possible charges and/or penalties when partner/family violence is committed in the presence of a minor.



- a. Tax Increment Finance (TIF)—Support preservation of TIF as economic development tool, offering Billings’ TIF resolution as a good governance model.
  
4. Infrastructure - Support legislation that increases investments in infrastructure critical to supporting our economy.
  - a. Support funding for conservation and facility improvements at the new Westend water treatment reservoirs.
  
5. Shift Tax Burden - Support legislation shifting the tax burden from Billings property owners to users of government services, where appropriate.
  - a. Support a Local Option Tax bill where 100% of revenue, minus operating costs, is used for property tax reduction.
  
6. MLCT/Self Governing Powers - Support, in general, the Montana League of Cities and Towns Legislative Resolutions.
  - a. Resolutions attached as Appendix ‘A’

The Billings, Montana City Council hereby recognizes, concurs, and supports the priorities expressed herein.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2024.

CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk