

RESOLUTION 26-_____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2027 MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE'S 70th SESSION

WHEREAS, the 70th Montana State Legislature will begin its session on January 4, 2027. It is important to identify legislative priorities to guide city administration, staff, local elected officials, and our lobbyists; 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 2027 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; increase resources for mental health services.

This support includes the following proposed or potential legislation:

- a. Support, in general, the Yellowstone County Attorney's and the Montana County Attorneys Association legislative priorities.
- b. Support legislation to expand the incarceration capacity at the state and local level.
- c. Support increasing domestic violence crime penalties.
- d. Support reforms and improvements to Montana's behavioral health and developmental disabilities service systems, including the priorities set by the Behavioral Health System for Future Generations (BHSFG) Commission.
- e. Support additional revenue sources for City services, including Crisis Response Units and other Behavioral Health services.

2. Infrastructure - Support legislation that increases investments in infrastructure critical to supporting our city and economy.
 - a. Support funding for conservation and facility improvements at the new Westend water treatment reservoirs.
 - b. Support funding for public transit
 - c. Support funding for roads and bridges in the City of Billings
3. 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 bills
 - b. Property tax reduction shall not shift burden to local governments
 - c. Support no reductions to City's entitlement share
 - d. Support revenue from 'Sin Taxes' to support local government
4. Economic Development - Support legislation that facilitates private investment in Billings.
 - a. Tax Increment Finance (TIF) - Support preservation of TIF as economic development tool, offering Billings' TIF resolution as a good governance model.
 - b. Support business growth in Billings.
 - c. Support policy that incentivizes infill development.
5. Land Use
 - a. Support policy to increase affordable and workforce housing.
 - b. Support policy that increases local government control and oversight of land use
 - c. Monitor MLUPA implementation

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

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on this ____ day of September, 2026.

CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: _____

Mike Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: _____

Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk