

RESOLUTION NO. 9835

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MAIL-IN ELECTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO EXCEED THE MILL LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED BY 15-10-420, MCA, TO EXPAND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Great Falls is authorized, pursuant to 15-10-425, MCA, to exceed the mill levy limit provided for in 15-10-420, MCA, by conducting an election; and

WHEREAS, according to comparable agencies within the western geographical area of 2 officers per each 1,000 population; the Great Falls Police Department is understaffed, and has remained so since an analysis performed in a 1965 annual report and a 1975 report from an independent consulting firm.

WHEREAS, the Department has limited its Community Oriented Policing programs because it lacks sufficient staffing to perform these types of programs; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department civilian staff is not adequate to meet administrative requirements; and requires use of Sworn staff to meet administrative demands that could be assumed by civilian staff; and

WHEREAS, areas within the Department is utilizing sworn staff to meet administrative demands that could be assumed by civilian staff, and

WHEREAS, the City has never requested a special tax increase to improve Police Department operations and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Great Falls is in need of funds to support costs related to the addition of 10 sworn police officers and 7 civilians and associated equipment and training for the Police Department thereby improving police response and community oriented policing; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department will have equipment, vehicles, training, employment and salary expenses for the addition of 10 sworn officers and 7 civilians which are proposed to be funded by up to 19.5 additional mills in 2009; thereafter, it is proposed that up to 19.5 additional mills be annually levied to pay salaries of the additional personnel, equipment and training expenses.

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires that this election be conducted by a mail-in ballot by the registered voters of the City of Great Falls, for the purpose of voting on whether to levy an additional tax of up to 19.5 mills in taxable year 2009 and annually thereafter, on a permanent basis, for improving police response and community oriented policing; and

WHEREAS, the specific number of additional mills needed annually is up to 19.5 mills and the approximate amount of money to be raised is \$1,403,474 based on the current City wide Taxable Market Valuation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA:

Section 1. The City Commission hereby authorizes a mail-in election for the purpose of exceeding the mill levy limit provided in 15-10-420, MCA, by levying up to 19.5 mills, thereby raising approximately \$1,403,474 in 2009 and thereafter, annually levying up to 19.5 mills, on a permanent basis, to employ, train and equip 10 sworn police officers and 7 civilian staff, equip the police patrol vehicle fleet and augment department training.

Section 2. All qualified electors of the City of Great Falls are entitled to vote on this issue on August 4, 2009 by mail-in ballot. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the call and details of this mail-in ballot election to the Cascade County Election Administrator. The Election Administrator is requested to give notice of the call and holding of the mail-in ballot election to be published at least once a week for three successive weeks before the mail-in election in the Great Falls Tribune, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Cascade Montana.

The notice of election as published shall read substantially as follows:

NOTICE OF MAIL-IN BALLOT ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Great Falls City Commission that on August 4, 2009, pursuant to a resolution duly adopted by the Great Falls City Commission on May 5, 2009, a mail-in ballot election by the registered voters will be held in and for the City of Great Falls, for the purposes of voting on the question of whether to levy a permanent increase of 19.5 mills thereby raising approximately \$1,403,474.00 in 2009, and thereafter, levying up to 19.5 mills annually to hire, train and equip 10 sworn police officers and 7 civilian staff, equip the vehicle fleet, and augment training.

The property tax increase on a home valued at \$100,000 is \$58.69. The property tax increase on a home with a taxable market value of \$200,000 is \$117.39.

FORM OF MAIL BALLOT: The Election Administrator is hereby requested to prepare suitable mail-in ballots for use at the mail ballot election and to distribute the same, in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL MAIL-IN BALLOT
CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
BALLOT STATEMENT

That the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana be authorized to exceed the statutory mill levy provided for in Section 15-20-420, M.C.A., by permanently and annually levying up to 19.5 mills beginning in taxable year 2009, thereby raising approximately \$1,403,474, for the purpose of hiring, training and equipping ten (10) sworn police officers and seven (7) civilian staff in 2009 and in subsequent years levying up to nineteen and one-half (19.5) mills to be used to maintain salaries, to purchase vehicle related equipment, and to augment training. The annual property tax increase on a home with a taxable market value of \$100,000.00 is \$58.69. The annual property tax increase on a home with a taxable market value of \$200,000.00 is \$117.39. The foregoing mill levy is permanent and in addition to any other mill levy authorized by Charter or law.

FOR

Authorizing the City Commission of the City of Great Falls to exceed the statutory mill levy provided for in Section 15-10-420, M.C.A., by permanently and annually levying up to nineteen and one-half up to (19.5) mills for the purpose of employing, training and equipping ten (10) sworn police officers and seven (7) civilian staff in taxable year 2009, and in subsequent years, levying up to nineteen and one-half up to (19.5) mills to be used to maintain salaries, to purchase equipment and for training personnel.

AGAINST

Authorizing the City Commission of the City of Great Falls to exceed the statutory mill levy provided for in Section 15-10-420, M.C.A., by permanently and annually levying up to nineteen and one-half up to (19.5) mills for the purpose of employing, training and equipping ten (10) sworn police officers and seven (7) civilian staff in taxable year 2009, and in subsequent years, levying up to nineteen and one-half up to (19.5) mills to be used to maintain salaries, to purchase equipment and for training personnel.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, May 5,
2009.

Dona R. Stebbins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David V. Gliko, City Attorney