

RESOLUTION NO. 10488

A RESOLUTION REFERRING ORDINANCE NO. 3254, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, SECTION 3 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED ADDITIONAL MILLS FOR OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL NEEDS OF THE GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM TWO (2) MILLS TO SEVENTEEN (17) MILLS AND SUBMITTING SUCH CHARTER AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS TO BE CONDUCTED AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JUNE 6, 2023

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Great Falls currently provides the City Commission may exceed the total mill levy allowed by Montana law by two (2) additional mills “for the purpose of providing additional funds for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library;” and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2023, the City Commission adopted Ordinance 3254, an Ordinance to amend the Charter of the City of Great Falls to increase the authorized additional mills for operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library from two (2) mills to seventeen (17) mills; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission intends to add resources for increased staffing, hours and Bookmobile service; free parking for patrons; additional safety staffing; and, a host of expanded services to provide for an informed, educated and connected community; and

WHEREAS, Montana law requires the ordinance to 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 Great Falls; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance should be referred to a vote of the people at a special election to be held on June 6, 2023.

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

1. **REFERENCE:** Ordinance No. 3254, being an Ordinance Amending Article I, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Great Falls to Increase the Authorized Additional Mills for Operation, Maintenance and Capital Needs of the Great Falls Public Library from Two (2) Mills to Seventeen (17) Mills, is hereby referred to a vote of the people at a special election to be held June 6, 2023. A full copy of Ordinance 3254 is attached hereto, marked Attachment “1,” 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:

Summary: This ballot measure asks voters to approve or disapprove a permanent annual levy of up to 17 mills to provide for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library.

Proposal: On February 21, 2023, the City Commission of the City of Great Falls adopted Ordinance 3254 referring this ballot measure to the voters. If approved, this ballot measure would amend Article I, Section 3 of the current Charter language as follows:

The total mill levy shall not exceed that allowed to general powers cities of the first class by Montana law, except that the City Commission may levy not more than ~~two (2)~~ seventeen (17) additional mills for the purpose of providing ~~additional~~ funds for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library.

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 2023 on a home valued at \$100,000 is approximately \$20.25 per year. The annual property tax increase in fiscal year 2023 on a home valued at \$200,000 is approximately \$40.50 per year.

Shall the City of Great Falls be authorized to amend Article I, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Great Falls to levy up to 17 mills, an increase of 15 mills, raising approximately \$1,594,500 for the purpose of providing funds for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library.

[] **FOR** amending the Charter of the City of Great Falls to increase the authorized mills to levy for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library from two (2) mills to seventeen (17) mills as provided for in Ordinance No. 3254.

[] **AGAINST** amending the Charter of the City of Great Falls to increase the authorized mills to levy for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the Great Falls Public Library from two (2) mills to seventeen (17) mills as provided for in Ordinance No. 3254.

3. **CERTIFICATION:** The City Clerk shall certify this Resolution and Ordinance No. 3254 to the Cascade County Election Official as provided by law.
4. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this 21st day of February, 2023.

Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David G. Dennis, City Attorney