

CERTIFICATE AS TO RESOLUTION AND ADOPTING VOTE

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and appointed City Clerk of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the "City"), hereby certify that the attached resolution is a true copy of a Resolution entitled: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THE QUESTION OF PERMANENTLY INCREASING MILL LEVIES OF THE CITY TO PAY COSTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES, INCLUDING OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND CERTAIN CAPITAL COSTS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY ATTORNEY AND MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES AND RELATED PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES; AND AMENDING, RESTATING, AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 10500 ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON MARCH 7, 2023" (the "Resolution"), on file in the original records of the City in my legal custody; that the Resolution was duly adopted by the City Commission at a regular meeting on [____], 2023, and that the meeting was duly held by the City Commission and was attended throughout by a quorum, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law; and that the Resolution has not as of the date hereof been amended or repealed.

I further certify that, upon vote being taken on the Resolution at said meeting, the following Commission members voted in favor thereof: _____

_____ ; voted against the same: _____ ; abstained from voting thereon: _____ ; or were absent: _____.

WITNESS my hand officially this [___] day of [____], 2023.

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 10506

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THE QUESTION OF PERMANENTLY INCREASING MILL LEVIES OF THE CITY TO PAY COSTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES, INCLUDING OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND CERTAIN CAPITAL COSTS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY ATTORNEY AND MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES AND RELATED PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES; AND AMENDING, RESTATING, AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 10500 ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON MARCH 7, 2023

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission (the “Commission”) of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the “City”) as follows:

Section 1. Recitals.

1.01. Authorization. Pursuant to Sections 7-6-4431 and 15-10-425, Montana Code Annotated (“MCA”), the Commission is authorized to increase its mill levies for a specific purpose by conducting a mill levy election as prescribed by law.

On March 7, 2023, the City adopted Resolution No. 10500 calling for a mill levy election to permanently increase mill levies of the City to pay costs of public safety services (the “Prior Resolution”). Subsequent to the adoption of the Prior Resolution, House Bill 543 (“HB 543”) was enacted by the 68th legislature at the 2023 Montana legislative session of the State of Montana, and signed into law by the Governor. HB 543 revises the information that must be included on the ballot for a mill levy election and is effective as of July 1, 2023. This resolution includes the new ballot information required by HB 543 and supersedes the Prior Resolution in its entirety.

1.02. Proposed Services; Mill Levy. The Commission has determined that the City’s current mill levy authority is inadequate to fund current and future public safety services necessary for a growing community. The Commission has therefore determined that it is in the best interests of the City to seek authority for a permanent mill levy increase to pay costs of public safety services, including operation, maintenance and certain capital costs of the police department, fire department, city attorney and municipal court services and related public safety expenses by presenting to the voters a mill levy question. If the mill levy question passes, the City intends to levy the additional mills approved by the voters and will create a separate fund or account for such mill levy, deposit therein the mill levy receipts attributable to the mill levy, and apply the receipts to pay the costs described in the mill levy question.

Section 2. Calling of the Election. The Commission hereby calls and directs that a special City election be held on November 7, 2023, to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, Chapter 19, Parts 1-3, MCA, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

Shall the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the “City”) be authorized to levy mills for the purpose of paying costs of public safety services, including operations, maintenance and certain capital costs of the police department, fire department, city attorney and municipal court services and related public safety expenses?

If this mill levy proposition is passed, the City will be authorized to levy permanently up to 103.75 mills per year, to raise approximately \$10,717,305. Based on the taxable value of the City in fiscal year 2023, the property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by \$140.06 per year, of \$300,000 would increase by \$420.18 per year, and of \$600,000 would increase by \$840.36 per year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

Section 3. Conduct of Election. All qualified electors of the City shall be entitled to vote at the mill levy election. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the call and details of this election to the Cascade County Election Administrator promptly, and in any event on or the before the date required by the Cascade County Election Administrator, to inform the Cascade County Election Administrator of the details of the special election and the pertinent requests and authorizations as to the conduct of the special election. The Cascade County Election Administrator is requested to give notice of the close of registration and thereafter prepare printed lists of the qualified electors in the City entitled to vote in the election in the City and to conduct the election in the form and manner prescribed by law and consistent with the mail ballot plan.

Section 4. Notice of Election. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and requested to cause notice of the call and holding of the election to be given by publishing notice at least three times, no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election, in the *Great Falls Tribune*, a newspaper of general circulation in Cascade County. The notice of election as published shall read substantially as shown on Exhibit A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and made a part hereof).

Section 5. Form of Ballot. The ballot shall be printed in substantially the following form:

FORM OF OFFICIAL BALLOT

CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

MILL LEVY ELECTION
TO BE CONDUCTED ON
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words “MILL LEVY—YES” if you wish to vote for the mill levy; if you are opposed to the mill levy, completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen before the words “MILL LEVY—NO.”

Shall the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the “City”) be authorized to levy mills for the purpose of paying costs of public safety services, including operations, maintenance and certain capital costs of the police department, fire department, city attorney and municipal court services and related public safety expenses?

If this mill levy proposition is passed, the City will be authorized to levy permanently up to 103.75 mills per year, to raise approximately \$10,717,305. Based on the taxable value of the City in fiscal year 2023, the property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by \$140.06 per year, of \$300,000 would increase by \$420.18 per year, and of \$600,000 would increase by \$840.36 per year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

MILL LEVY – YES

MILL LEVY – NO

Section 5. Superseding Resolution. This resolution amends, restates, and supersedes in its entirety the Prior Resolution. The Prior Resolution shall have no force or effect and this resolution shall replace the Prior Resolution in all respects from and after the date of adoption of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of Great Falls, Montana, this [____] day of [____], 2023.

CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David Dennis, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF MILL LEVY ELECTION

City of Great Falls, Montana

November 7, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the “City”), that pursuant to a certain resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Commission on [_____], 2023, a special election of the registered voters of the City will be held on November 7, 2023, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

Shall the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana (the “City”) be authorized to levy mills for the purpose of paying costs of public safety services, including operations, maintenance and certain capital costs of the police department, fire department, city attorney and municipal court services and related public safety expenses?

If this mill levy proposition is passed, the City will be authorized to levy permanently up to 103.75 mills per year, to raise approximately \$10,717,305. Based on the taxable value of the City in fiscal year 2023, the property taxes on a home with an assessed market value for tax purposes of \$100,000 would increase by \$140.06 per year, of \$300,000 would increase by \$420.18 per year, and of \$600,000 would increase by \$840.36 per year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

The election will be conducted solely by mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible registered electors on October 18, 2023, and must be returned by each voter (1) by mail, to the Cascade County Election Administrator, P.O. Box 2305, Great Falls, MT 59403, or (2) delivered in person to the Cascade County Election Office located at 325 2nd Ave N, Room 100, in Great Falls, Montana during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) weekdays (exclusive of holidays) October 19, 2023 through November 6, 2023.

If returning by mail, please use the then-prevailing first-class-postage price or one Forever Stamp. Postmark date does not apply; ballots returned by mail must be received by the 8:00 p.m. Election Day deadline to be counted.

On Election Day, November 7, 2023, the only places for deposit of voted ballots will be the office of the Cascade County Election Administrator located at Cascade County Election Office located at 325 2nd Ave N, Room 100, in Great Falls, Montana, and such other ballot drop-off locations as are identified in the election instructions provided by the Cascade County Election Administrator, which will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All ballots will be tallied in the office of the Cascade County Election Administrator on November 7, 2023 as required by law.

A qualified voter who will be absent during the time the election is being conducted may:

(a) vote in person in the office of the Cascade County Election Administrator as soon as the ballots are available and until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day; or

(b) make a written request prior to noon on November 6, 2023, signed by the applicant and addressed to the office of the Cascade County Election Administrator requesting the ballot be mailed to an address other than that which appears on the registration records.

An elector may obtain a replacement ballot if his or her ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the elector, by filling out and mailing, emailing, or faxing back a completed replacement ballot request form or by personally appearing at the office of the Cascade County Election Office located at 325 2nd Ave N, Room 100, in Great Falls.

Electors who miss the close of registration deadline may register late and vote in the election if the County Election Administrator receives and verifies the electors' voter registration information prior to 8 p.m. on November 7, 2023.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

/s/Sandra Merchant
Cascade County Election Administrator

Publish: October 8, October 15, and October 22, 2023