

RESOLUTION NO. 10599

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS ACKNOWLEDGING THE EFFECT OF MONTANA HOUSE BILL 231 ON THE CITY'S FIXED LIBRARY MILL LEVY LIMIT AND DIRECTING IMPLEMENTATION

WHEREAS, the City Charter of City of Great Falls establishes a levy to fund the operations of the Great Falls Public Library, with a fixed mill limit of seventeen (17) mills; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature enacted House Bill No. 231 (2025), codified in relevant part at § 15-10-420, MCA, which requires that for Fiscal Year 2026, municipalities with fixed-levy authority, levy the number of mills needed to raise the same property tax revenue as assessed in Fiscal Year 2025, and for Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, use the Fiscal Year 2026 millage as the maximum allowable levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 7(3) of HB 231 expressly provides that its requirements supersede any inconsistent or more restrictive provision of a local government charter; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the maximum mill levy set forth in the City Charter is, by operation of law, modified to conform to HB 231, without need for a charter amendment or vote of the electors; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the City Commission to formally acknowledge this statutory change, direct City staff to implement it, and ensure that the City's budgeting and levy calculations for Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond comply with HB 231.

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

1. **Acknowledgment of State Law Supersession.** The City Commission acknowledges that the fixed maximum mill levy provision in the City Charter is superseded and modified by HB 231, effective for Fiscal Year 2026 and thereafter, without the need for amendment by the electors.
2. **Levy Implementation.** City staff are directed to:
 - a. For Fiscal Year 2026, calculate and levy the number of mills necessary to generate the same total property tax revenue as assessed in Fiscal Year 2025; and
 - b. For Fiscal Year 2026 and subsequent years, apply the Fiscal Year 2026 levy as the new maximum mill levy, in accordance with HB 231.
3. **Public Communication.** The City Manager shall take reasonable steps to inform the public of this change and update any public-facing documents or references to the prior maximum mill levy to reflect current law.

4. **Severability.** If any portion of this Resolution is determined invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.
5. **Effective Date.** This Resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this 19th day of August, 2025.

Cory Reeves, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David G. Dennis, City Attorney