

RESOLUTION 20-10889

**A RESOLUTION REFERRING ORDINANCE NO. 20-5736, AN
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS
TO PROVIDE FOR A PERMANENT MILL LEVY INCREASE TO FUND
FIRE, POLICE, AND RELATED PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES, TO A
VOTE OF THE PEOPLE AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020.**

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 20-5736 amending the Charter of the City of Billings to provide for a non-cumulative, permanent mill levy to fund fire, police, and related public safety expenses; and,

WHEREAS, by law the ordinance must 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 Billings; and,

WHEREAS, the ordinance should be referred to a vote of the people at a special mail ballot election to be held on September 15, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:

1. REFERENCE: Ordinance Number 20-5736, being an Ordinance amending the Charter of the City of Billings to provide for a permanent mill levy to fund fire, police, and related public safety expenses is hereby referred to a vote of the people at a special mail ballot election to be held September 15, 2020. A full copy of Ordinance Number 20-5736 is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "A", 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 as follows:

Summary: In 2004, voters passed a public safety levy capped at \$8.2 million. At the time the levy was estimated to be the equivalent of 60 mills. This ballot measure asks voters to approve or disapprove repealing the 2004 levy and replacing it with a permanent annual levy capped at 60 mills instead of \$8.2 million. The amount raised by the new levy would be approximately \$12.2 million and would change as the taxable property value of the city changes.

Proposal: On June 22, 2020, the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 20-5736 referring this ballot to the voters. If approved, this ballot measure would repeal the current Section 1.05.1 of the City Charter and replace it with the following language:

Section 1.05.1 Mill Levy to Fund Fire, Police, and Related Public Safety Expenses. For the purpose of funding the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the fire department, police department, and related public safety expenses, the City Council shall levy 60 mills starting in fiscal year 2021 which will raise approximately \$12.2 million.

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 of this Charter Amendment for Fiscal Year 2021 if Approved:

- On a home valued at \$100,000 the existing property tax levy of \$54.00 will increase \$27.00 for a total of \$81.00 per year.
- On a home valued at \$200,000 the existing property tax levy of \$108.00 will increase \$54.00 for a total of \$162.00 per year.
- The effect of disapproval will be to retain the present levy and existing Section 1.05.1 in the City Charter.

Shall the City be authorized to repeal existing City Charter Section 1.05.1 levying \$8.2 million and replace it with a levy of 60 mills raising approximately \$12.2 million to support fire, police, and related public safety expenses?

- FOR** repealing the existing City Charter section 1.05.1 and replacing with new section 1.05.1 as set forth above which provides for a permanent, non-cumulative 60 mill levy commencing in fiscal year 2021 for fire, police, and related public safety expenses as provided in Ordinance 20-5736.
- AGAINST** repealing the existing City Charter section 1.05.1 and replacing with new section 1.05.1 as set forth above which provides for a permanent, non-cumulative 60 mill levy commencing in fiscal year 2021 for fire, police, and related public safety expenses as provided in Ordinance 20-5736.

3. CERTIFICATION: The City Clerk shall certify this resolution and Ordinance Number 20-5736 to the Yellowstone County Election Administrator as provided by law.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE: This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND PASSED by the Billings City Council this 22nd day of June, 2020.

CITY OF BILLINGS



BY: William A. Cole
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY: Denise R. Bohlman
Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk