

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO
CONSIDER MAKING THE 35-MILL LEVY TO FUND
THE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT PERMANENT

WHEREAS, Petroleum County has experienced a shortfall in its road fund for several years which has led to the County keeping and maintaining older equipment in the Road Department, rather than replacing the same; and,

WHEREAS, the County continues to experience extremely high annual maintenance and repair costs and down time for its road equipment, which adversely impacts the County's budget and roads; and,

WHEREAS, road maintenance, including snow removal, is a priority for the residents in Petroleum County; and,

WHEREAS, in November 2020, Petroleum County voters approved a temporary levy of 35 mills to support operations in the Road Department; and

WHEREAS, that temporary levy will expire at the end of fiscal year 2025-26; and

WHEREAS, after considering the options, the Commission believes that making the 35 mill levy permanent is necessary in order to meet the ongoing needs of the County Road Department; and,

WHEREAS, MCA § 15-10-425 requires passage of a resolution indicating the Commission's intent to increase a mill levy or to exceed the current statutory mill levy provided for in MCA § 15-10-420 on the approval of a majority of the qualified electors voting in the election, which resolution must include:

- a) The specific purposed for which the additional money will be used;
- b) Either:
 - i) The specific amount of money to be raised and the approximate number of mills to be imposed, or;
 - ii) The specific number of mills to be imposed and the approximate amount of money to be raised; and
- c) Whether the levy is permanent or the durational limit on the levy.

WHEREAS, a local government election may not be held sooner than 85 days after the date of a resolution calling for an election,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Commission intends to increase or exceed the current statutory mill levy provided for in MCA § 15-10-420 by 35 mills on the approval of a majority of the qualified electors voting

in the election to be held in Petroleum County on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The duration of this additional mill levy will be permanent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following question shall be presented to the voters:

“Shall the Petroleum County Board of Commissioners be authorized to make the temporary 35-mill levy for operation of the Road Department permanent beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year? The continued impact of the proposed 35 mill levy on a home valued at \$100,000.00 is estimated to be \$47.25 per year; the continued impact on a home valued at \$200,000.00 is estimated to be \$94.50 per year, and the continued impact on a home valued at \$300,000 is estimated to be \$142.50 per year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

___ FOR making the 35-mill levy permanent beginning in fiscal year 2026-27.

___ AGAINST making the 35-mill levy permanent beginning in fiscal year 2026-27.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the additional money raised by this continuation of the increase in the mill levy will be used to support the operation of the Petroleum County Road Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 35 mills to be imposed will raise approximately \$67,000.00 each fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the continued impact of the proposed 35 mill increase on a home valued at \$100,000.00 is estimated to be \$47.25 per year, the continued impact on a home valued at \$200,000.00 is estimated to be \$94.50 per year, and the continued impact on a home valued at \$300,000 is estimated to be \$142.50 per year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county election administrator shall prepare and give notice of the election of this issue as provided by MCA § 13-1-108, by publishing in the Lewistown News Argus at least three times, no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election.