

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 5

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO
CONSIDER A 100 MILL LEVY

WHEREAS, Prior to the passage of the 100 MILL levy in 2016, Petroleum County had experienced a short fall in its general fund for several years which had required the County to use and deplete County investments in order to operate; and,

WHEREAS, the County Commission had considered various options to eliminate this annual shortfall in the general fund including reductions in county services and personnel as well as a possible increase in the County mill levy; and,

WHEREAS, the additional funds brought in by that mill levy did allow the county to become more fiscally solvent, rebuild depleted investments, maintain county services and personnel; and,

WHEREAS, the inflation of costs for equipment, repairs and personnel of the past decade leave the Commission aware of the need to make the mill levy a permanent levy to continue to operate with even the small margin they have; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission believes without the 100 Mill levy the County would quickly experience a shortfall in its general fund and be forced to again use and deplete its County investments, cut personnel and services in order to operate; and,

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

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that these financial circumstances are not likely to change, and that making the 100 mill levy permanent is essential to the financial stability of the County; 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 purpose 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 continue to exceed the current statutory mill levy provided for in MCA § 15-10-420 by 100 mills on the approval of a majority of the qualified electors voting in the election to be held in Petroleum County on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. 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 100-mill levy permanent beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year? The continued impact of the proposed 100 mill levy on a home valued at \$100,000.00 is estimated to be \$135.00 per year; the continued impact on a home valued at \$300,000.00 is estimated to be \$405.00 per year, and the continued impact on a home valued at \$600,000 is estimated to be \$810.00 per year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

___ FOR making the 100-mill levy permanent beginning in fiscal year 2026-27.

___ AGAINST making the 100-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.

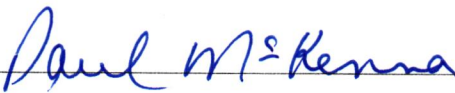
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 100 mills to be imposed will raise approximately \$186,500.00 each fiscal year.

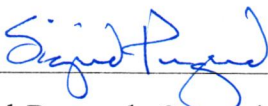
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the continued impact of the proposed 100 mill increase on a home valued at \$100,000.00 is estimated to be \$135.00 per year, the continued impact on a home valued at \$300,000.00 is estimated to

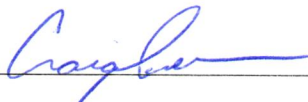
be \$405.00 per year, and the continued impact on a home valued at \$600,000 is estimated to be \$810.00 per year.

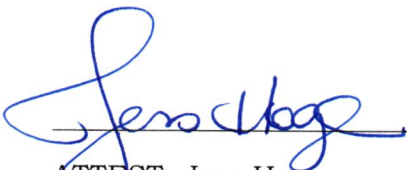
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county election administrator shall prepare and give notice of the election of this issue as provided by MCA § 13-1-108, by publishing in the Lewistown News Argus at least three times, no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election.

Passed and approved this 10th day of February 2025.


Paul McKenna, Commissioner


Sigrid Pugrud, Commissioner


Craig Iverson, Commissioner


ATTEST: Jess Hoge
Clerk & Recorder

