

RESOLUTION 21-10968

A RESOLUTION REFERRING ORDINANCE 21-5760, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS TO PROVIDE FOR A PERMANENT MILL LEVY INCREASE TO FUND POLICE, FIRE, PROSECUTION SERVICES, CODE ENFORCEMENT, MUNICIPAL COURT, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, AND RELATED PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSES, TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021.

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2021, the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 21-5760 amending the Charter of the City of Billings to provide for a non-cumulative, permanent mill levy to fund police, fire, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse services, and related public safety expenses; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to add resources to police, fire, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse services, 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 an election to be held on November 2, 2021.

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

1. **REFERENCE:** Ordinance 21-5760 being an Ordinance amending the Charter of the City of Billings to provide for a permanent mill levy to fund police, fire, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse services, and related public safety expenses is hereby referred to a vote of the people at an election to be held November 2, 2021. A full copy of Ordinance 21-5760 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: Violent crime rates and calls for emergency services have increased over the past 10 years. This ballot measure asks voters to approve or disapprove an additional permanent annual levy up to 34 mills to increase investments to police, fire, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse services,

and related public safety expenses. The amount raised by the new levy, when fully implemented, would be approximately \$7.1 million and would change as the taxable property value of the city changes.

Proposal: On June 28, 2021, the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 21-5760 referring this ballot to the voters. If approved, this ballot measure would add the following language to the City Charter as Section 1.05.2:

Section 1.05.2 Mill Levy to Fund Police, Fire, Prosecution Services, Code Enforcement, Municipal Court, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and Related Public Safety Expenses.

For the purpose of funding the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the police department, fire department, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse services, and related public safety expenses, the City Council shall levy up to 34 mills starting in fiscal year 2023, which will raise approximately \$7,115,000.

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: If approved, the annual property tax increase in fiscal year 2023 on a home valued at \$100,000 is approximately \$45.90 per year. The annual property tax increase in fiscal year 2023 on a home valued at \$200,000 is approximately \$91.80 per year.

Shall the City be authorized to amend the City Charter to add Section 1.05.2 to levy up to 34 mills raising approximately \$7.1 million to support police, fire, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse services, and related public safety expenses?

- FOR** adding Section 1.05.2 to levy up to 34 mills raising approximately \$7.1 million to support police, fire, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse services, and related public safety expenses as set forth above which provides for a permanent, non-cumulative mill levy commencing in fiscal year 2023 as provided in Ordinance 21-5760.

- AGAINST** adding Section 1.05.2 to levy up to 34 mills raising approximately \$7.1 million to support police, fire, prosecution services, code enforcement, municipal court, mental health and substance abuse

services, and related public safety expenses as set forth above which provides for a permanent, non-cumulative mill levy commencing in fiscal year 2023 as provided in Ordinance 21-5760.

3. **CERTIFICATION:** The City Clerk shall certify this resolution and Ordinance 21-5760 to the Yellowstone County Election Official as provided by law.

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

APPROVED AND PASSED by the Billings City Council this 28th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF BILLINGS



By: William A. Cole
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

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