

RESOLUTION NO. 4779

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RAVALLI COUNTY, MONTANA, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF INCREASING A MILL LEVY DURATIONALLY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND/OR IMPROVEMENT OF ALL ROADS IN RAVALLI COUNTY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 7-5-2101, MCA, the Board of County Commissioners (“BCC”) has jurisdiction and power, under such limitations and restrictions as prescribed by law, to represent Ravalli County (“County”) and have the care of County property and the management of the business and concerns of the County in all cases where no other provision is made by law, and to perform all other acts and things required by law, which may not be found under the local government statutes of the Montana Code Annotated (“MCA”), or which may be necessary to the full discharge of the duties of the chief executive authority of County government.

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 7-14-2103, MCA, the BCC has general supervision over County roads within the County, the BCC may survey, view, lay out, record, open, work, and maintain County roads that are established in accordance with the Local Government Transportation statutes of the MCA, and the BCC may determine the level and scope of maintenance on County roads under its jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 7-14-2101, MCA, the BCC, under the limitations and restrictions that are prescribed by law, may lay out, maintain, control, and manage County roads and bridges within the County, and subject to § 15-10-420, MCA, levy taxes for the laying out, maintenance, control, and management of County roads and bridges within the County as provided by law.

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 15-10-425, MCA, which provides not only the authority for a County to impose a new mill levy, increase a mill levy that is required to be submitted to the electors, or exceed the mill levy limit provided for in § 15-10-420, MCA, but also the procedure for a mill levy election while following the procedures in Title 13, Chapter 1, Part 4, MCA.

WHEREAS, the BCC has determined there is an annual budgetary shortfall of \$2,909,500.00 in the amount levied to construct, maintain, repair and/or improve County maintained roads, which consist of 300 miles of paved road, and 250 miles of gravel road, for the safety of the inhabitants of the County, and in that determination, considering the best interests of the County, the BCC believes a mill levy election pursuant to § 15-10-425, MCA is required to put the question to increase the road mill levy to a vote of the qualified electorate of the County.

WHEREAS, considering the best interests of the County, the BCC hosted a public meeting with public comment on March 9, 2026, and after hearing said public comment, voted to seek the authority of the qualified electors of the County for a durational mill levy of ten (10) years to pay for materials ONLY, not to include labor or equipment, related to the expenses of constructing, maintaining, repairing and/or improving County maintained roads.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Ravalli County that:

Pursuant to § 15-10-425, MCA, an election shall be called in accordance with the procedures outlined in Title 13, Chapter 1, Part 4, MCA. This election will not be conducted by mail, but will be in person or by absentee vote and will be held on June 2, 2026, the next primary election. The qualified electorate of Ravalli County will vote on the following question:

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Ravalli County, Montana be authorized to levy for a duration of ten (10) years up to \$2,909,500 per year, currently raising approximately 26.66 mills annually for the purpose of improving public safety by paying for the cost of materials ONLY, not to include labor or equipment, for the construction, maintenance, repair and/or improvement of County maintained roads in Ravalli County?

If this mill levy passes, using currently assessed taxable values of property in Ravalli County, it is estimated the increase in property taxes on homes would be as follows: a \$100,000 home would be approximately \$20.26 per year, a \$300,000 home would be approximately \$60.79 per year, a \$600,000 home would be approximately \$130.55 per year, and a \$900,000 home would be approximately \$212.14 per year.* An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

*The impact statement above assumes that the dollar amount raised by the levy of 1 mill is equal to the estimated dollar amount of 1 mill as set forth in the County's fiscal year 2026 budget.

The County Clerk and Recorder, who is also the Election Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of this election pursuant to § 13-1-108, MCA and authorized to conduct the election in the form and manner prescribed by law, specifically Title 13, Chapter 1, Part 4, MCA and any other relevant statute(s) under Title 13.

If a majority of voters voting on the question decide in favor of increasing the levy for materials ONLY, not to include labor or equipment, to construct, maintain, repair and/or improve County maintained roads, then the BCC is authorized to impose the levy in the amount and duration specified which will take effect in Fiscal Year 2027.

The BCC may reduce the levy approved by the voters in any fiscal year without losing the authority to impose in a subsequent fiscal year up to the maximum amount approved in the election, but this does not authorize the BCC to impose more than the approved levy in any fiscal year or to extend the duration of the approved levy.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the ballot shall be printed in substantially the following form, with such additions or deletions or updates as are determined necessary or desirable:

FORM OF OFFICIAL BALLOT
RAVALLI COUNTY, MONTANA
MILL LEVY ELECTION
COUNTY ROADS

JUNE 2, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen if you wish to vote FOR the mill levy, before the words “FOR the mill levy;” completely fill in the oval using a blue or black ink pen if you are AGAINST the mill levy, before the words “AGAINST the mill levy.”

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Ravalli County, Montana, be authorized to levy for a duration of ten (10) years up to \$2,909,500 per year, currently raising approximately 26.66 mills annually for the purpose of improving public safety by paying for the cost of materials ONLY, not to include labor or equipment, for the construction, maintenance, repair and/or improvement of County maintained roads, in Ravalli County?

If this mill levy passes, using currently assessed taxable values of property in Ravalli County, it is estimated the increase in property taxes on homes would be as follows: a \$100,000 home would be approximately \$20.26 per year, a \$300,000 home would be approximately \$60.79 per year, a \$600,000 home would be approximately \$130.55 per year, and a \$900,000 home would be approximately \$212.14 per year. An increase in property taxes may lead to an increase in rental costs.

FOR the mill levy

AGAINST the mill levy

A copy of this Resolution will be provided to the Ravalli County Election Administrator as soon as practicable after its adoption and approval in order to inform the Election Administrator of the details of the election and the pertinent requests and authorizations as to the conduct of the mill levy election.

This Resolution shall be effective IMMEDIATELY.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of County Commissioners for Ravalli County this 9th day of March, 2026.

Dan Huls, Chairman

ATTEST:

Greg Chilcott, Member

Clerk and Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jeff Burrows, Member

County Attorney