

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-\_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF GALLATIN, MONTANA, SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF GALLATIN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON JUNE 2, 2020, THE QUESTION OF AUTHORIZING THE GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED LEVY OF ONE (1) MILL BY TWO (2) MILLS FOR THREE (3) TOTAL MILLS IN ADDITION TO THE MILL LEVY LIMIT IMPOSED BY LAW PURSUANT TO § 7-32-235(3), MCA FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE GALLATIN COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

This Resolution was introduced by \_\_\_\_\_; moved by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_. The Resolution was adopted \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, on March 18, 1986, the Gallatin County Board of Commissioners (Commissioners) passed Resolution No. 610 submitting to the qualified electors of Gallatin County the proposition of whether a levy of one (1) mill should be authorized for the purpose of supporting Gallatin County Search and Rescue Units; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Gallatin County voted in favor of the proposition called for in Resolution No. 610 on June 3, 1986; and

WHEREAS, the authorized levy of one (1) mill raises \$352,837.00 annually; and

WHEREAS, \$352,837.00 no longer fully funds the Gallatin County Search and Rescue Department; and

WHEREAS, the Gallatin County Search and Rescue Department (Search and Rescue) is currently being funded by a combination of the 1986 mill levy and non-tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Montana State Legislature amended § 7-32-235(3), Montana Code Annotated (MCA) in 2001 by removing the statutory limit of one (1) mill in support of search and rescue units; and

WHEREAS, a Montana county may “after approval by a majority of the people voting on the question at an election held throughout the county, levy an annual tax on the taxable value of all taxable property within the county to support one or more search and rescue units established” in a county pursuant to § 7-32-235(3), MCA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 7-32-235(3), MCA, the election to levy an annual tax must be held as provided in § 15-10-425, MCA; and

WHEREAS, a County may “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 by conducting an election as

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provided in this section” pursuant to § 15-10-425(1), MCA

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the investment made in infrastructure, Search and Rescue will face the following future capital funding needs:

1. Ongoing maintenance and expansion of Search and Rescue headquarters in Bozeman, West Yellowstone, and Big Sky
2. Replacing rolling stock necessary to ensure successful operations including ATVs, snowmobiles, and Four-Wheel drive vehicles

WHEREAS, Search and Rescue will face the following future operational funding needs:

1. Staffing in support of volunteers including training, additional staffing, and administration

WHEREAS, the Commissioners desire to propose to the electors of Gallatin County the question of whether to increase the established one (1) mill levy for the Gallatin County Search and Rescue Department by two (2) mills, bringing the authorized amount of total mills for Gallatin County Search and Rescue to three (3) mills; and

WHEREAS, Gallatin County’s Finance Director reports that in FY20, one mill imposed County-wide will raise \$352,837.00; and

WHEREAS, Gallatin County’s Finance Director opines that the value of one mill will remain steady or increase slightly for FY21, and for the foreseeable future, depending upon the effect the Legislature may have on county property tax values; and

WHEREAS, two (2) mills will raise, at the FY 20 value, \$705,674.00; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual tax increase for a \$100,000.00 home for two (2) mills is \$2.70; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual tax increase for a \$200,000.00 home for two (2) mills is \$5.40; and

WHEREAS, \$705,674.00, or a similar amount imposed in future years, will provide for a substantial component of the capital and operational needs of the Gallatin County Search and Rescue Department, and will ensure that this vital service is provided to the public in a professional and competent manner.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the specific purpose for which the additional money is to be used is to fund operations and capital expenditures required for Gallatin County Search and Rescue.
2. That the specific amount of money that is to be raised, based on Gallatin County Fiscal Year 2020 mill rate is \$705,674.00.
3. That the approximate number of mills required are three (3), which is an increase of two (2) mills from the authorized limit of one (1) mills.
4. That the levy shall be in perpetuity, provided that, the Gallatin County Commission may determine in a specific future fiscal year that the number of mills required should be lowered.
5. That the Board of Commissioners of Gallatin County, Montana, does hereby call and direct to be held in the County of Gallatin on June 2, 2020 an election for the purpose of voting on the question of authorizing it to increase the existing levy of one (1) mill by two (2) mills for a total of three (3) mills, in addition to the levy limit imposed by law pursuant to § 7-32-235(3) for the purpose of funding Gallatin County Search and Rescue operations and capital expenditures for Search and Rescue functions. The election shall be held in conjunction with the primary election on said date.
6. That all qualified electors of the County of Gallatin, Montana, shall be entitled to vote at the regular election. The Election Administrator is hereby requested and authorized to proceed with the election in the form and manner prescribed by law.
7. That the Election is hereby requested and authorized to cause notice of the call and holding of the election be published at least once a week for three consecutive weeks before the election in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and any other newspaper of general circulation in the county (or by radio or television broadcast). The notice of election as published shall read substantially as follows:

NOTICE OF ELECTION

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## COUNTY OF GALLATIN, MONTANA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 2nd day of June 2020, an election will be held in and for the County of Gallatin, Montana, on the question of authorizing the Board of Gallatin County Commissioners to increase the existing levy of one (1) mill by two (2) for a total of three (3) mills in addition to the levy limit imposed by law pursuant to § 7-32-235(3), Montana Code Annotated, for the purpose of funding Gallatin County Search and Rescue operations and capital expenditures related to Search and Rescue functions as follows.

### PROPOSITION

THAT THE BOARD OF GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE THE EXISTING LEVY OF ONE (1) MILL BY TWO (2) MILLS FOR A TOTAL OF THREE (3) MILLS IN ADDITION TO THE MILL LEVY LIMIT IMPOSED BY LAW PURSUANT TO § 7-32-235(3), MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING GALLATIN COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES RELATED TO SEARCH AND RESCUE FUNCTIONS.

The specific amount of money that is to be raised, based on Gallatin County Fiscal Year 2020 mill rate, is \$705,674.00. The levy shall be in perpetuity, provided that, the Gallatin County Commission may determine in a specific future fiscal year that the number of mills required should be lowered.

Example: Two (2) additional mills would increase the annual property taxes on a home with a market value of \$100,000.00 approximately \$2.70 and a home with a market value of \$200,000.00 approximately \$5.40.

     **FOR** an increase in the existing levy of one (1) mill by two (2) mills for a total of three (3) mills for the purpose of funding Gallatin County Search and Rescue operations and capital expenditures related to Search and Rescue functions.

     **AGAINST** an increase in the existing levy of one (1) mill by two (2) mills for a total of three (3) mills for the purpose of funding Gallatin County Search and Rescue operations and capital

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expenditures related to Search and Rescue functions.

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