

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-015

RESOLUTION PRESENTING TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MISSOULA COUNTY A QUESTION OF THE PASSAGE OF A MISSOULA COUNTY AGING SERVICES LEVY OF 4 MILLS

WHEREAS, MCA § 15-10-425 allows Missoula County to call for a levy election and collect funds; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula County Commission established Missoula Aging Services in 1982 with the mission to promote the independence, dignity and health of older adults, and those who care for them; and

WHEREAS, Missoula Aging Services has served this cause for nearly 40 years, providing a voice for older county residents and empowering people to age with confidence and without fear; and

WHEREAS, the population of older adults in Missoula County has grown 40 percent from 2010 to 2019, and the population of those age 75 and older has grown 22 percent during this time; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that by 2030, 22 percent of Montana's population will be age 60 or older; and

WHEREAS, the need for such services and support for older people increases as they age; and

WHEREAS, the use of the Meals On Wheels service, which provides older people with a hot meal and a daily check-in from a volunteer, has grown by 66 percent in the past two years, as has the need for computer instruction that helps older adults stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Missoula Aging Services looks out for older adults, including those with Alzheimer's and dementia, and their loved ones by paying thousands of visits to local nursing homes each year; and

WHEREAS, Missoula Aging Services helps prevent the exploitation and abuse of older adults, including helping them to manage their money, avoid scams and get care for dementia; and

WHEREAS, Missoula Aging Services is a vital resource for older adults and their families who need to find caregiving services.; and

WHEREAS, Missoula Aging Services provides resources and services that help older people stay in their homes and live independently, reducing the strain of caregiving for families and cost for taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, County funding for Missoula Aging Services has remained unchanged since 2007; and

WHEREAS, additional County funding will help Missoula Aging Services meet the growing need for Meals On Wheels; improve access to affordable care services and provide relief to stressed family caregivers; and better protect older people from exploitation and abuse; and

WHEREAS, social isolation in older adults can be managed through meaningful volunteer service that utilizes their skills and talents to help solve community problems; and

WHEREAS, such additional County funding will help older people live independently at home while paying what they can afford for caregivers and homemakers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Missoula Board of County Commissioners hereby refer the question to the people of Missoula County for authorization to impose a Missoula County Aging Services levy of four mills to increase County funds in support of services to older Missoula County residents.

The ballot language shall read:

“Shall Missoula County be authorized to replace the current flat annual funding of \$350,000 with a permanent levy of four (4) mills to fund services for the county elderly population? The increased revenue will avoid a reduction of local services to older adults in the county provided by Missoula Aging Services. The fiscal impact on a home having a taxable value of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$3.69 each year of the levy and \$7.38 on a home having a taxable value of \$200,000.”

DATED THIS 10TH DAY OF MARCH, 2022

ATTEST:

Tyler Lernant

FD41C347B06B66B1EE14B1945AEB4B77 readySign
Tyler Lernant, Clerk and Recorder



BOARD OF MISSOULA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Not available for signature

Juanita Vero, Chair

Josh Slotnick

137D51ED69FA2244FFA409545EBDD56F readySign
Josh Slotnick, Commissioner (Acting Chair)

David Strohmaier

A6ACE081F2505A3A08967F7E8BB8C312 readySign
David Strohmaier, Commissioner