

Missoula County Media Release

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Missoula County Commissioners Holding Preliminary Budget Hearing This Week

Missoula County Commissioners will hold their preliminary budget hearing on Thursday, July 26 at 2 p.m. in Annex Room 151. The [preliminary budget](#) and a list of all [budget requests](#) for this fiscal year are on the county's [financial services budget webpage](#). Review the financial services budget webpage for more information about the budget process and to learn key terms.

The budget is considered preliminary because revenue numbers must be estimated prior to receiving certified taxable values from the Montana Department of Revenue (DOR) in early August. This fiscal year, Chief Financial Officer Andrew Czorny estimated a 2.4% increase in county-wide revenue and 1.7% increase in county-only revenue from taxable value and new property taxes derived from new construction coming on to the tax rolls. Because the certified taxable value numbers from DOR will have a direct impact on the number of pending requests included in the final budget, it is likely there will be fewer budget requests funded in the final budget. The modifications will be captured in the county's final budget and provided to the public prior to the final budget hearing on August 23 at 2 p.m. The budget will be considered for final adoption at an administrative meeting with the commissioners the following week to allow the commissioners additional time weigh public comment that may occur at the final budget hearing.

Of note in this year's budget is the increase in the permissive medical mills levied. The county is authorized in 2-9-2012 MCA to levy taxes to fund contributions for group insurance. Historically, the county has not levied the amount necessary to cover those costs. To more accurately reflect the mills levied in each fund for personnel, operations and capital, the preliminary budget reflects a 5.68 county-wide and 0.87 county-only mill increase to the permissive medical levy. This offsets the mills required in other county funds, and is reflected as a decrease in mills levied for those funds. Attachment C in the preliminary budget shows the mills levied in each fund and compares fiscal years 18 and 19.

Anyone interested can view the commissioners' [meeting schedule](#), find meeting agendas and minutes on the commissioners' [agenda portal](#), and read the [Budget in Brief](#) publication from FY18 to learn more about the budget process. You can also [view your tax bill](#) and learn how your taxes are distributed to the various taxing jurisdictions in which you live. Once you find your property on iTax, just click on the "View Pie Charts" link.

Comments and suggestions on the preliminary budget and the budget process are welcomed. Call the Commissioners' Office at 258-4877 or email bcc@missoulacounty.us. CFO Andrew Czorny also welcomes comments and questions on the preliminary budget, budget requests and the budget process.

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