

Missoula County Media Release

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Missoula County Commissioners to Hold Revised Budget Hearing This Week

As the result of adjustments to mill values made by the Montana Department of Revenue, the Missoula County Commission will hold a public hearing to revise the number of mills levied to fund the fiscal year 2019 budget. The hearing will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, in Courthouse Annex Room 151.

Earlier this month, DOR issued revised certified taxable value numbers for Missoula County to account for newly taxable property that the Airport Tax Increment Finance District previously encompassed. With the district sunsetting on July 1 of this year, the value of that property is now used to calculate county mill values. As a result, the value of a countywide mill increased from \$220,300 to \$222,590, while county-only mills increased from \$98,570 to \$100,860. The mill value of the open space bonds also increased from \$216,036 to \$219,262.

“The \$183.75 million budget commissioners approved on Aug. 23 will essentially stay the same; the county will just need to levy fewer mills to raise the revenue required to fund it,” said Andrew Czorny, Missoula County chief financial officer. “This will result in a slight reduction to the tax increase generated from the original budget.”

The county will levy 1.89 fewer countywide mills, 0.3 fewer county-only mills and 0.23 fewer open space mills than originally planned, for a total of 182.26 mills, 37.97 mills and 15.42 mills, respectively. This will result in a 3.81 percent increase in property taxes, down from the 4.88 percent increase that the original final budget produced.

Only 24.7 percent of that – 2.14 mills – will fund increases to the county budget, as 75.3 percent – 5.51 mills – will pay for voter-approved bonds issued for the construction of the new Missoula Public Library. The increased tax on a \$300,000 home would be \$35.03 per year, with \$26.37 attributable to the library and \$8.66 for county operations and services.

The new mill value also will affect the number of permissive medical mills levied. The county is authorized in [MCA 2-9-212](#) 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 final budget originally included a 6.36 countywide mill increase to the permissive medical levy, for a total of 13.5 mills. The county will now levy 13.61 permissive medical levy mills, including a 6.47 mill increase for fiscal year 2019. The increase in the permissive medical levy mills for the amended final budget is offset by additional reductions in countywide mills in other funds. Attachment C in the amended final budget shows the mills levied in each fund and compares fiscal years ‘18 and ‘19.

The [amended final budget](#) and all [budget requests](#) for fiscal year 2019, as well as more information about the budget process and key terms, are available for review on the county's Financial Services [budget webpage](#).

Missoula County welcomes comments and suggestions on the amended final budget and the budget process. Call the Commissioners' Office at 406-258-4877 or email bcc@missoulacounty.us. Czorny also is available to answer questions on the updated budget. He can be reached at 406-258-4919 or aczorny@missoulacounty.us.

The public also 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. Property owners also can [view their tax bills](#) and learn how their taxes are distributed to the various taxing jurisdictions in which they live by finding their property on iTax and clicking the "View Pie Charts" link.

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