

Missoula County Media Release

Contact: Andrew Czorny

Chief Financial Officer

aczorny@missoulacounty.us

406-258-4919

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Public Encouraged to Participate in Missoula County Budget Process

The Missoula County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the county's preliminary budget for fiscal year 2020 at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 25, in the Sophie Moiese Room of the Courthouse Annex. Members of the public are encouraged to participate by attending the hearing or watching it online, either live or after the meeting, at <http://missoula.co/bccmeetings>.

The public is encouraged to review the preliminary budget, copies of which will be available at the public hearing and posted online at <http://missoula.co/budgets>. The preliminary budget reflects expenditures required to sustain current operations based on last year's revenue, since the county will not receive certified taxable values from the Montana Department of Revenue until sometime in August. Once the DOR releases certified taxable values, the county will adjust the budget to more accurately reflect how expenditures compare to revenues.

Commissioners also encourage the public to review and comment on the budget requests departments have submitted that would improve services and operations, such as adding new staff, equipment and technology. Those also will be available at the public hearing and posted online at <http://missoula.co/budgets>.

"What we choose to fund in the budget directly reflects the priorities of the county," said commission Chair Dave Strohmaier. "We can more effectively make decisions on behalf of the public when we hear from the public, so we encourage everyone to take a look at the requests in the budget and let us know what our funding priorities should be."

In addition to commenting at public meetings, which are online at <http://missoula.co/bccmeetings>, residents can comment by calling the Commissioners' Office at 406-258-4877, emailing bcc@missoulacounty.us or mailing comments to the Commissioners' Office, 200 W. Broadway St. Missoula, MT 59802.

County officials will wait to estimate any projected tax increase on an average home until after the DOR releases certified taxable values and after commissioners consider public comment and decide which budget requests to approve or deny.

Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the final budget at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, in the Sophie Moiese Room. They will consider any additional public comment before voting to adopt the final budget at an administrative public meeting in September.

Chief Financial Officer Andrew Czorny, Chief Administrative Officer Vickie Zeier and Chief Operations Officer Chris Lounsbury will be available after Thursday's public hearing to answer questions from the news media.

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Additional resources:

[2019 Budget in Brief](#)

[Video Tutorial: How to Look Up Your Property Taxes Online](#)

[Commissioners' schedule](#)

[Commissioners' meeting minutes and agenda portal](#)