

# Missoula County Media Release

**Contact: Josh Slotnick**

Commissioner

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## **Missoula County Commissioners to Consider Placing Countywide Gas Tax on Primary Ballot**

Missoula County commissioners are seeking public comment as they consider adopting a resolution to place a countywide gas tax on the June 2 primary election ballot.

The first public hearing on the issue will be at the commissioners' public meeting at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, in the Sophie Moiese Room at the Missoula County Courthouse. The board will take constituent comments until the public meeting at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 5, when they will vote on whether to adopt the resolution.

If adopted, commissioners will sign the resolution at a special administrative public meeting at 3 p.m. Monday, March 9, in Administration Building Room 206 so it can be delivered to the Elections Office by the 5 p.m. filing deadline.

In addition to attending the meetings, the public can submit comment by calling 406-258-4877 or emailing [bcc@missoulacounty.us](mailto:bcc@missoulacounty.us).

In an effort to pursue revenue sources beyond increasing property taxes, Commissioner Josh Slotnick has worked on this initiative with the City of Missoula and a recently formed local advocacy group over the past several months. Figures estimated by staff indicate a 2-cent per gallon tax would generate an estimated \$1.1 million, which would be split equally between Missoula County and the City of Missoula to pay for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of public roads. Estimates show that non-residents visiting the county would generate around \$400,000 of the total revenue.

[Montana Code Annotated 7-14-301 through 7-14-304](#) gives county commissioners authority to adopt a resolution placing a local option fuel tax on the ballot. If approved by voters, the tax must be imposed in increments of 1 cent per gallon and cannot exceed 2 cents per gallon. Revenue derived from the tax must be divided among the county and municipalities in the county according to one of the methods outlined in [MCA 7-14-303](#). Missoula is the only incorporated municipality in Missoula County.

Slotnick is available for phone interviews this afternoon by calling 406-239-6993. Media can also call City of Missoula Communications Director Ginny Merriam at 406-552-6007 or 406-546-7692 to set up an interview with Mayor John Engen or City Council Member Jordan Hess.

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