

**SETTING THE DATE FOR THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION
LEVY AND FIXING THE FORM OF THE BALLOT**

MAR 14 2008

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-6-2527(25) M.C.A., the State of Montana authorizes a County as a public body to impose a property tax levy for the purpose of supporting programs that prevent substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, the County of Missoula supports the purpose of building a healthy, safe community for Missoula's citizens; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse is the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs (such as teen binge drinking or using methamphetamine) in a manner that negatively impacts the individual, family or community; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse impacts the entire community and has been clearly identified as a major contributing factor to nearly every major health and social problem our country faces today, including addiction, violence, cancer, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, crime, academic failure and school dropout, suicide, unemployment, homelessness, traffic crashes, and injuries; and

WHEREAS, the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs can be particularly devastating for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, underage drinking alone cost Montana taxpayers \$274 million in 2005, and costs Missoulians over \$25 million a year (*Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 2006*); and

WHEREAS, prevention has been proven to be the least expensive and most effective way to reduce the negative impacts of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula City Council, Missoula County Commissioners, and Missoula County Public Schools Board of Directors have all recognized the prevention of underage drinking and other drug use as a community priority by adopting resolutions to that effect; and

WHEREAS, an effective community prevention strategy must be based upon proven programs, including:

1. A coalition that coordinates prevention efforts and community members to prevent substance abuse and its negative impacts on the citizens of Missoula County;
2. Community education about the risks and costs of abusing alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs;
3. Supervised non-school hour activities that give young people alternatives to drug use and opportunities for positive youth development; and
4. Early intervention to help youth and families address alcohol, tobacco, and other drug problems; and

WHEREAS, providing consistent, ongoing support to these programs across the region will help Missoula County citizens grow healthy youth and families and reduce the negative consequences and high costs of substance abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Missoula Board of County Commissioners as follows:

Calling of the Election. The Missoula Board of County Commissioners hereby calls and directs a special County election be held on June 3, 2008, in conjunction with the primary election, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

PREVENTION PROGRAMS LEVY

- ☐ FOR authorizing a permanent levy for approximately two (2) mills raising \$368,920 per year for the purpose of supporting prevention programs in Missoula County that help grow healthy youth and families and reduce the negative consequences and high costs of substance abuse. If approved, the requested levy could increase the annual taxes on a home with an assessed market value of \$100,000 by \$6.14 and on a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 by \$12.28.
- ☐ AGAINST authorizing a mill levy for supporting prevention programs in Missoula County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF MARCH, 2008

ATTEST:

VICKIE M. ZEIER, Missoula County Clerk
By Jane K. Barnes
DEPUTY

Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY

Jean Curtiss
Jean Curtiss, Chair

Bill Carey
Bill Carey, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

Michael W. Schuchert
Deputy County Attorney

Larry Anderson
Larry Anderson, Commissioner