

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA,  
THE QUESTION OF CREATION OF A 3 MILL LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
WAGE JOBS IN CASCADE COUNTY.**

**RESOLUTION 17-70**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CASCADE COUNTY**

**In the Matter of Economic Development Mill Levy**

**WHEREAS**, MCA Section 90-5-112 authorizes a local government to levy a tax upon the taxable value of all taxable property in the county for the purpose of economic development, and

**WHEREAS**, MCA Section 15-10-425 authorizes a local government to impose a new mill levy by conducting an election, and

**WHEREAS**, MCA Section 15-10-420 authorizes a local government to impose a new mill levy that exceeds the mill levy limit upon the approval of a majority of the qualified electors voting in the election, and

**WHEREAS**, the upcoming General election provides an opportunity for the electorate of Cascade County to vote on the question of establishment of an Economic Development Mill, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has a Growth Policy Objective supporting local economic development that is in the best interests of the residents of Cascade County, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners supports local efforts to grow and diversify the Cascade County economy and support the creation of higher wage jobs, and

**WHEREAS**, local public and private economic development efforts have proven to be successful in helping existing businesses to grow, entrepreneurs to start new businesses, and attract new business investment to the County, and

**WHEREAS**, the County must undertake certain economic development projects and activities to retain and attract new quality jobs, and be competitive in retaining and attracting private business investment, and

**WHEREAS**, County taxpayers benefit from increased economic opportunity and property tax base,

**WHEREAS**, private businesses, individuals and organizations have invested significant funds in local economic efforts, and

**WHEREAS**, local economic development efforts could produce more results with public funds to support business retention and expansion, business starts, business attraction through technical assistance, marketing, infrastructure development, planning and studies, loan capital and other economic development efforts, and

**WHEREAS**, the use local taxpayer money for economic development should be overseen by elected officials,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT:**

- 1) The Board hereby calls and directs an election to be held in Cascade County for the purpose of voting on the question of whether or not the Board of County Commissioners shall be authorized to levy and utilize three (3) mills for the specific purpose of promoting economic development within Cascade County.
- 2) This mill would be a permanent annual levy of up to three (3) mills and would be in excess of the maximum number of allowable mills as calculated under MCA 15-10-420.
- 3) This election is to be held in conjunction with the General election occurring on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.
- 4) All qualified electors of the County shall be entitled to vote at the mill levy election. The County Election Administrator is hereby requested and authorized to give proper notice of the close of registration and thereafter prepare printed lists of the electors in the County entitled to vote in the election in the County in the form and manner prescribed by law.
- 5) The supporting group will pay for additional mailing costs associated with the expansion of mill levy election for voting county wide.
- 6) The Election Administrator is hereby requested to prepare suitable ballots for use at the election, and to distribute the same to the polling place. The form of the ballot shall be substantially as set forth at Exhibit 1.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that in the event of passage of the proposed three (3) mill levy for Economic Development, the commission shall:

- 1) Annually determine the number of mills (up to the maximum of three (3) mills) to be assessed.
- 2) Pass a budget for the use of the funds generated by the levy and review potential programs and projects into which to invest the levy funds. Funds may be used for such purposes as but not limited to providing operating funds for qualified Economic Development Agencies serving Cascade County, for grant match for economic

development projects, infrastructure improvements required for industrial development and other expenditures as deemed by the Commission necessary to facilitate the creation of new higher wage non-governmental jobs within Cascade County.

Passed and adopted this 25th day of July, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

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James L. Larson, Chairman

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Joe Briggs, Commissioner

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Jane Weber, Commissioner

**Attest**

On this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, I hereby attest the above-written signatures of the Board of Cascade County Commissioners.

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Rita Fontana Moore, Cascade County Clerk and Recorder

## EXHIBIT 1 – BALLOT LANGUAGE

### OFFICIAL BALLOT CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

November 7, 2017

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:** Make an X or similar mark in the vacant square before the words "MILL LEVY-YES" if you wish to vote for the economic development mill levy; if you are opposed to the mill levy, make an X or similar mark in the square before the words "MILL LEVY-NO".

The Cascade County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to ask voters to approve a property tax increase of up to three (3) mills annually to provide additional funding to Cascade County. The additional funding may only be used for the purpose of facilitating economic development and the creation of higher wage non-governmental jobs within Cascade County. The increase would be perpetual and the County Commission may choose to levy less than the three (3) mills each year.

Based on market conditions at the time this election was authorized, the County estimates the passage of this levy would generate approximately \$463,488 annually. Passage of this levy will increase the property taxes on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$4.05. Passage of this levy will increase the property taxes on a \$150,000 home by approximately \$6.08. Passage of this levy will increase the property taxes on a \$200,000 home by approximately \$8.10.

Shall the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Cascade County, Montana be permanently authorized to levy and utilize up to three (3) mills additional levy authority for the specific purpose of facilitating economic development and the creation of higher wage non-governmental jobs in Cascade County?

{    } MILL LEVY - YES

{    } MILL LEVY - NO