

**RESOLUTION 2014 - 21**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ELECTION ON PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that additional funds are necessary to develop and support the facilities at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, a ten-year construction loan approved by the voters in June 2004 will expire on June 20, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lewis and Clark County Fair Board has recommended the ten-year Construction Levy approved by the voters in June 2004 be reduced from \$1,160,135 yearly or 9.64 mills to \$782,249 yearly or 6.5 mills and made permanent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lewis and Clark County Fair Board has identified improvements needed, including an indoor arena, horse stalls, renovation of the Multi Purpose Building, a promenade, general grounds improvements, and playground improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lewis and Clark County Fair Board has asked the Lewis and Clark County Board of Commissioners to reduce and make permanent a ten-year levy approved in 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a permanent levy of approximately 6.5 mills or \$782,249 in the first year of the mill levy and subject to Sec.15-10-420(1) (a), MCA, inflationary and new growth allowed in subsequent years to fund improvements, operations and maintenance of the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds, and;

**WHEREAS**, Sec.15-10-420 and 15-10-425, MCA, authorizes Lewis and Clark County to request of the voters an increase in mill levies over and above its current limitations; and

**WHEREAS**, the revenue raised by this levy will be used for improvements at the Fairgrounds and for maintenance and operation of the fairgrounds. It is expected that the improvements made will increase revenue to the Fairgrounds and provide a significant economic benefit to the businesses and citizens of Lewis and Clark County.

**WHEREAS**, the tax will be levied on all county taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens outside the surrounding Helena area may not be able to readily avail themselves of the benefits of the fairgrounds; and



**WHEREAS**, proceeds from the Fairgrounds levy in the amount of 10% of its total revenues collected from taxpayers living 25 miles from the fairgrounds should be dedicated to residents living in excess of 25 miles from the fairgrounds,

**WHEREAS**, those proceeds shall be utilized in a manner recommended by the Fair Board and school districts of those affected areas for participation in events at the Fairgrounds.

**WHEREAS**, the Lewis and Clark County Fair Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners. The use of any funds generated by this levy may be prioritized by the Fair Board but shall be implemented by the Board of County Commissioners.

**WHEREAS**, prior to each annual final budget hearing the Fair Board will present to the Lewis and Clark County Board of Commissioners an accounting of the activities and plans for the Fairgrounds in a public meeting, stating the number of mills requested.

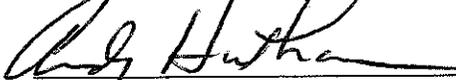
**WHEREAS**, the Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners shall establish the amount to be levied and the use of the funds generated each fiscal year as part of the regular budget adoption process should the authority be granted by passage of the measure.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lewis and Clark County Board of Commissioners shall call for an election on permanent funding for the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds on June 3, 2014.

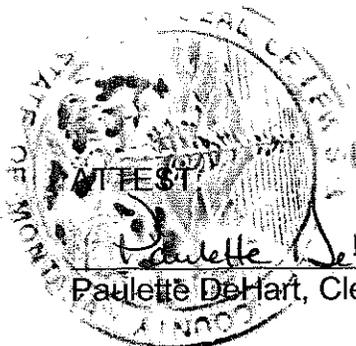
Passed and adopted this 20 day of February, 2014

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Susan Good Geise, Chairman

  
Andy Hunthausen, Vice-Chair

  
Michael A. Murray, Member



  
Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board

[BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR FAIRGROUNDS PROPOSAL]

Shall the Lewis and Clark County Board of County Commissioners be authorized to raise approximately 6.5 mills or \$782,249 permanently for the purpose of financing improvements, and operations and maintenance at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds?

The permanent approximately 6.5 mills or \$782,249 will be subject to Sec.15-10-420(1) (a), MCA, after the first year, allowing for inflationary growth and newly taxable growth.

This levy will allow the Fairgrounds to increase the capacity of the Fairgrounds to hold more events and generate revenue and economic benefits for the Fairgrounds, the businesses and citizens of Lewis and Clark County. Improvements identified include an indoor arena, horse barns, renovation of the Multi-Purpose Building, playground and grounds improvements and a promenade.

The impact of this mill levy on a residential home valued at \$100,000.00 is \$9.00 per year; a reduction of \$4.34 from current, and on a residential home valued at \$200,000.00 is \$18.00 per year, a reduction of \$8.69 per year from current.

\_\_\_\_\_ **FOR THE LEVY**

\_\_\_\_\_ **AGAINST THE LEVY**