



Resolution Opposing Proposed Constitutional Initiative #2

WHEREAS, Proposed Constitutional Initiative 2 seeks to insert taxation policy into the Montana State Constitution, making it difficult if not impossible to alter; and

WHEREAS, Proposed Constitutional Initiative 2 limits annual increases and in valuations of residential property when assessing property taxes if the property is not newly constructed, significantly improved, or had a change of ownership since January 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposed Constitutional Initiative 2 would result in a significant 88% decrease in local taxes across the board that fund our local public schools, fire departments, police departments, roads, public utilities and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, the Montana AFL-CIO supports a fair tax system robust enough to adequately fund necessary public programs and services, including public schools, fire protection, roads, public safety and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, working families rely on the provision of essential public services, as taxpayers, employees, and consumers; and

WHEREAS, local governments already face challenges with underfunding, leading to harmful cuts and reductions in essential services; and

WHEREAS, communities across Montana are experiencing unprecedented population growth, resulting in a need to strength and better fund our public services and local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the stringent limits proposed by Proposed Constitutional Initiative 2 will require alternative funding sources, with a general sales tax and massive income tax increases as likely solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Montana AFL-CIO opposes a sales tax and other regressive taxation schemes that disproportionately places a tax burden on the backs of working Montanans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana AFL-CIO formally opposes Proposed Constitutional Initiative #2 and its efforts to curtail adequate funding for our public schools, public services, and essential local infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana AFL-CIO will work to educate union members, their families, and working Montanans across the state about the disastrous effects of Proposed Constitutional Initiative #2 to our local schools, fire departments, police departments, and ability to invest in strong local communities and economies.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana AFL-CIO will continue to fight for a fair taxation system based on the ability to pay and that shifts the tax burden from working families to the wealthy and corporations.