

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03**

**A RESOLUTION,** of the Town of Mansfield, Washington, providing for the submission of a proposition to the qualifying voters of the Town of Mansfield at the August 2025 primary election for their ratification or rejection, providing for authority to levy an increase in the regular property tax levy to the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value which is in excess of the limit factor established in RCW 84.55.005 and 84.55.010; setting forth the ballot proposition; directing the Town Clerk to certify to the County Auditor a certified copy of this Resolution; and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Mansfield is a town located in Douglas County, Washington, duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the state of Washington; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town is authorized to levy a permanent regular property tax not to exceed \$.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value on the property within the City; and

**WHEREAS,** Initiative 747, codified in RCW 84.55.005-0101, approved in 2001, has limited the increase in property tax revenues to the Town to a rate of one percent (1%) annually which has been less than the actual rate of inflation for the costs of providing services to the citizens of the Town, causing an ongoing structural budget deficit; and

**WHEREAS,** the cost of contracting with Douglas County for providing law enforcement services went from passing through the State Law and Justice funding (effectively no cost to the Town) to the sum of over \$100,000 over the next five years; and

**WHEREAS,** without additional revenues, the Town will be required to substantially reduce basic services to the citizens of the Town, including services related to public safety, parks, and other community services; and

**WHEREAS,** RCW 84.55.050(2) authorizes a town council to place a proposition before the voters to authorize annual increases in regular property tax levies for

multiple consecutive years (up to six consecutive years), during which period each year's authorized maximum legal levy shall be used as the base upon which an increased levy limit for the succeeding year is computed, so long as the ballot proposition states the dollar rate proposed for the first year of the consecutive years along with the limit factor or a specified index (such as the consumer price index) to be used for determining a limit factor in each of the subsequent consecutive years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council desires to offset the ongoing loss of revenues resulting from the ongoing structural deficit created by Initiative 747 by allowing the electors to approve or reject a proposition under RCW 84.55.050(2) to authorize the Town Council to levy the Town's regular property tax in an amount that exceeds the limit factor that would otherwise be prescribed by RCW 84.55.010; and

**WHEREAS**, the proceeds of the increase in the regular property tax on real property that would be authorized by the ballot proposition requested below will provide funding for the continuation of basic services provided by the Town to its citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD, WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(2) and RCW 29A.04.330, an election is hereby requested to be called, conducted and held within the Town of Mansfield, on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the Town, for their ratification or rejection, a proposition approving an increase in the Town's regular property tax levy exceeding the limit factor provided in RCW 84.55.005 - .0101, as more specifically described in Section 2 below.

**Section 2.** The proposition would authorize the Town to levy the regular property tax at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value on property in the Town for collection in the year 2026. For the five years following 2026 (i.e., the years 2027-2031), the proposition would also authorize use of a limit factor of 100% plus three percent (3%). The proposition also would approve the use of the dollar amount of the 2031 levy for computing the maximum levy that may be imposed in years after 2031. Revenues from the property tax increases that would be authorized by the ballot proposition shall be used for the limited purposes of public safety, parks, community and other governmental services, and, secondarily, to replenish the Town's "rainy day" reserve fund.

**Section 3.** The proposition to be submitted to the electorate of the Town shall read substantially as follows:

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
PROPOSITION NO. 1  
LEVY FOR RETENTION OF BASIC PUBLIC SAFETY AND OTHER SERVICES**

*The Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, adopted Resolution No. 2025-03 concerning voter approval of its regular property tax levy.*

To retain basic public safety, parks, community and other governmental services, *this proposition would* (1) increase the regular property tax levy above the limit factor, to a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value for collection in 2026; (2) increase the 2027-2031 levy amounts by three percent (3%); and (3) authorize use of the 2031 levy amount as the base for computing levies in succeeding years; all as set forth in Resolution No. 2025-03.

*Should this proposition be approved?:*

**YES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4.** The Mayor and Town Attorney are authorized to make such minor adjustments to the wording of such proposition as may be recommended by the Douglas County Prosecuting

Attorney or Auditor, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Resolution as approved by the Town Council.

**Section 5.** The election will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

**Section 6.** In the event the proposition specified in Section 3 above is approved, the Town Council shall levy and there shall be collected a regular tax on real property in the Town at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for collection in 2026.

**Section 7.** The Douglas County Auditor, as the Town's ex officio Supervisor of Elections, is hereby requested to call and conduct said election on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, and submit to the qualified electors of the Town the proposition set forth herein.

**Section 8.** The Douglas County Auditor shall cause a notice of election substantially in the form attached as Exhibit "A" referred to herein, to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town. Such publication shall take place not more than 10 days or less than three days prior to August 5, 2025.

**Section 9.** The Douglas County Auditor, as the Town's ex officio Supervisor of Elections shall conduct the election, canvas the vote and certify the results in the manner provided by law.

**Section 10.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

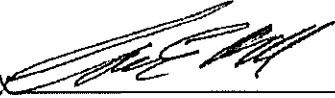
**Section 11.** If any provision of this resolution is determined to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason the remaining provisions shall remain in force and affect.

**Section 12.** The findings of fact as set forth above are hereby incorporated by reference.

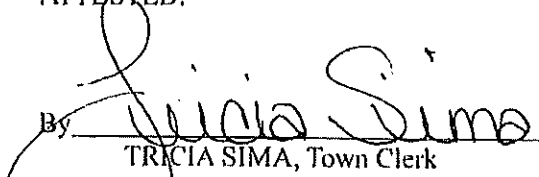
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PASSED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE 9th DAY OF APRIL, 2025, BY A MAJORITY  
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

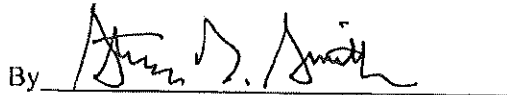
APPROVED:

By   
CLINT WALL, Mayor

ATTESTED:

By   
TRICIA SIMA, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By   
STEVE D. SMITH, Town Attorney

RECEIVED  
APR 25 2025

Douglas County Elections  
Waterville, WA

3:38pm  
email to Thad  
forwarded to me

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
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*Should this proposition be approved?:*

**YES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Scott A. Brown*  
*Mayor of Mansfield*