

RESOLUTION NO. R-2020-__

RESOLUTION expressing the City Council's support for the City of Yakima's Proposition No. 1 authorizing the City to lift the one percent levy limit established in RCW 84.55.010 in order to provide funds to pay the costs of City operations and services, including public safety, parks and recreation, addressing homelessness, street maintenance, planning, code enforcement and graffiti removal.

WHEREAS, the three primary sources of revenue the City receives to pay for operations and services such as public safety, parks and recreation, homeless issues, street maintenance, planning, and code enforcement are sales tax, utility tax, and property tax; and

WHEREAS, state law restricts the City's annual increase in property tax revenue to a maximum of a 1% annual increase, despite the fact that actual costs for City services and operations have increased at approximately 2.5% each year, resulting in a shrinking source of revenue and an inability to meet service and operations requirements the residents need; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the City Council adopted long-term strategic priorities which included fiscal sustainability as the top objective; and

WHEREAS, the City Council carefully considers multiple priorities in each year's proposed budget and approves only those within foreseeably reasonable budgeted revenue; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget did not provide funding to increase the police response to violent crime in the City or to address improved police and fire response times within the City; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget did not provide funding for replacement of aging fire engines and police patrol vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget did not provide funding for continuing the effort to provide children with safe means to go to and from their schools; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget did not provide funding for expansion of the Clean City goals for the downtown area, streets and parks; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget did not provide funding for enhanced wildland firefighting capabilities to meet growing needs as the City expands; and

WHEREAS, state law provides a means for the City's voters to approve an annual increase in property tax greater than 1% if they approve what is referred to as a "levy lid lift"; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, voters in the City of Yakima (the "City") will decide whether to approve the City's ballot proposition No. 1, a measure that would lift the one percent real property tax levy limit established in RCW 84.55.010 in order to provide funds to pay the costs of City operations and services that include public safety, parks and recreation, homeless issues, street maintenance, planning, code enforcement and graffiti removal; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 42.17.130, the City Council finds that its support of Ballot Proposition No. 1 is in the best interests of the residents of the City and therefore expresses its support for the proposed levy lid lift; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YAKIMA:

Section 1. The City Council hereby expresses its support for the City's Proposition No. 1, included on the February 11, 2020 special election which, if passed, authorizes the City to lift the levy limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to provide funding to sustain City operations and services, including public safety, parks/recreation, youth/family, addressing homelessness, street and facilities maintenance, and other City operations and services, by increasing the City's regular property tax levy by \$0.40/\$1,000 of assessed property value to a maximum rate of \$3.10/\$1,000 of assessed property value, for collection in 2021. The 2021 levy amount will be used as the basis to calculate subsequent levies, consistent with RCW 84.55.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately after its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 21st day of January, 2020.

Patricia Byers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sonya Claar Tee, City Clerk