

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution No. 26-41

Resolution to Hold Election to Issue Bonds for Yellowstone County Detention Facility

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-7-2201 of the Montana Code Annotated (2025), a county has the authority to issue bonds. Pursuant to Sections 7-7-2203 and 7-7-2101 of the Montana Code Annotated (2025), the aggregate amount of all bonds issued by a county cannot exceed 2.5% of the total assessed value of the taxable property in the county. Pursuant to Section 7-7-2206 of the Montana Code Annotated (2025), the term of a bond is limited to 20 years. Pursuant to Section 7-7-2223 of the Montana Code Annotated (2025), to issue bonds a board of county commissioners has to unanimously pass a resolution to issue the bonds and the voters have to approve the issuance of the bonds. Pursuant to Section 7-7-2237 of the Montana Code Annotated (2025), the percentile of votes to approve the issuance of bonds depends on the percentile of the voters who voted. When 40% of the voters vote, a majority of votes is needed to approve the issuance of the bonds. When more than 30% but less then 40% of the voters vote, 60% of the votes is needed to approve the issuance of the bonds. When less than 30% vote, the bond issuance is considered rejected. Pursuant to Section 7-7-2238 of the Montana Code Annotated (2025), if the voters approve the issuance of the bonds, the board of county commissioners passes a resolution to issue the bonds.

WHEREAS, the process for a county to issue bonds is the board of county commissioners passes a resolution of intent to issue bonds, sets a public hearing, provides notice of the public hearing, holds a public hearing, receives public comment, considers the public comment, passes a resolution to hold an election, holds an election and passes a resolution to issue the bonds.

WHEREAS, Yellowstone County is a political subdivision of the State of Montana. The County has the authority to issue bonds. The total assessed market value less tax increment value received from the State of Montana in August, 2025, in Yellowstone County is \$33,954,966,417. The total aggregate amount of bonds the County can issue is \$848,874,160, 2.5% of \$33,954,466,417. As of March 1, 2026, the total aggregate amount of bonds the County has outstanding is \$5,500,000. The County has the ability to issue additional bonds in the amount of \$843,374,160.

WHEREAS, Yellowstone County through the Yellowstone County Sheriff’s Office operates the Yellowstone County Detention Facility. The Facility detains men and women charged with or convicted of crimes. The number of inmates in the Facility has increased. Yellowstone County needs to renovate and expand the Facility to accommodate the increased number of inmates. To renovate and expand the Facility, the County needs to obtain \$175,000,000.00. To obtain the \$175,000,000.00 to renovate and expand the Facility, the County would like to issue \$175,000,000.00 in general obligation amortization bonds that will retire in 20 years.

Purpose: Renovate and Expand the Yellowstone County Detention Facility
Amount: \$175,000,000.00
Mills: 32 Mills approximately
Duration: 20 years
Impact: Fair Market Value \$100,000.00 Home = \$ 23.00
Fair Market Value \$300,000.00 Home = \$ 70.00
Fair Market Value \$600,000.00 Home = \$ 165.00

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2026, the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution of intent to issue bonds to renovate and expand the Yellowstone County Detention Facility conditioned on voter approval and set a public hearing on the bonds for March 31, 2026. On March 13, 2026, March 20, 2026 and March 27, 2026, the Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder published notice of the public hearing in the *Yellowstone County News, Billings Gazette and Laurel Outlook*. On March 31, 2026, the Board held a public hearing. The Board heard comments on the bonds and considered the bonds and the comments. The Board determined that it would be in the best interest of the public to issue the bonds conditioned on an election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners approves the issuance of \$175,000,000.00 in general obligation amortization bonds that will retire in 20 years for the renovation and expansion of the Yellowstone County Detention Facility conditioned on an election in which the voters approve the bonds.

The Board orders the Yellowstone County Election Administrator to make appropriate arrangements to place the question of whether the County shall be authorized to issue and sell the bonds on the official ballot for the general election to be held on November 3, 2026. If the voters approve the bonds, the Board will pass a resolution to issue the bonds. If the voters do not approve the bonds, the Board will pass a resolution not to issue the bonds.

Passed and Adopted on the 31st day of March, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

Mark Morse, Chair

Michael J. Watters, Member

Chris White, Member

ATTEST:

Jeff Martin, Clerk and Recorder