

## **RESOLUTION**

### **NO. 26-62**

**WHEREAS**, MCA 7-4-2503 provides for a County Compensation Board to be established by the Board of County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Compensation Board was established by the Board of County Commissioners and such board did hold public hearings regarding the elected official compensation proposal for fiscal year 2026-2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners are required to fix the salaries of the elected officials annually as required by MCA 7-4-2504; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Compensation Board and the Board of County Commissioners heard testimony both for and against such proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal brought forth before the Board of County Commissioners is deemed to be equitable and in compliance with MCA 7-4-2503; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Yellowstone County, Montana pursuant to MCA 7-4-2504 establish the compensation for the elected officials in accordance with attachments (A), (B), (C), and (D) to this resolution effective July 1, 2026.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-10-208 MCA whereby in the resolution providing for salary, the Board of County Commissioners shall designate office hours of each Justice of the Peace of Yellowstone County, Montana, to be from 9:00 o'clock a.m. until 12:00 noon and 1:00 o'clock p.m. until 5:00 o'clock p.m. every working day, Monday through Friday.

All such provisions of this Resolution shall be controlled and limited by Montana state law. Should any provisions of this resolution conflict with Montana state law, the applicable law shall control.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Yellowstone County, Montana this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

Mark Morse, Chair

(SEAL)

Michael J. Waters, Member

Chris White, Member

ATTEST:

Jeff Martin  
Clerk and Recorder

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**RECOMMENDATION FROM ELECTED OFFICIAL**  
**COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD**

In accordance with MCA 7-4-2503, the Yellowstone County Compensation Board has examined the compensation levels for County officials and recommends the implementation of the following FY 2026-2027 salary plan for Yellowstone County elected officials:

a) Base Salary, exclusive of additional compensation, will be increased 3.00% over the FY26 level Base Salary, as shown in Attachment B.

b) Total compensation for the Justice of the Peace positions will be adjusted as provided by MCA 7-4-2503(2) (g). Those positions will have a total compensation of 90.00% of the FY27 compensation level of a district court judge. The Justice of the Peace position will receive no longevity. The difference in the amount of compensation provided as a Base Salary for elected officials and this 90.00% level shall be considered “Other Compensation” as shown in Attachment C.

c) The County Attorney’s total compensation will be equal to the FY27 compensation level of a district court judge. The County Attorney will receive no longevity. The County Attorney’s salary is reflected in Attachment C.

d) The longevity will be determined as shown in Attachment D, exclusive of the sheriff who will receive statutory longevity as determined by MCA 7-4-2503(2)(d).

Compensation as determined by the above criteria will be earned and paid in equal semi-monthly installments. Elected officials vacating the office before completion of a semi-monthly pay cycle will receive a prorated portion of their compensation. An elected or appointed official taking office after the first day of a semi-monthly pay cycle will receive a prorated portion of their semi-monthly compensation.

MCA 7-4-2503 requires the Compensation Board to hold public hearings, and MCA 7-4-2504 requires the Board of County Commissioners to fix the salaries for elected officials by resolution annually.

**ATTACHMENT B - ELECTED OFFICIALS COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR FY27**  
**SHERIFF ON STATUTORY LONGEVITY METHOD**  
**3% Increase to Base Salary and longevity value**

POSITION	COMPENSATION FOR FY26				COMPENSATION FOR FY27				\$ Increase	% Incr
	BASE SALARY	OTHER PAY	LONGEVITY	TOTAL Compensation	BASE SALARY	OTHER PAY	LONGEVITY	TOTAL Compensation		
	@ 6/30/2026	FY26	FY26	@ 6/30/2026	@ 7/01/2026	FY27	@ 7/01/2026	@ 7/01/2026		
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT - HALPIN	87,826.62		29,136.64	116,963.26	90,461.42		30,010.74	120,472.16	3,508.90	3.00%
CLERK & RECORDER / SURVEYOR / AUDITOR - MARTIN	87,826.62	17,565.32 NOTE (2)	29,136.64	134,528.58	90,461.42	18,092.28 NOTE (2)	30,010.74	138,564.44	4,035.86	3.00%
COMMISSIONERS - WATERS	87,826.62	2,000.00 NOTE (3)	7,284.16 NOTE (8)	97,110.78	90,461.42	2,000.00 NOTE (3)	7,502.68 NOTE (8)	99,964.10	2,853.32	2.94%
COMMISSIONERS - MORSE	87,826.62	2,000.00 NOTE (3)	21,852.48 NOTE (7)	111,679.10	90,461.42	2,000.00 NOTE (3)	22,508.05 NOTE (7)	114,969.47	3,290.37	2.95%
COMMISSIONERS - WHITE	87,826.62	2,000.00 NOTE (3)	-	89,826.62	90,461.42	2,000.00 NOTE (3)	- NOTE (9)	92,461.42	2,634.80	2.93%
SHERIFF - LINDER	89,826.62 NOTE (10)	2,000.00 NOTE (10)	32,337.58 NOTES (1,5)	124,164.20	92,461.42 NOTE (10)	7,275.00 NOTE (11)	33,286.11 NOTES (1,5)	133,022.53	8,858.33	7.13%
TREASURER / ASSESS / SUPT. OF SCH. PETERS	87,826.62	9,182.66 NOTE (4)	7,284.16 NOTE (6)	104,293.44	90,461.42	9,446.14 NOTE (4)	7,502.68 NOTE (6)	107,410.25	3,116.80	2.99%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>616,786.34</b>	<b>34,747.99</b>	<b>127,031.66</b>	<b>778,565.98</b>	<b>635,229.93</b>	<b>40,813.43</b>	<b>130,821.01</b>	<b>806,864.37</b>	<b>28,298.39</b>	<b>3.63%</b>

BASE SALARY - FY26  
FY27 PERCENT INCREASE TO BASE SALARY  
BASE SALARY - FY27  
CURRENT LONGEVITY MAXIMUM  
ANNUAL LONGEVITY INCREMENT (4 YR MAX)

\$	87,826.62
	3.00%
\$	90,461.42
\$	30,010.74
\$	7,502.68

After longevity increments thru 6/30/27

837,799.72  
30,935.35

7.61%

**LONGEVITY BASED ON YEARS OF SERVICE WITHIN OFFICE EITHER ELECTED OR APPOINTED.**

- NOTE (1): The sheriff will receive statutory longevity equal to 1% of base pay for each year of service (MCA 7-4-2503(2)(d)).
- NOTE (2): Combined offices of Clerk & Recorder and Surveyor, receives additional 10% of base pay per Resolution 03-64. Combined offices of Clerk & Recorder/Surveyor and Auditor receives additional 10% of base pay per Resolution 22-04, effective 1/1/23.
- NOTE (3): Commissioners receive statutory pay in addition to base salary of \$2,000 a year (MCA 7-4-2107)
- NOTE (4): Combined offices of Treasurer and Supt of Schools + \$400 per 7-4-2503(2)(a). Receive additional 10% of base pay per Resolution 03-65. Office combined with Supt. of Schools effective 1/1/11.
- NOTE (5): Sheriff Linder receives an additional year for longevity in October 2026 bringing total compensation to \$133,947.14 (7.88% increase on a June 30 to June 30 basis).
- NOTE (6): Treasurer Peters has a January 1 anniversary date for longevity increase of \$7,502.68 to be added to total compensation \$107,410.25 to total \$114,912.93 (10.18% increase on a June 30 to June 30 basis).
- NOTE (7): Commissioner Morse has a January 1 anniversary date for longevity increase of \$7,502.68 to be added to total compensation \$114,969.47 to total \$122,472.16 (9.66% increase on a June 30 to June 30 basis).
- NOTE (8): Commissioner Waters has a January 1 anniversary date for longevity increase of \$7,502.68 to be added to total compensation \$99,964.10 to total \$107,466.79 (10.66% increase on a June 30 to June 30 basis).
- NOTE (9): Commissioner White has an August 1 anniversary date for longevity increase of \$7,502.68 to be added to total compensation \$92,461.42 to total \$99,964.10 (11.29% increase on a June 30 to June 30 basis).
- NOTE (10): Sheriff receives the \$2,000 statutory pay provided for in MCA 7-4-2503 (2)(b), to be included in the base salary for longevity calculation.
- NOTE (11): In addition to the \$2,000 statutory pay in Note 10, Sheriff receives \$7,275 in additional salary as determined by the board of county commissioners (MCA 7-4-2503 (2)(c)), not included in the longevity calculation.

**ATTACHMENT C - ELECTED OFFICIALS-CO ATTY AND JUSTICE OF PEACE POSITIONS FOR FY27**  
**3% Increase to Base Salary and 90% of District Court Salary**

POSITION	COMPENSATION FOR FY26				COMPENSATION FOR FY27				\$ Increase	% Incr
	BASE SALARY	OTHER PAY	LONGEVITY	TOTAL Compensation	BASE SALARY	OTHER PAY	LONGEVITY	TOTAL Compensation		
	@ 6/30/26	@ 6/30/26	@ 6/30/26	@ 6/30/26	@ 7/01/26	@ 7/01/26	@ 7/01/26	@ 7/01/26		
ATTORNEY - TWITO	159,813.00		NOTE (1)	159,813.00	\$159,813.00		NOTE (1)	159,813.00	-	0.00%
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - CARTER	87,826.62	56,005.08	NOTE (2)	143,831.70	90,461.42	53,370.28	NOTE (2)	143,831.70	-	0.00%
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE -WALKER	87,826.62	56,005.08	NOTE (2)	143,831.70	90,461.42	53,370.28	NOTE (2)	143,831.70	-	0.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>335,466.24</b>	<b>112,010.16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>447,476.40</b>	<b>340,735.84</b>	<b>106,740.56</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>447,476.40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

BASE SALARY - FY26-JP Only  
 FY26 PERCENT INCREASE TO BASE SALARY -JP Only  
 BASE SALARY - FY27-JP Only  
 FY27 % of Dist Court Salary-JP Only

\$	87,826.62
	3.00%
\$	90,461.42
	90.00%

NOTE (3)

NOTE (1): As of FY10, salary set at 100% of District Court judge salary. No longevity component. - State reimburses a portion of County Attorney salary and benefits.

NOTE (2): Salary set at a % of District Court judge salary. No longevity component. Per County Atty, must keep elected official base as component, with remaining total compensation difference being "Other Pay", not longevity related.

NOTE (3): FY17 % to District Court raised from 75% to 76.25%. FY19 % to District Court raised from 76.25% to 77.5%. FY21 and FY22 % to District Court was not raised. FY23 % to District Court raised from 77.5% to 80.0%. FY24 was not raised. FY25 was raised from 80% to 90%. FY26 & FY27 were not raised.

## **ATTACHMENT D**

### **LONGEVITY COMPUTATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FY27**

These provisions apply to elected officials other than County Attorney, Justices of the Peace and Sheriff.

- 1) Longevity means continuous service in office as either elected or appointed official.
- 2) Maximum longevity value is \$30,010.74.
- 3) The maximum longevity value will be divided by 4 years to determine the annual longevity value.
- 4) Longevity will increase 1 year on the anniversary of the month the official took office for those elected officials who have not attained maximum longevity.