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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MISSOULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Missoula County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the preliminary budget on Wednesday, July 29, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Missoula County Courthouse Annex. The public meeting is the next step in adopting the budget for fiscal year 2010. Missoula County Commissioners have already met to discuss and set budget parameters for the coming year.

The County's total budget for fiscal year 2010 is \$87,595,992, less than a 1% increase from 2009. The Commissioners opted not to increase property taxes and keep the County's mill levies at their current level. To mitigate this, the Commissioners asked each general fund department to reduce their operations budgets by 3.4% and have advised other county elected officials and department heads that they will not receive a pay increase this year. Various departments also chose to leave about ten full time positions vacant to increase savings.

Property tax revenues are estimated to increase 1.28% based on the estimated value of new construction, but Chief Financial Officer, Andrew Czorny won't know the actual valuations until he receives the information from the State's Department of Revenue. "We probably won't get final numbers from DOR until about August 25<sup>th</sup>," Czorny reports. This means that County Commissioners won't be able to adopt the final budget until those numbers are finalized.

Citizens interested in the County's budget are encouraged to attend the public hearing on July 29<sup>th</sup>, or contact the Chief Financial Officer at 258-4919 for more information.

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