

Legislative Referendum 118 (6-Mill Levy)

General Information. The 6-mill levy has been a primary component of university funding in Montana since 1948. Since then, voters have been asked to re-approve the 6-mill levy every 10 years. The 2007 Legislature approved a referendum to ask the electorate to continue support for the university system through the 6-mill levy. Without voter approval, the current 6-mill levy will expire in January 2009. If passed, the levy proposal will be effective January 1, 2009 and terminate January 1, 2019.

Formation of Committee. A committee in support of the 6-mill levy for support of the university system is in early organizational stages, with Larry Simkins, President and CEO of Washington Corporation and Sherry Cladouhos, CEO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana, as co-chairs.

Role of Montana University System. Commissioner Sheila Stearns has issued a statement to the regents and campus leaders regarding the role that public officials and employees may take in the legislative referendum process and with regard to other ballot issues. That statement can be found at <http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2007/Nov07/PoliticalActivities2007-LetterToPresidents.pdf>

6-Mill Levy Revenues:

Actual	2005	\$12.25 million
Actual	2006	\$11.95 million
Projected	2007	\$12.51 million
Projected	2008	\$12.97 million
Projected	2009	\$13.36 million

SOURCE: LEGISLATIVE FISCAL REPORT – 2009 BIENNIUM (Page 267)

The 6-mill levy is projected to generate \$26.33 million during the 2009 biennium. This money is used for the general academic operation of the Montana University System.

If not approved, additional \$26 million in state general fund support or an additional \$26 million in student tuition would be needed for the biennium. \$26 million in addition tuition would require a 5% - 6% increase in tuition each year of the biennium.