



## The 6-Mill Levy

Montana Board of Regents: May 26, 2017

# Introduction



# Agenda

An aerial photograph of a town, likely in a mountainous region, with green hills and mountains in the background under a blue sky with a few clouds. The town features a mix of residential and commercial buildings, including a large school complex with a prominent circular building. The foreground shows a mix of green fields and residential areas.

History of the 6-Mill Levy

Steps moving forward

Our campaign

Questions



Historical  
Context

# History of the 6-Mill Levy

- The 6-Mill Levy came about in 1920 and since 1948 it has been a primary component of university funding in Montana
- Voted on every ten years (last voted on in 2008 – will be voted on again in November 2018)
- Recently placed on ballot by 2017 MT legislature
  - Senate: 32-17
  - House: 86-13



# Funding



- Funds are generated by a mill levy tax on property
- On average, the tax amounts to 12 cents of every \$1000 in property value, or \$24 for a \$200,000 home

The 6-mill levy is **not a new tax**

# Current Statistics

- As of 2016-2017, the mill levy provides **\$19 million per year**, approximately **10% of the total state appropriated funding** for higher education
- The Mill Levy helps provide educational support for approximately **40,000 students**



# Funding

Funding is used to put teachers in classrooms and to help teach students

- Funds are used to directly support, maintain, and improve the Montana university system
- These dollars go towards direct education of students in the form of student services and hiring instructors
- These dollars do not go towards football games, capital expenditures, or dorms



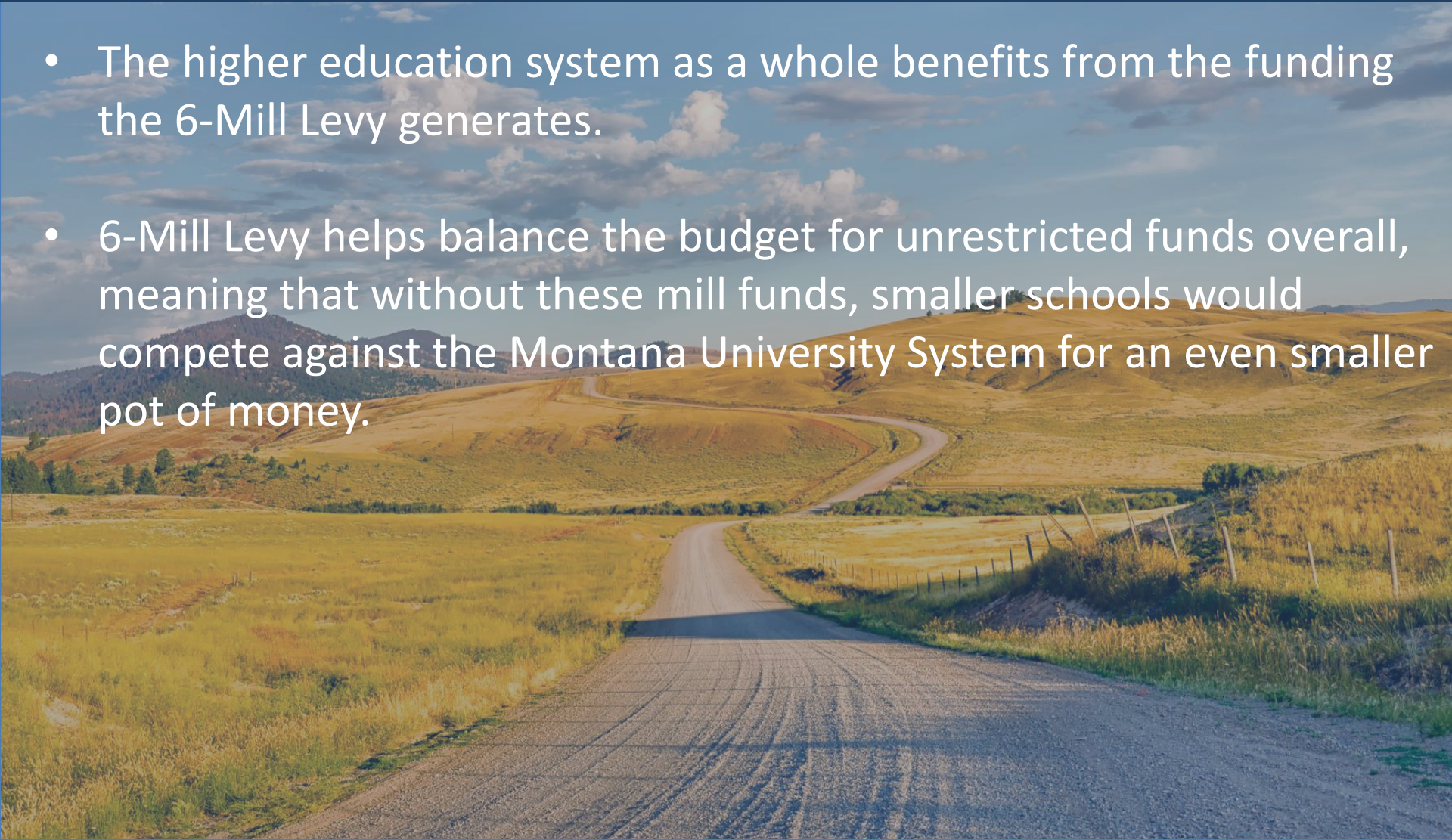
# Importance of 6 Mill Levy

The 6-Mill Levy is critical because:

- 1. Helps ensure everyone who wants to go to college can***
- 2. Ensures the university system is accessible to all***
- 3. Drives economic growth and helps businesses and communities***

If you only have a community college or a small college outside of the Montana University System in your town, why you should help?

- The higher education system as a whole benefits from the funding the 6-Mill Levy generates.
- 6-Mill Levy helps balance the budget for unrestricted funds overall, meaning that without these mill funds, smaller schools would compete against the Montana University System for an even smaller pot of money.



# Steps Moving Forward



# Future of 6-Mill Levy

- Without voter approval, the 6-Mill Levy funds will expire. During the upcoming biennium, our estimates show the absence of this funding will likely require **over \$20 million in state general fund** support each year, OR a **17-18% increase in student tuition.**

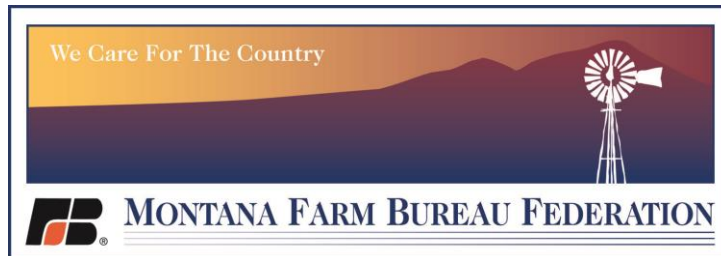
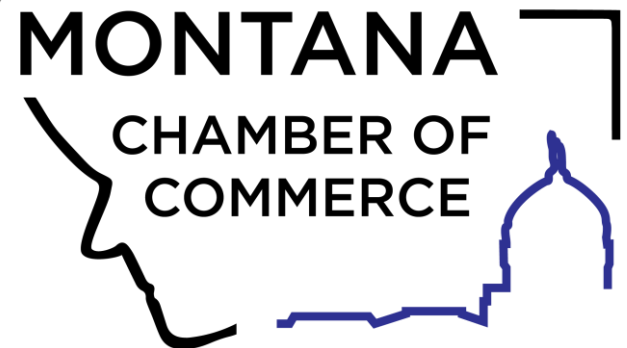


# Our Campaign

1. Engage Early
2. Build Statewide Support
3. Create Familiarity



# Endorsements





How You Can Help

# How You Can Help

We will be looking for volunteers and supporters so contact me, Molly Bell, at [info@montanansforhighereducation.com](mailto:info@montanansforhighereducation.com)

Website: [www.mtforhighereducation.org](http://www.mtforhighereducation.org)



# Questions

