

March 5-6, 2020

ITEM 187-107-R0320

Community College District of the Bitterroot Valley Ballot Initiative – Request for Resolution and Call for Election of Trustees

THAT

Pursuant to § 20-15-204, MCA, the Montana Board of Regents calls for an election of trustees for the proposed Community College District of the Bitterroot Valley by adopting the attached resolution.

EXPLANATION

State law allows the registered electors in an area to request an election for the establishment of a community college district, subject to certain requirements. A petition to establish a new community college district must be signed by at least 20% of the registered electors within each county or part of a county for the area that is included in the proposed district. The proposed area of the district must coincide with existing boundaries of contiguous elementary school districts, have a taxable value of at least \$10 million, and have at least 700 regularly enrolled high school students.

The Ravalli County Election Administrator notified the Board of Regents through the Commissioner's Office that the statutory requirements have been satisfied to hold an election for the establishment of a new community college district in the Bitterroot Valley. Pursuant to § 20-15-204, the Board of Regents must "call" for the election of trustees for the proposed district. The election for trustees occurs at the same time as the election for the establishment of the district. A proposed resolution to call for the election of trustees is attached.

If the majority of registered electors in the area approve the establishment of the new community college district, the Board of Regents notifies the Legislature and makes a recommendation to approve or disapprove the new community college district before the next legislative session. The Legislature has the final authority to approve the establishment of a new community college district.

The election for the establishment of the Community College District of the Bitterroot Valley will be held on May 5, 2020. Voters residing in Darby, Hamilton, Corvallis, Pinesdale, Victor, Stevensville, and Lone Rock School Districts are eligible to vote in the election.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Resolution