STATEMENT FOR CORRECTED 2ND HALF TAX BILLS

The Montana Supreme Court determined that the Department of Revenue has the authority to direct counties to levy above the current mill levy calculation limitation each year if reserved mills are determined to be available. The Department has verified that the school equalization mills—under the statutory limitations that adjust mills down when taxable values increase—are reduced from 95 mills to 77.9 mills for this tax year. However, the Department of Revenue, under the direction of the Governor's Budget Office and Governor Gianforte, is directing the County to levy extra mills they hold in reserve to generate additional revenue from property taxpayers in Montana. The Supreme Court ordered counties to comply, therefore your second half taxes will necessarily be increased to comply with the request from the Department of Revenue as directed by the Governor and the Order from the Montana Supreme Court. This represents an additional 17.1 mills broken down as follows: 7.1 mills for State Equalization Aid, 6.0 mills for County Elementary Equalization, and 4.0 mills for High School Equalization. Please remember that the Valley County Treasurer's Office and Department of Revenue employees did not play a role in this decision and the work they do is centered on complying with laws passed by the Legislature.

If you should have questions, please refer them to the Valley County Commissioners. Their contact information is as follows:

Commissioners Office: 406-228-6219

Mary Armstrong, Commissioner Chairman: 406-228-6215

Paul Tweten, Commissioner: 406-228-6216

John Fahlgren, Commissioner: 406-228-6217

Thank you,

Brenda Anderson Valley County Treasurer