



**MESA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
RESOLUTION # 20-04 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REPEALING
THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, all property tax revenues remain at the local level and go to pay for schools, roads, fire protection, libraries, police, and other local services; and

WHEREAS, the Gallagher Amendment in the Colorado Constitution mandates that property taxes assessed on personal residences can only make up 45% of the total property taxes the state collects, with business property taxes making up the remaining 55%; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado tax code calls for a calculation called the Residential Assessment Rate (RAR) in order to keep this 45/55 ratio between residential and nonresidential property taxes. When the Gallagher Amendment was passed, residential property taxes were calculated at 21% of the assessed value and nonresidential was 29% of assessed value; and

WHEREAS, the residential assessment rate has dropped from 21% in 1982 to 7.15% in 2020, while the non-residential rate has stayed at 29%. The non-residential assessment rate impacts business property owners, farmers, ranchers, and landowners; and

WHEREAS, the next assessment cycle is 2021-22, with 2021 as the reassessment year, with the cutoff date for valuing properties for that cycle being June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Property Taxation estimates a 33% drop in value for oil and gas and a 20% drop in commercial, while estimating that residential will go up 10% in value; and

WHEREAS, the residential assessment rate is projected to drop next year from 7.15 to 5.88%, resulting in an estimated 16-18% reduction in Mesa County Public Library District revenues; and

WHEREAS, repealing the Gallagher Amendment will prevent a reduction in funding to Mesa County Libraries, and allow the library to maintain current services.

WHEREAS, the Board declares that *Repealing the Gallagher Amendment* is a matter of official concern.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mesa County Public Library District Board of Trustees officially declares its support for *Repealing the Gallagher Amendment* for the purpose of maintaining funding of Mesa County Libraries.

The Board authorizes the expenditure of District funds to distribute a factual summary regarding *Repealing the Gallagher Amendment*, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

APPROVED this 24th day of September 2020.

Barry Blanchard

Chris Mahre

Barry Blanchard – MCPLD Board President

Chris Mahre – MCPLD Board Secretary

