

# CI-121 Petition Signature Instructions

Dear Montana Citizens:

We need over 60,000 signatures from Montana voters by June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in order to make real property tax relief a reality. But we can't do it without you! We are empowering you and neighbors to help.

## What's included in this document download?

- (Page 1) This letter
- (Page 2) CI-121 brochure
- (Page 3) Petition sheet
- (Page 4) Complete text of CI-121
- (Page 5) Unsworn declaration

## **Step 1 – Gather Signatures**

- Sign the petition sheet yourself and gather other signatures as well (Page 3)
- Make sure all signers are registered Montana voters
- Make sure all signers are from the same county
  - Use a separate petition sheet if a signer is from another county
- Make sure that all signatures are done in your presence
- Have a copy of the complete text of CI-121 (Page 4) handy if a signer wishes to see it

## **Step 2 – Fill out the unsworn declaration**

- After you've finished getting signatures, fill out & sign the unsworn declaration (Page 5)
- Staple or fasten the petition sheet(s) to the unsworn declaration
  - For more than 25 sheets, use separate affidavits for each group of 25
- If you're able to gather more signatures in the future, use a new petition and declaration

## **Step 3 – Mail your petition sheet(s) and declaration to our Bozeman address below**

- Cap Montana Property Taxes  
40 Spanish Peaks Dr.  
Bozeman, MT 59718
- The deadline is June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, but please mail well before to ensure timely delivery

**BONUS STEP:** Email our website address ([www.cappropertytaxes.com](http://www.cappropertytaxes.com)) to 20 of your friends and relatives in Montana and ask them to follow the steps as well! Thank you for bringing real tax relief to Montanans!

Questions? Please send us an email: [info@cappropertytaxes.com](mailto:info@cappropertytaxes.com)

Cap Montana Property Taxes  
40 Spanish Peaks Dr.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

PLEASE FOLLOW MONTANA LAW WHEN GATHERING SIGNATURES  
FAILURE TO DO SO CAN RESULT IN REJECTION OF THE SIGNATURES YOU GATHER  
THE PETITION LANGUAGE AND FORMAT MAY NOT BE MODIFIED

# Cap Montana Property Taxes.

Constitutional Initiative **(CI-121)** caps Montana residential property taxes and limits its growth. It moves Montana residential property to an **'Acquisition-Value'** property tax system and is capped at **1%**, with **2019** being the basis year for appraisal value.

## **Current Montana residential property tax system**

Montana residential property taxes are based on three components - the value of the property (reappraised & reassessed **every two years**), multiplied by the tax rate, and then divided by the number of mills levied in that tax levy district. This gives you the effective tax rate.

Many Montanans saw a 30%+ increase in their residential property taxes this past year, with an even bigger increase coming due to the pandemic real estate boom for Montana.

## **CI-121 (Yes)**

All Montana residential property owners have seen their tax burdens go up much faster than the rate of inflation. CI-121's fiscal note shows a \$175M residential property tax increase coming by 2025.

The dramatic increases are caused from how current Montana law 'values' the property, and secondarily because there is no effective rate tax cap.

CI-121 amends the Montana Constitution, moving to an 'Acquisition-Value' property tax system for residential property, with 2019 being the basis or starting year for appraisal value.

This means no reappraisal of the property **every two years**. Residential property is only reappraised & reassessed when a property changes ownership (sold) or if it's significantly improved.

Property taxes do go up every year, but only by the standard rate of inflation or 2%, whichever is less.

In addition, CI-121 caps the effective residential property tax rate at 1%, which ultimately means there are no workarounds which could lead to higher than 1% effective residential property tax rates.

## **Top 10 reasons to support CI-121**

- #1** - Rolls back tax valuations to 2019 – before COVID and a torrent of out-of-state money distorted property values.
- #2** - Caps property taxes rates on residences at 1% and limits annual increases in assessed valuations to 2% or the inflation rate, whichever is lower.
- #3** - Saves Montanans \$175 million annually on excess property taxes - with much of those benefits going towards homeowners on fixed incomes.
- #4** - Provides predictability for homebuyers trying to calculate their mortgage and property tax payments.
- #5** - Does not cut funding to schools, police, and fire departments – only slows down the rate of growth of revenues.
- #6** - Benefits renters by eliminating huge property tax increases that landlords pass on to them
- #7** - Rewards homeowners who stay in their homes long-term and build real neighborhoods.
- #8** - Penalizes speculators, out-of-state investors, and “flippers.”
- #9** - Saves taxpayer dollars by eliminating most of the need for appraisals by the State.
- #10** - Provides the Montana Legislature with the authority to provide similar tax relief to all property classes, not just residences.

## PETITION TO PLACE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. CI-121 ON THE ELECTION BALLOT

Subject to applicable laws and deadlines, if 10% of the voters in each of 40 legislative representative districts sign this petition and the total number of voters signing the petition is 60,359, this constitutional amendment will appear on the next general election ballot. If a majority of voters vote for this amendment at that election, it will become part of the constitution.

We, the undersigned Montana voters, propose that the Secretary of State place the following constitutional amendment on the November 8, 2022, general election ballot:

### Statement of Purpose and Implication:

CI-121 limits annual increases and decreases in valuations of residential property to either 2% or the inflation rate (whichever is lower) when assessing property taxes if the property is not newly constructed, significantly improved, or had a change of ownership since January 1, 2019. CI-121 establishes 2019 state valuations as the base year for the valuations of residential property and permits annual state reassessment. It requires the Legislature to limit total ad valorem property taxes on residential property to 1% or less of the assessed valuation. It requires the Legislature to define "residential property" and provide for the application and implementation of the initiative and permits the state to assess other real property based on acquisition value.

### Fiscal Statement:

CI-121 reduces state property tax revenue by \$24 million in 2025, \$34 million in 2026, and \$29 million in 2027 by capping allowable increases in residential property valuations. CI-121 will also have an undetermined impact on local government and school district tax revenue, subject to legislative action.

YES on Constitutional Initiative CI-121

NO on Constitutional Initiative CI-121

Voters are urged to read the complete text of the constitutional amendment, which appears with this sheet. A signature on this petition is only to put the constitutional amendment on the ballot and does not necessarily mean the signer agrees with the amendment.

### WARNING

A person who purposefully signs a name other than the person's own to this petition, who signs more than once for the same issue at one election, or who signs when not a legally registered Montana voter is subject to a \$500 fine, 6 months in jail, or both.

Each person is required to sign the person's name and list the person's address or telephone number in substantially the same manner as on the person's voter registration form or the signature will not be counted.

Signature	Date Signed	Residence Address or Post-Office Address or Home Telephone Number	Printed Last Name And First and Middle Initials	Co. Election Ofc Use Only	
				Leg. Rep. Dist #	Rsvd
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

PETITION # \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials of Petitioner for Signatures on This Page: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Instructions to Signature Gatherers:** (1) You must be a Montana resident. (2) Only Montana voters can sign. (3) Sign your own petition sheet if you're a Montana voter. (4) Each petition sheet must have signatures from the same county. (5) Show copies of CI-121's text to those wishing to review it. (6) You must personally witness each signature. (7) **You MUST fasten an Unsworn Declaration to your petition sheet(s).** (8) For more than 25 sheets, use a separate Unsworn Declaration. (9) Do not add signatures after signing your Unsworn Declaration – use a new petition sheet & Unsworn Declaration for subsequent signatures. (10) Deliver (or mail soon enough to ensure timely arrival) original petition sheet(s) plus your Unsworn Declaration to the county election administrator where the signers live by **6/17/22**. See: <bit.ly/3JpP6i3> for county administrator addresses. (11) Please visit [www.CapPropertyTaxes.com](http://www.CapPropertyTaxes.com) for more information.

**THE COMPLETE TEXT OF CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 121 (CI-121)**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Article VIII, section 3, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

**“Section 3. Property tax administration -- limitation.** (1) The Subject to this section, the state shall appraise, assess, and equalize the valuation of all property which is to be taxed in the manner provided by law.

(2) Except as provided in this section, the assessed valuation of residential property shall be the amount determined by the state in 2019.

(3) The value of residential property may be reassessed annually on January 1 of each year. If residential property is not newly constructed or significantly improved or did not have a change of ownership since January 1, 2019, the change in revised assessed valuation for a year may not exceed the lower of the following:

(a) two percent of the valuation for the prior year; or

(b) the percent change in the consumer price index, U.S. city average, all urban consumers, using the 1982-84 base of 100, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor.

(4) After January 1, 2019, whenever residential property is newly constructed or significantly improved or has a change of ownership, it must be assessed by the state at its fair market value with subsequent changes to that assessment made in accordance with the limits in subsections (3)(a), (3)(b), and this subsection (4).

(5) The legislature shall limit the total amount of ad valorem taxes assessed against residential property and such limit shall not exceed one percent of the valuation established by this section.

(6) The legislature shall define “residential property” and provide for the application and implementation of subsections (2) through (5), and it may provide for acquisition valuation of other real property.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Applicability.** [This act] applies to property tax years beginning after December 31, 2023.

- END -



# Unsworn Declaration of Petition Signature Gatherer Under Penalty of Perjury Pursuant to §1-6-105

An affidavit as defined by 1-1-203, MCA must be attached to each sheet or section submitted to the election administrator. Separate sheets of a petition may be fastened to this affidavit in sections of not more than 25 sheets. **Complete this form after the petition signatures attached to this form have been gathered.**

SECTION 1 - AFFIDAVIT FILED WITH ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(printed name of person who is the signature gatherer)

swear that I gathered the signatures on the petition to which this affidavit is attached on the stated dates, that I believe the signatures on the petition are genuine, are the signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be, and are the signatures of Montana electors who are registered at the address or have the telephone number following the person's signature, and that the signers knew the contents of the petition before signing the petition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date on which the first signature **attached** was gathered

**(Do not sign this form before gathering the signatures on the petition(s) that you attach to this affidavit.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of petition signature gatherer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of petition signature gatherer

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, state and zip code

SECTION 2 - UNSWORN DECLARATION EXECUTED UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY (1-6-105, MCA)

**Where to file Petition and Affidavit:**

County Election  
Administrator's Office  
A list of county election  
offices may be found at:  
[sosmt.gov/elections](http://sosmt.gov/elections)

**I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.**

Dated on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ by

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name of Petition Signature Gatherer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of Birth of Petition Signature Gatherer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone Number of Petition Signature Gatherer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Petition Signature Gatherer*