



# A Message from your Grand County Board of County Commissioners

**A**s an important stakeholder and resident of Grand County, you know that we pride ourselves on running a lean and efficient government, but we're facing a significant budget shortfall in the coming years and we need your input.

We are working to get ahead of a \$1.4 million annual reduction in collected property taxes starting in 2021, which would result in severe budget cuts for services that you rely upon. This anticipated reduction is the result of a clause in our state constitution known as the Gallagher Amendment. It has been hampering small and rural local governments like ours for many years and we've always worked hard to offset its impacts.

However, next year we're anticipating an 18% reduction in the statewide Residential Assessment Rate (which dictates what we can collect in residential property tax according to the Gallagher Amendment). With increased demand for services and inflation, we just can't overcome this shortfall without a thorough budget stabilization plan.

We've had many discussions about this and the most promising option is to place a question on the November ballot asking voters to allow Grand County to "de-Gallagherize." This simply means we'd ask voters for approval to adjust the County's mill levy annually to maintain today's level of total property tax revenue collected. This is a way for us to stabilize revenue each year so that current basic services (e.g. road maintenance and public safety) can be sustained. The alternative is to reduce these services and/or delay infrastructure projects.

We know this is a complicated issue, so we've developed a few resources to help you better understand the challenge we're facing and the options we're proposing.

[Dedicated Webpage](#)   [Video: Understanding Gallagher](#)   [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Sincerely,

Grand County Board of County Commissioners,  
Kristen Manguso, Merrit Linke, and Richard Cimino