

RESOLUTION NO. 2004

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GREATER FINANCIAL
INDEPENDENCE AND AUTHORITY FOR WYOMING
CITIES AND TOWNS**

WHEREAS, Wyoming's ninety-nine (99) cities and towns are responsible to provide basic and essential services like safe streets, police protection and fire suppression for sixty-nine percent (69%) of all Wyoming residents; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming does not grant local taxation authority to municipal governing bodies sufficient to empower these elected officials to provide consistent services required by city and town residents; and,

WHEREAS, numerous reports at the national, state and local level substantiate that Wyoming municipalities have the *least* local fiscal authority and the absolute *lowest* local revenue generating capacity of any of the 50 States; and,

WHEREAS, the taxation system established by States directly affects the overall economic vitality of the State and can either drive, or suppress, economic prosperity; and,

WHEREAS, because municipalities are not allowed local taxation authority, State government has directly appropriated funding to cities and towns, but this historical practice is not sustainable for Wyoming's long-term future; and

WHEREAS, to ensure a sustainable financial future with economic prosperity generated locally and throughout Wyoming for both current and future generations of Wyomingites, Wyoming must consider implementing the *Principles of High-Quality State Revenue Systems* as they pertain to state-to-local government relationships as recommended by the National Conference of State Legislatures, among other national and state agencies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, WYOMING, HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. To incorporate the foregoing recitals and make them part of this resolution by reference, and

Section 2. To request that the State of Wyoming empower municipalities to raise sufficient revenues to meet the needs of residents by granting to their governing bodies all of the three key elements of local taxation authority including:

- a) authority to directly levy taxes,
- b) control of the local rate of taxation, and
- c) authority to allocate local tax revenue to municipal purposes and services.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of June, 2019.

Rene' Kemper, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Rimmer, City Clerk