

Klarryse Murphy

From: Chris H <hockman_cw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 1:48 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: FW: Resolution 1795 Pavement & Roadway Management - Seven Year Operating Program
Attachments: Res 1795 (Pavement & Roadway Management-Seven Year Operating Program).pdf

Dear Commissioner Corn,

This is the link to my correspondence with the Board of County Commissioners regarding Resolution 1795's utility: <http://ravalli.us/Archive.aspx?ADID=2341>

Below is the text of that missive.

Regards,
Chris Hockman

From: hockman_cw@hotmail.com
To: commissioners@rc.mt.gov
Subject: Resolution 1795 Pavement & Roadway Management - Seven Year Operating Program
Date: Wed, 10 Sep 2014 13:32:27 -0600

Dear Commissioners,

After listening to the numerous petitioners attending Monday's meeting regarding the Road Department's work plan, it became clear that the Commission is not prepared to systematically deal with citizens' petitions regarding paving of county roadways. Please review **County Resolution 1795 Pavement & Roadway Management - Seven Year Operating Schedule**. By holding the series of public meetings called for in Section 4 of the resolution, you could accommodate petitions like those currently requesting your consideration. See the following supporting excerpt from Resolution 1795:

5) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement activities provide an opportunity for the Road & Bridge Department to present information to the public through the various stages of project development. It also offers an opportunity for individuals, community interests and public agencies to offer comments, submit written material and ask questions regarding the proposed project, as well as become informed of the schedule for future events in the development process. Public involvement facilitates the beneficial exchange of ideas and information, the consideration of alternatives, the identification of potential impacts and the selection of the preferred courses of action. Comments and suggestions will assist the Road & Bridge Department in addressing community concerns. The intent of this process is to develop improvement projects that are consistent with adopted

design standards and that minimize adverse environmental and community impacts, and to provide for an opportunity for public initiative in this process.

Resolution 1795 was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on January 23, 2006. No seven year schedule of proposed roadway improvement projects has ever been approved by the Board of Commissioners in the more than eight years since passing the resolution requiring such a schedule. And no, the answer is not to pass a new resolution quietly rescinding Resolution 1795. The answer is to do what is called for in Resolution 1795.

I have attached a digital copy of Resolution 1795 for all to read.

Earnestly,
Chris Hockman
Hamilton

Nedra P. Taylor

CLERK AND RECORDER BY: *S. Johnson*

FEE: \$0.00

RESOLUTION NO. 1795

**Adoption of Ravalli County Pavement Management – Roadway Management
Seven Year Operating Program**

WHEREAS, Section 7-14-2102 MCA provides that 'each BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS may in its discretion do whatever may be necessary for the best interest of the county roads and the road districts':

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT – ROADWAY MANAGEMENT SEVEN YEAR OPERATING PROGRAM BE ADOPTED, AS ATTACHED, WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 23, 2006.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2006.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Ret: Commissioners Office

Greg Chilcott

Greg Chilcott, Chairman

Betty T. Lund

Betty T. Lund, Member

Alan Thompson

Alan Thompson, Member

Nedra P. Taylor

Attest: Clerk & Recorder

Attachment: "Pavement Management – Roadway Management/Seven Year Operating Program"



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RAVALLI COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

~ POLICY ~

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT ~ ROADWAY MANAGEMENT

SEVEN YEAR OPERATING PROGRAM

To provide for the safe, effective and progressive operation of the Ravalli County Road & Bridge system, to establish long-term roadway management schedules and to facilitate the involvement of county residents in the conceptual design and scope of roadway improvement projects, the Road & Bridge Department will provide to the Board of County Commissioners, for their review and approval, a seven-year schedule of proposed roadway improvement projects. This policy will provide guidance to the Road & Bridge Department in the selection, design and management of the county roadways proposed for inclusion in this schedule.

Through the implementation of the **ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**, the Road & Bridge Department will identify proposed roadway projects to provide interested residents, elected officials, utility owners and others an opportunity to comment on, and prepare for, improvements scheduled for subsequent years. A primary objective of the program will be to address the concerns and questions of interested county residents and community groups in advance of construction.

1) ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS

In August 2005 the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners adopted AASHTO standards for the design and operation of the county road and bridge system. These standards, which provide guidance on a wide range of issues, shall be the basis of recommendations relative to the design of improvements to the roadway system. Importantly, ASSHTO recognizes the clear distinction between new construction and existing roadways. That distinction will be of value in determining the scope of improvements to the county roadway system.

Where a range of design values is offered, the Road & Bridge Department will typically recommend the most conservative value with respect to public safety, environmental protection and legal liability. The safety of roadway users is a primary objective of the Road & bridge Department. Compromising the safety of those users by compromising the design or operation of the roadway system can not be justified. Through open dialogue with residents and other interests the Road & Bridge Department will work to develop a common appreciation of these values and the challenges in designing roadway projects to reflect them.

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Through the development of these roadway improvement projects, consistent with the **MANAGEMENT OF ROADWAY EASEMENTS** policy, it is the intent to develop a more comprehensive "life-cycle" approach to the operation of the county roadway system. Rather than focus on one aspect of a roadway, only to return to attend to another, the proposed projects will address all aspects of the operation of the roadway, to the degree considered reasonable and responsible.

Projects proposed under this program will typically be developed employing the AASHTO 3R (**resurfacing, rehabilitation, reconstruction**) design guidelines, in recognition of the distinction between new construction and existing roadways.

The planning for a typical roadway project will include -

- a review of the safety history (crash history) of the roadway
- a review of potential safety improvements that may be achieved
- a review of changes in traffic patterns
- a review of the legal status of the roadway
- a review of existing utility installations
- a review of existing environmental concerns
- confirmation of the easement width; acquisition when necessary
- analysis of the connectivity to existing systems the project may achieve
- consideration of public opinion of the proposed improvements
- coordination with the MDOT and the Bitter Root National Forest
- coordination with local communities and other governmental agencies

The design of a typical roadway project will include -

- adjustments to alignment, when warranted or desirable
- adjustments to surface width, when warranted or desirable
- replacement of structures, when necessary
- grading of slopes to meet current design standards
- improvements to drainage systems and structures
- base stabilization or pavement reclamation, when required
- addition of traffic control devices or other safety improvements
- addition or retrofitting of bridge-rails and guardrails, when warranted
- re-location of existing utility installations, when necessary
- improvements to address environmental concerns

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The preparation for a typical roadway project will include -

- pavement preparation (crack sealing)
- shoulder grading or construction
- roadside clearing / easement reclamation
- removal of fixed-object encroachments
- drainage improvements / culvert replacements
- on-site notification of the scheduled activity
- coordination of road closures with public safety agencies

2) ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

The Ravalli County road and bridge system is an integral part of daily life in the Bitter Root Valley, providing access to business, employment, school, residence and recreation. Much of the system has never been specifically designed or constructed to conform to a certain standard. Many of the county's roadways have evolved from pioneer trails and have been operated in that capacity over the many decades since. To provide for the future of the transportation system, to prepare for inevitable residential growth and to facilitate commercial and employment development, it is imperative that the county road and bridge system be developed to sustain current levels of service and to identify specific strategies for improvement. As idealistic as maintaining a rustic roadway system may be, it is neither reasonable nor realistic to simply sustain current levels of degradation of roads and bridges, levels of service or the environment.

Due to limited fiscal resources, the Roadway Improvement Schedule will focus upon roadway preservation and improvement projects that maximize the effectiveness of existing transportation investments while developing strategic improvements where the current infrastructure has neither the design nor the function to provide for reasonable levels of service, either current or anticipated.

The three primary types of roadway management projects are -

1) **PRESERVATION** - operate and maintain existing pavements, drainageways, easements and structures in a reasonably serviceable condition. Examples of preservation include surface restoration and rehabilitation (ACP Overlays, Pavement Reclamation, Base Stabilization and BST's (Chip Seals)); roadside clearing; culvert and drainage improvements; and routine operations activities.

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2) SAFETY AND STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS - operations activity designed to improve the structural stability and integrity of the roadway and public safety. Examples of improvements include embankment and slope grading; roadside clearing; pavement marking and traffic controls; minor alignment changes; minor lane widening and shoulder establishment; and intersection realignment.

3) EXPANSION - the construction of projects designed to expand the functional capacity of existing roadways and the construction of new roadways. This includes the placement of durable surfaces on gravel roads; bridge replacement (widening); the addition of traffic lanes; and the adoption of new county roads.

The primary objectives of any roadway operations project will be to provide for the safety of roadway users and department employees in the operation of the roadway; to invest in improvements and increased levels of service; to reduce repetitive maintenance operations; to provide for greater connectivity in the roadway system; to increase the structural integrity of the roadway; and to address the long-term interests and facilitate the development of the community.

3) PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

With the great number of improvements to the county roadway system that are necessary, a uniform process of prioritization will be beneficial to the Road & Bridge Department in developing proposals for improvements, for residents in understanding and participating in that process and for the Board of County Commissioners in deciding upon those recommendations. The following criteria will be used to measure the value and relative priority of improvement projects.

- the **BENEFIT TO PUBLIC SAFETY**
- the **FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION** of the roadway
- the **AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC** of the roadway
- the **PAVEMENT CONDITION RATING** of the roadway
- the **BENEFIT TO ROADWAY SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY** and **CAPACITY**
- the **ESTIMATED COST** of the proposed improvements
- the estimated **COST** and **EFFECT** of **NOT MAKING THE IMPROVEMENTS**
- the estimated benefit to **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY**
- the estimated benefit to **ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**
- the estimated impact to the **CHARACTER OF LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS**
- the estimated impact to **LIFESTYLE PATTERNS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS**

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4) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Through **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS** and advertisements in the local media and other forums typically available to the general public, the Road & Bridge Department will provide notice of the annual Roadway Improvement Schedule public meeting and other meetings regarding the development of the schedule. Through this effort, property owners, residents and other community interests will be provided reasonable notice of the proposed schedule of roadway improvement projects. Upon the approval of the schedule, the Road & Bridge Department will again employ local media to provide notice of public meetings regarding the scope and design of specific projects. The Ravalli County internet site may also be of benefit in this notification process. No notification process can assure that all interests will be contacted; however, it is the intent of the proposed effort to **provide reasonable notice** of scheduled project discussions.

Advance notice of the actual construction activity will typically be posted along a subject roadway. The on-site posting will include the estimated start date, the estimated duration of the activity, and any scheduled road closure information.

The public notification process will include -

- public service announcements advising of public meetings
- scheduled community forums to receive public comment
- employing direct mail (mailing list) to interested residents
- on-site notification of scheduled improvement activity

5) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement activities provide an opportunity for the Road & Bridge Department to present information to the public through the various stages of project development. It also offers an opportunity for individuals, community interests and public agencies to offer comments, submit written material and ask questions regarding the proposed project, as well as become informed of the schedule for future events in the development process. Public involvement facilitates the beneficial exchange of ideas and information, the consideration of alternatives, the identification of potential impacts and the selection of the preferred courses of action. Comments and suggestions will assist the Road & Bridge Department in addressing community concerns. The intent of this process is to develop improvement projects that are consistent with adopted design standards and that minimize adverse environmental and community impacts, and to provide for an opportunity for public initiative in this process.

The public involvement process will include -

- a **PUBLIC MEETING** on proposed Roadway Improvement Schedules
 - Adoption of seven-year schedule
 - Up-dated annually; public meetings held each year
- a **PUBLIC MEETING** to receive comment on specific projects
 - Design and scope of the project
 - Easement acquisition on each project
- a **DIALOGUE** with **COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUPS** on specific projects
 - Focus upon mitigating potential impacts of a project
 - Focus upon education of the importance of design standards
- a **DIALOGUE** with **OWNERS OF ADJACENT PROPERTY**
 - Relating to the removal of personal property encroachments
 - Relating to easement width, access control and related issues

This public involvement process is not designed to replace the exercise of the professional judgment of the Road & Bridge Department or the application of adopted design and operating standards in the design of roadway improvement projects. While it is important to provide a timely and reasonable response to community interests and concerns, and to incorporate community desires in the scope, design and construction of these projects, the Board of County Commissioners, through the Road & Bridge Department, has an obligation to manage the county roadway system in the best interests of all county citizens.

6) DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULES

Approximately the first of February each year, the Road & Bridge Department will submit to the Board of County Commissioners a proposal for a seven-year operating plan for the management and improvement of the county roadway system (**ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**). Projects in the first year of the plan would typically be scheduled for construction the following fiscal year. After initial review by the B.O.C.C., the Road & Bridge Department will schedule a public meeting on the proposal, to take place approximately the first of March.

Projects identified for construction in subsequent years of the schedule will be developed through an internal review and design process, and through the process established in the **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** chapter of this policy. The financing options for each project will be identified in the development process.

Initially, candidate projects will typically be identified through the **PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**. Projects may also be identified and considered through public involvement (**RURAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS**) and through direction from the Board of County Commissioners. Applying the criteria found in this policy and within the fiscal resources available, the Road & Bridge Department will establish a prioritization of projects for B.O.C.C. consideration.

7) PROJECT FINANCING

The proposed funding source for each project will be identified in the **ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**. Dependent upon the availability of resources, the schedule will be adjusted annually, based upon the prioritization of candidate projects. The Road & Bridge Department will research funding alternatives and will attempt to obtain the resources necessary to implement the full schedule.

The estimated cost of each project will be up-dated annually. The alternatives available to finance the improvement schedule may include 1) the Road & Bridge annual operating budget, 2) "Pro-Rata" assessments - reserved for improvements within the respective Road Districts, 3) Rural Improvement Districts, 4) FHWA programs including Forest Resource and Safety Improvement programs, and 5) other programs available through Federal, State and Local government agencies.

The Road & Bridge Department will aggressively pursue these and other options.

Klarryse Murphy

From: Cobey Williamson <cobey.williamson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 11:32 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Input to Local Government Study
Attachments: Letter to Local Government Study_Feb 11.pdf

Members of the Study Commission

Please find my input to your effort attached. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Cobey Williamson
1406 Summerdale Rd
Corvallis, MT
c 907.505.3013

February 11, 2015

Cobey D. Williamson
1406 Summerdale Rd
Corvallis, MT 59828

Ravalli County
Local Government Study Commission
215 South 4th Street

Members of the Study Commission

Please consider my comments regarding the need and manner for reforming the government of Ravalli County and enter them into the public record.

Government Reform:

Government in Ravalli County needs to be reformed. The precipitating factors indicating the need for this reformation are related to excessive compensation, a lack of fair and equal representation in its current form, and the demonstrated need for a professional public administrator to properly manage the daily operations of the various county departments providing services to its citizens.

The following are recommendations for the manner of reform and supporting arguments for these recommendations.

Organization - 5 commissioners, 50% less compensation:

Ravalli County encompasses a large geographic area and is socially and economically diverse. Having a board consisting of 5 commissioners allows for better representation of these diverse viewpoints than a smaller number. It also moderates the degree of political pressure Commissioners can place on other members of the Board, and lessens the opportunity for individual Commissioners to have undue sway over the decision making process.

Participation in representative government is a civic duty, not a livelihood. Compensation exists to replace earnings lost in performance of this duty, not as a primary form of personal income. Providing salary commensurate with a living wage is counter-productive to conscientious government, and reinforces the tendency toward a standing Commission of career politicians rather than a Board of engaged citizen representatives serving the interests of their community.

Representative government - only citizens of a district can vote on that district's representative:

The basis for democracy is representative government. Under its current structure, the government of Ravalli County is not representative. The citizens of the West Fork, taken as a whole, do not share the interests and concerns of the citizens of Hamilton. Allowing the citizens of the West Fork to vote on the representative for Hamilton undermines the ability of the citizens of Hamilton to have their interests and concerns represented fairly and equally.

Public administrator - professional to manage daily operations:

The purpose of the Board of County Commissioners is to ensure that the legal and financial structure of the County reflects the needs and values of the community. While often quite adroit, Commissioners are not professional public administrators. Installing a professional public administrator into the organizational structure of Ravalli County would create a more efficient bureaucracy and allow the Board to focus on its primary responsibility of guiding the County through its policy.

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to participate in this commission and providing this service to the citizens of Ravalli County.

/s/ Cobey D. Williamson

Klarryse Murphy

From: Chris H <hockman_cw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 5:37 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Cc: Klarryse Murphy
Subject: Community Meeting LGSC Primer

Dear LGSC,

During the 24FEB2015 meeting, your body discussed the need for a primer handout describing the role and authority of your commission. This handout is intended to inform the public in attendance at community based LGSC meetings. I suggest that this handout be developed and posted on the LGSC website as soon as practical - well prior to the first community meeting. Posting this informative document should nearly eliminate the need for an LGSC website FAQ section.

Sincerely,
Chris Hockman

Klarryse Murphy

From: Chris H <hockman_cw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Cc: Joe Frohlich; Klarryse Murphy; IT (Email)
Subject: Failure of Granicus to stream LGSC meetings live

Dear LGSC,

Please have your weekly Monday meeting available for citizens to observe via Granicus as it is occurring. I attempted to watch your 03MAR2015 meeting as it was occurring yesterday but the website did not work for me during your meeting. Your 24FEB2015 meeting also was not fully available as it was occurring via Granicus.

Sincerely,
Chris Hockman

Klarryse Murphy

From: Glenda Wiles
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: RE: Failure of Granicus to stream LGSC meetings live

We don't know what the problem was. IT started a work order with Granicus. I did post the video this a.m. to civics plus though so you can watch it now.

Glenda Wiles
Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Administrative Assistant
406-375-6500

From: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 12:10 PM
To: Regina Plettenberg; Glenda Wiles
Cc: Chris H
Subject: FW: Failure of Granicus to stream LGSC meetings live

[Help....](#)

From: Chris H [mailto:hockman_cw@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Cc: Joe Frohlich; Klarryse Murphy; IT (Email)
Subject: Failure of Granicus to stream LGSC meetings live

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Sincerely,
Chris Hockman

Klarryse Murphy

From: Regina Plettenberg
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Cc: Glenda Wiles; Chris H
Subject: Re: Failure of Granicus to stream LGSC meetings live

Yesterday's live stream was not available, not sure why, I know I've had that same issue when I've tried to watch hearings up at the legislature. Everything seemed fine on our end and it did record and is available now on the archived minutes. The meeting on the 24th we had computer issues so there was no video made of that meeting.

Regina Plettenberg

On Mar 4, 2015, at 12:10 PM, Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov> wrote:

[Help....](#)

From: Chris H [mailto:hockman_cw@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Cc: Joe Frohlich; Klarryse Murphy; IT (Email)
Subject: Failure of Granicus to stream LGSC meetings live

Dear LGSC,

Please have your weekly Monday meeting available for citizens to observe via Granicus as it is occurring. I attempted to watch your 03MAR2015 meeting as it was occurring yesterday but the website did not work for me during your meeting. Your 24FEB2015 meeting also was not fully available as it was occurring via Granicus.

Sincerely,
Chris Hockman

Klarryse Murphy

From: Mary Gehl <pow1@hrcxi.org>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Study Commission Meetings & Suggestion

Hi to all,

First off, thank you to all of you on the Study Commission for giving of your time and energy for this process!

The article in the Ravalli Republic on 3/19 mentioned that not many folks showed up for the last meeting and then gave a list of the next meeting dates. I see that all of the meetings are at night....some "older" folks may not want to drive at night and some folks who work till 5 have to go home, take care of dinner, kids etc so might not want to go back out. Maybe a afternoon meeting some where in the middle of the county would get some folks out and I for one would love to have an online survey!

Again, thanks!
Mary Gehl

Klarryse Murphy

From: Margaret Reardon <megr8953@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: test

Klarryse Murphy

From: laSalle <lasalmom@montana.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:07 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Cc: LaSalle Sonny; Glenda Wiles
Subject: Government Study Commission

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to provide my input to you.
My name is Veto "Sonny" LaSalle and I have observed and worked closely with many county governments in my career with the US Forest Service.

I served on the Ravalli County Planning Board during the building and approval of the Growth Policy.

I would like to suggest the following be put to the voters for approval:

1. The Commission-Manager form of Government would better serve the residents of Ravalli County as a professional manager would be trained to supervise and lead the day to day operations of the County. I don't think it matters if there are 3 or 5 Commissioners as long as they are part time employees and serve as a "Board of Directors". They could be partisan or non partisan as far as I am concerned but I am not sure non partisan would be very popular in this county. Four year terms would be fine with me. I support all commissioners to be elected "at large".
2. I definitely support that the Clerk and Recorder, Clerk of District Court, County Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer be non partisan. Election of these positions should be based on credentials not political party.

Thanks again for the opportunity and I wish you the best in your efforts to get public input.

Sonny LaSalle



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Margaret Reardon <megr8953@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 11:43 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Study Commission Questions and Comments
Attachments: Study Commission Questions of Comments.doc

See attached for Study Commission Committee

Study Commission Questions and Comments:

1. Do you guys know how the different forms of government operate as far as function? For example the 5-member commissions elected to 6 year terms, or the 3-three member to a 4 year term?

I am thinking the 3 member to a 4 year terms would give the county population better flexibility to change if needed.

In my opinion 5 commissioners is excessive. We need to return to a maximum of 3 commissioners. They should be non-partisan, with 4 year terms and should be voted on representing 3 districts; thus allowing all community members having full representation, but all voters should be able to vote for all districts.

No partisan majority should be elected in a single election.

2. Do you feel the salary is appropriate for each commissioner?

I feel the \$70,836 (total) is a fair wage, if we only have 3 commissioners.

Reimbursing for getting to and from your job is wrong. If you are hired for a job in Missoula you are not necessarily reimbursed for your travel expenses. No one as a rule gets reimbursed to get to a job. \$30,000 in travel is wasted tax dollars and needs to be eliminated. This is like a bonus. IF COMMISSIONERS ATTEND MEETINGS ELSEWARE THIS WOULD BE OK TO REIMBURSE.

3. Do you feel Ravalli County Elected Officials should be Partisan?

I feel Commissioners, Clerk and Recorder, Clerk of District Court, County Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer should all be non-partisan! You do not have to belong to one particular party to be the best person for a position or not. **This is stupid making these offices partisan!!**

4. Does the committee have a consensus as to what type of government the public wants in Ravalli County yet?

I can not see a Charter being a good form for Ravalli County.

THANK YOU ALL FOR STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE AND TRYING TO FIX OUR COUNTIES COMMISSIONER DELEMA YOUR TIME AND EFFORTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Margaret Reardon, 892 Mustang Lane, Hamilton, Mt. 59840

Klarryse Murphy

From: Ethel Stark <ethelstark08@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:29 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Study Commission

I attended the Victor meeting, this was my first time in getting more information as to what the Study Commission's scope of input is to be. Also, thank you for the handout, it is helpful.

Here is what I what I would vote for:

Three commissioners

Four year terms

Non-partisan candidates from their own specific districts

When nominees are selected a strong statement to effect
they are to be non-partisan and working for benefit of
the whole not their specific agendas...if that is ever
possible!?!

Ethel Stark

Sent from my iPad

Klarryse Murphy

From: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 1:25 PM
To: Mark Van Loon
Cc: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: RE: LGSC -

You have the right address. I just typed it in and it took it, so I don't understand the undeliverable part. I will forward this to the email address. Also the Chair is Alan Thompson and his phone number is 381-0990 if you want to call him as well.

Glenda Wiles

From: Mark Van Loon [mailto:mark.inthewoods@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 1:13 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: LGSC -

Hi Glenda -

I've tried to reach the Local Gov't. Study Commission at their published email: LGSC@rc.mt.gov but my email comes back as undeliverable. Would you fwd. this on to them (not that you don't have enough to do already) and/or better yet, please give me their correct email and any other contact info. you may have for them - they're damn near impossible to track down.

Many Thanks. Mark.

LGSE - other Gov't. forms

Would the LGSE please PLEASE explain what other forms of local government are allowed under the MT Constitution? We've heard the term "county manager" but what does that mean? And what other forms are available?

A public statement with this information would really help people understand their options and also give them a chance to think about it and discuss it prior to having to vote on something or another.

The LGSC has stated that they are concerned with low turnout/participation of city voters re the study group. That is a big concern. However, where have you been and what are you doing? It's damn near impossible to find you or to find out. This group was funded with \$36,000+. What are you doing with it? I certainly hope you're not paying yourselves. Not even a gas/travel allowance. You should be flooding local media - radio, TV and print - with info. re: your meetings - dates, times & places. You should have multiple roadside reader boards with info. about where & when your public comment meetings are held. You should be publicly explaining other forms of gov't. available to the city. as outlined in the MT Constitution. The city residents wanted this study group but you must still reach out and do your part to be informative.

Low turnout/comment is a great concern but funding was specifically put in place so that YOU could reach out to the city residents. How about doing so? The best coverage of your activities has been in the Bitt. Star, a FREE newspaper with limited circulation. You should be bending over backwards to let anyone and everyone

know how to find you, how to reach you, how to get their thoughts and comments on the record. So far you've done a pathetic job of this. How about stepping up on this?

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and that it's contents will become a part of the public LGSC record.

Thank You. Mark Van Loon, Hamilton.

--

"The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has it's limits" - anonymous

"You can fake being serious, but you can't fake being funny" - Billy Collins, poet

"The stone age didn't end because they ran out of stones" - Saudi Sheik to OPEC.

Klarryse Murphy

From: Gary Carlson <garykcarlson11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 10:17 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Carlson

Alan and Team:

I attended last night's meeting in Hamilton. There was good attendance. It was difficult for people to hear the individuals addressing you. The mic system was terrible and I sat in the front.

Comment: Your planned meeting with the commissioners is excellent in order to provide them with recommendations for improvement. I support that. Included in your recommendations I think it would be appropriate to address the role of the County's Compensation Board. Right now when i talk with citizens they prefer the 3 member board over 5 because of the salaries. When asked about the board's effectiveness most citizens prefer 5 so money is the reason for three not performance. The County Compensation Board does have a little wiggle room based on Title 7 rules to reduce the salaries of the commissioners. That is also why several citizens prefer part-time commissioners.

Comment: One other important comment is that it would be proper to learn more about all of the options for the gov'n't system we have. Is it possible for you to contact those counties that currently have systems like Commisioner -CEO, commissioner- manager, Charter etc. and have someone from those counties come here and give us a presentation? Otherwise the people don't know what the options even entail. I don't get the impression you five don't even know all of the pros and cons of these different systems. Getting firsthand knowledge would really help us and there is time to do that. Please consider setting this up. If you need help to do so I offer my service.

Conclusion: You are doing fine. Just improve the mic system. I give you credit for serving us this way. Thank you.

Gary Carlson Call on me to help at anytime. I will even visit one of the counties that have a different system if you want someone to do that.

--

Gary K. Carlson, Publisher
White Hat Express
garykcarlson11@gmail.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Glenda Wiles
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 10:28 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission; cobbler380@yahoo.com
Subject: FW: Carlson

See below.

Glenda Wiles
Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Administrative Assistant
406-375-6500

From: Gary Carlson [mailto:garycarlson11@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 10:21 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Fwd: Carlson

Glenda: Would you please give my comments to the Board members. Their website reply said they would receive this email at their next monthly meeting. Yikes. That is bad. Each one should receive my comment as well as emails from others.

Thank you. Gary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gary Carlson <garycarlson11@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 8, 2015 at 10:16 AM
Subject: Carlson
To: Govn'tStudyCommission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov>

Alan and Team:

I attended last night's meeting in Hamilton. There was good attendance. It was difficult for people to hear the individuals addressing you. The mic system was terrible and I sat in the front.

Comment: Your planned meeting with the commissioners is excellent in order to provide them with recommendations for improvement. I support that. Included in your recommendations I think it would be appropriate to address the role of the County's Compensation Board. Right now when i talk with citizens they prefer the 3 member board over 5 because of the salaries. When asked about the board's effectiveness most citizens prefer 5 so money is the reason for three not performance. The County Compensation Board does have a little wiggle room based on Title 7 rules to reduce the salaries of the commissioners. That is also why several citizens prefer part-time commissioners.

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Gary K. Carlson, Publisher
White Hat Express
garykcarlson11@gmail.com

--
Gary K. Carlson, Publisher
White Hat Express
garykcarlson11@gmail.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Mark Van Loon <mark.inthewoods@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: comments to study group -

Hi All -

I had hoped to get to the Hamilton mtg. earlier this week to present in person but didn't make it. So here's some thoughts from a concerned citizen:

(April 2015) comments to LGSE:

1) My biggest concern is the seeming unlimited power the cty. comms. have. This seems VERY outside the bounds of representative government.

Biggest case in point: the airport plan. Many citizens worked for over 10 years to hammer out acceptable optional plans and present them to the county voters. A large majority (over 70%?) voted for a certain plan. When the new comms. took office in 2014, they just threw it out and ruled to implement an option that the county residents had overwhelmingly voted to reject. This is just plain WRONG.

Recent other cases where the comms. have just done as they pleased, regardless of expert opinion or testimony and totally against the wishes of county citizens are 1) Legacy Ranch and 2) Flood plain/fringe ruling.

We're supposed to have a representative form of gov't. where the will of the people is served. We no longer have that. This cty. is run like a fiefdom with a few overlords and everyone else a serf. The comms. have much too much power and this is in conflict with American democracy. This can not be allowed to continue. The comms. "wishes" cannot be allowed to trump the will of the people.

What other forms of county government are available to us under the MT Constitution? I've heard the term "county manager" but I'm not sure what that means or how it would work. Please explain both this and other forms available to us.

If we continue with a cty. comm. form of gov't., with greatly reduced powers, I think we should stay with 5 comms. - ALL 5 comms. being elected every 2 years, just the same as our state Rep. to the US Congress (we're already printing ballots so no extra expense there). In addition, ANY candidate for comm. MUST provide and make public an extensive resume and statement as to why they are qualified to "run" the cty. ALL financial backing in ANY form must also be disclosed.

2A) Term limits should be considered.

Since decisions by the cty. comms. affect the entire cty., ALL comms. should be elected by ALL the cty. voters, altho the 5 comms. should come from the 5 already established districts.

3A) Debates or candidate presentations MUST be given in ALL 5 districts by ALL candidates. Attendance is mandatory and failure to show is automatic disqualification.

3B) In addition, candidate resumes, financial statements and official statements as to why a given candidate wants to run for office, feels they are qualified for the office, and what they see as the primary problems facing the city and their solutions to the problems MUST be made available through local media and on a non-partisan website. (With the present system, knowing who's who and what they stand for has been extremely hard to determine.)

3C) Obviously, funding for candidate forums, media and websites must be an ongoing part of the city budget.

All positions of authority should remain elected rather than appointed - we've seen the results of crony appointments and it isn't pretty, effective or efficient. However, strict qualifications MUST be a prerequisite to running for ANY office. Resumes and references must be given by candidates and checked by the election commission.

I believe in citizen government, but I believe those citizens should be knowledgeable, informed & qualified. This is government SERVICE! not a chance to line one's own pockets.

Thank You, Mark Van Loon, Hamilton

please acknowledge receipt of these email comments and that they will become part of the public record of the LGSC.

--

"The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits" - anonymous

"You can fake being serious, but you can't fake being funny" - Billy Collins, poet

"The stone age didn't end because they ran out of stones" - Saudi Sheik to OPEC.

Klarryse Murphy

From: dalelewispastor@gmail.com on behalf of Dale Lewis
<pastor@bitterrootvalleycalvarychapel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 11:15 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Gov. Com. Study proposal
Attachments: Gov. Study Com..docx

Government Study Commission

One of the things most mentioned when talking with people in regards to Politian's is that they are "self-seeking" in their agendas. I believe that the Government Study Commission should not focus as much attention to the amount of commissioners and more on making whatever number decided on accountable to those who elected them! **Their total compensation package is over 70 thousand dollars a year and they are only required to be in their office 2 days a month.** Some of the current 5 commissioners are actually in their offices or on the job more than the 2 days a month but **who holds them accountable?** *"The primary issues aren't how many commissioners; that can be looked at as to what is most beneficial to the public they are called to serve. **The real issues are: COMPENSATION, LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY and LENGTH OF STAY IN OFFICE.**"* So I propose that the study Government Study Commission look at:

- **A different method of compensation other than a salary, if the commissioner is unwilling to work 40 hours a week. Perhaps look into an hourly wage with a biometric time clock so that they are only paid for when they work.**
- **That their wages be reduced down and capped from the over 70 thousand dollars a year per commissioner cost to the tax payers, to something that better represents the average income of their fellow citizens in Ravalli County.**
- **That they have term limits so that we don't recruit those people who are only interested in careers in politics but are public servants.**

Those ideas would be a large step towards returning local elected officials back to government accountability.

Sincerely,

Pastor Dale Lewis

202 Copper Ct

Hamilton, MT 59840

Klarryse Murphy

From: Alan and Pat Thompson <cobbler380@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:36 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: MSU assistance

Hello all, I spoke with Dan Clark today. They have been out of the office and apologized for not returning my calls. Dan is extremely busy and had a full schedule. I told him what we were wanting from him and he thought we could get an outline done in a morning session. He has to be in Sanders County on the afternoon of June 3rd. I tentatively set a meeting for 9:00 am at the Courthouse. We would have approximately 4 hours to pick his brain and get some kind of outline done. The next available time he has is not until June 30- July 1. The cost would be minimal since he is already in Western Montana on the 3rd. I need to find what your feelings are about this meeting. Dan thought if we only had 3 people it would work fine and we could relay the info to the rest. Please give me a ring or a note and let's see if this will be possible.

Thanks,

Alan

Klarryse Murphy

From: George Corn <gcornmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:56 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission; 'Alan Thompson'; 'Marilee Shockley'; 'Scott Boulanger'; 'Sharon Schroeder'
Subject: RE: MSU assistance

Alan—I will make it work. –George

From: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission [mailto:LGSC@rc.mt.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:59 PM
To: Alan Thompson; George Corn; Marilee Shockley; Scott Boulanger (elkhunter1964@gmail.com); Sharon Schroeder
Subject: FW: MSU assistance

From Alan

From: Alan and Pat Thompson [mailto:cobbler380@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:36 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: MSU assistance

Hello all, I spoke with Dan Clark today. They have been out of the office and apologized for not returning my calls. Dan is extremely busy and had a full schedule. I told him what we were wanting from him and he thought we could get an outline done in a morning session. He has to be in Sanders County on the afternoon of June 3rd. I tentatively set a meeting for 9:00 am at the Courthouse. We would have approximately 4 hours to pick his brain and get some kind of outline done. The next available time he has is not until June 30- July 1. The cost would be minimal since he is already in Western Montana on the 3rd. I need to find what your feelings are about this meeting. Dan thought if we only had 3 people it would work fine and we could relay the info to the rest. Please give me a ring or a note and let's see if this will be possible.

Thanks,

Alan



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Scott Boulanger <elkhunter1964@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 7:43 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Re: FW: MSU assistance

I believe I can make that meeting. June 3 at 9 am. Correct?
Please let me know when it is confirmed so I can block that off my calendar.

Scott

On Thursday, May 21, 2015, Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov> wrote:

From Alan

From: Alan and Pat Thompson [mailto:cobbler380@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:36 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: MSU assistance

Hello all, I spoke with Dan Clark today. They have been out of the office and apologized for not returning my calls. Dan is extremely busy and had a full schedule. I told him what we were wanting from him and he thought we could get an outline done in a morning session. He has to be in Sanders County on the afternoon of June 3rd. I tentatively set a meeting for 9:00 am at the Courthouse. We would have approximately 4 hours to pick his brain and get some kind of outline done. The next available time he has is not until June 30- July 1. The cost would be minimal since he is already in Western Montana on the 3rd. I need to find what your feelings are about this meeting. Dan thought if we only had 3 people it would work fine and we could relay the info to the rest.

Please give me a ring or a note and let's see if this will be possible.

Thanks,

Alan

--
Scott Boulanger
Grizzly Gold and Silver

PO Box 733
Darby, MT 59829
406-360-1063

"It is better to be on the ground wishing you were flying than to be in the air flying wishing you were on the ground!"

Klarryse Murphy

From: Sharon Schroeder <jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:26 AM
To: George Corn
Cc: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission; Alan Thompson; Marilee Shockley; Scott Boulanger
Subject: Re: MSU assistance

I think it will be great to have Dan June 3rd. I am trying to reschedule my Bozeman trip so I can attend. If not, I know you all will pass info on.

Have a safe Memorial Weekend.

On Thu, May 21, 2015 at 10:56 PM, George Corn <gcornmt@gmail.com> wrote:

Alan—I will make it work. –George

From: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission [mailto:LGSC@rc.mt.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:59 PM
To: Alan Thompson; George Corn; Marilee Shockley; Scott Boulanger (elkhunter1964@gmail.com); Sharon Schroeder
Subject: FW: MSU assistance

From Alan

From: Alan and Pat Thompson [mailto:cobbler380@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:36 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: MSU assistance

Hello all, I spoke with Dan Clark today. They have been out of the office and apologized for not returning my calls. Dan is extremely busy and had a full schedule. I told him what we were wanting from him and he thought we could get an outline done in a morning session. He has to be in Sanders County on the afternoon of June 3rd. I tentatively set a meeting for 9:00 am at the Courthouse. We would have approximately 4 hours to pick his brain and get some kind of outline done. The next available time he has is not until June 30- July 1. The cost would be minimal since he is already in Western Montana on the 3rd. I need to find what your feelings are about this meeting. Dan thought if we only had 3 people it would work fine and we could relay the info to the rest.

Please give me a ring or a note and let's see if this will be possible.

Thanks,

Alan



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

--
Sharon

Klarryse Murphy

From: Alan and Pat Thompson <cobbler380@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 8:55 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Fw: Prelim July 21
Attachments: LGCS July 21 Prelim Report .docx

On Tuesday, July 21, 2015 8:46 PM, Sharon Schroeder <jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com> wrote:

Jonell asked me to forward this to everyone. It appears to be our latest version, with our assignments at the end. There are some formatting issues, but lots of time to get that smoothed out.

Have a Happy August working on your reports!!!

Sharon

Klarryse Murphy

From: Alan and Pat Thompson <cobbler380@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 8:56 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Fw:
Attachments: LGCS July 15 Prelim Report .docx

On Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:49 PM, Jeff Burrows <jburrows@rc.mt.gov> wrote:

Jeff Burrows
Ravalli County Commissioner

*Ravalli County Commissioners Office
215 South 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-375-6503 phone 406-375-6507 fax*

Klarryse Murphy

From: Alan and Pat Thompson <cobbler380@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 8:56 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Study Commission Documents
Attachments: Ravalli_Certificate Establishing Existing Plan of Government 1986.pdf; Ravalli_Certificate Establishing Existing Plan of Government 1986.docx

On Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:23 PM, Sharon Schrorder <jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kent, Ashley" <ashleykent@montana.edu>
Date: July 21, 2015 at 3:19:42 PM MDT
To: "jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com" <jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com>
Subject: Study Commission Documents

Hi Sharon,

Here is the link to the MCA from which I copied the following text:
<http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/7/3/7-3-111.htm>

7-3-111. Statutory basis for elected county official government. (1) For the purpose of determining the statutory basis of existing units of local government after May 2, 1977, each unit of local government organized under the general statutes authorizing the elected county official form of government shall be governed by the following sections:

- (a) [7-3-401](#);
- (b) [7-3-402](#);
- (c) [7-3-412\(3\)](#);
- (d) [7-3-413\(1\)](#);
- (e) [7-3-414\(1\)](#);
- (f) [7-3-415\(2\)](#);
- (g) [7-3-416\(2\)](#);
- (h) [7-3-417\(2\)](#);
- (i) [7-3-418](#);
- (j) [7-3-432\(1\)](#);
- (k) [7-3-433\(1\)](#);
- (l) [7-3-434\(1\)](#);
- (m) [7-3-435\(1\)](#);
- (n) [7-3-436\(1\)](#);
- (o) [7-3-437\(1\)](#);

- (p) [7-3-438\(1\)](#);
- (q) [7-3-439\(1\)](#);
- (r) [7-3-440\(1\)](#);
- (s) [7-3-441\(1\)](#);
- (t) [7-3-442\(1\)](#) if the county has elected an auditor;
- (u) [7-3-442\(6\)](#) if the county has not elected an auditor.

(2) This form has terms of 4 years for all elected officials except commissioners who are elected to 6-year terms. The commission consists of three members.

Everything in the list above is hyperlinked so you can easily access it in the code for reference. I have attached Ravalli County's plan of government for reference, both in pdf and word doc formats. If you use the Word document, I suggest checking it for typos as the conversion from pdf isn't always completely accurate. Also, please note that Ravalli county may have sub-options selected that are different from the standard selections offered in the code (i.e. the numbers in parenthesis in the list above) and in our training handout information listed below. If you decide to use the text provided, please ensure the information corresponds with the county's selections, and adjust as necessary, before finalizing your documents.

I found one of our handouts in word doc format that contains the information you were hoping not to have to re-type:

7-3-401. Commission form. The commission form consists of an elected commission (which may also be called the council) and other elected officers as provided in this part. All legislative, executive, and administrative powers and duties of the local government not specifically reserved by law or ordinance to other elected officers shall reside in the commission. The commission shall appoint the heads of departments and other employees, except for those appointed by other elected officials. Cities and towns which adopt this form may distribute by ordinance the executive and administrative powers and duties into departments headed by individual commissioners.

7-3-402. Nature of government. Local governments that adopt this form shall have general government powers.

7-3-412 (3). Selection of commission members. The commission shall be elected at large and nominated by a plan of nomination that may not preclude the possibility of the majority of the electors nominated candidates for the majority of the seats on the commission from persons residing in the district or districts where the majority of the electors reside.

7-3-413 (1). Type of election. Local government elections shall be conducted on a partisan basis.

7-3-414 (1). Chairman of commission. The chairman of the commission shall be elected by the members of the commission from their own number for a term established by ordinance.

7-3-415 (2). Administrative assistants. The commission may appoint one or more administrative assistants to assist them in the supervision and operation of the local government.

7-3-416 (2). Terms of the commission members. Commission members shall be elected for overlapping terms of office.

7-3-417 (2). Size of commission and community councils. The size of the commission, shall be three, and community councils to advise commissioners may be authorized by ordinance.

7-3-418. Terms of elected officials. The term of office of elected officials may not exceed 4 years, except the term of office for commissioners in counties adopting the form authorized by Article XI, section 3(2), of the Montana constitution may not exceed 6 years. Terms of office shall be established when the form is adopted by the voters.

7-3-432 (1). Legal officer. A legal officer (who may be called the county attorney) shall be elected.

7-3-433 (1). Law enforcement officer. A law enforcement officer (who may be called the sheriff) shall be elected.

7-3-434 (1). Clerk and recorder. A clerk and recorder shall be elected.

7-3-435 (1). Clerk of district court. A clerk of district court shall be elected.

7-3-436 (1). Treasurer. A treasurer shall be elected.

7-3-437 (1). Surveyor. A surveyor shall be elected.

7-3-438 (1). Superintendent of schools. A superintendent of schools shall be elected.

7-3-439 (1). Assessor. An assessor shall be elected.

7-3-440 (1). Coroner. A coroner shall be elected.

7-3-441 (1). Public administrator. A public administrator shall be elected.

7-3-442 (1). Auditor. An auditor shall be elected if the county has elected an auditor.

7-3-442 (6). Auditor. An auditor shall not be included in this form as a separate office if the county has not elected an auditor.

I hope this helps. Please let us know if you have any other questions.

*Thanks,
Ashley*

Ashley Kent

Program Coordinator
Local Government Center
Montana State University
Culbertson Hall
406-994-6694
ashleykent@montana.edu

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Montana State University and the Montana State University Extension Service prohibit discrimination in all of their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status. Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeff Bader, Director of Extension, Extension Service, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717

Klarryse Murphy

From: Cobey Williamson <cobey.williamson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Study report

Dear members of the study commission

I am writing you today to respectfully request that you include in your recommendation a call for a public vote on partisan versus non-partisan offices, voting by district, and continuation of a 5 seat board.

I would also like to thank you for your service to the community in this regard, as well as implore you to consider the desires of the public at large in your report and recommendations, whose dissatisfaction with the status quo initiated this study in the first place.

Thank you again for shouldering this important responsibility.

Yours truly

Cobey Williamson
1406 Summerdale Rd
Corvallis

Klarryse Murphy

From: Dave Campbell <dmc41752@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2015 5:43 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Upcoming meeting October 6th

Dear Study Commission,

I appreciate the work you are doing for the citizens of Ravalli County so first I wish to say Thank you! I am aware of the meeting on October 6th but I will likely be out of town so I am submitting this comment.

I understand the recommendation of the commission is to return to 3 county commissioners with longer terms. I whole heartedly agree with this recommendation. I also understand the question of whether commissioners will be partisan is still being discussed. I fully support non-partisan County Commissioners and urge you to leave that recommendation for the voters to decide. Surely many voters will recall the mess that resulted from decisions for hiring and appointing officials that were based on partisan qualifications first and actual qualifications a distant second. Non-partisan candidates will be forced to discuss issues openly and free from some kind of party loyalty test.

Please add this comment to the record and once again thanks for your service on the study commission.

Sincerely,

Dave Campbell
Hamilton

Dave Campbell
972 Judd Creek Hollow
Hamilton, MT 59849
(406) 370-8088

Klarryse Murphy

From: Rick Fuhrman <rickfuhrman@speedconnect.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2015 1:30 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Allowing Voters Opportunity to Decide Commissioner Partisan or Non-Partisan Election

Commission Members

This is intended to follow up on my comments at your meeting Tuesday afternoon Oct 6.

I wish to reiterate my objection to the removal of item #4 regarding partisan or non-partisan election of county commissioners. I personally favor non-partisan election for all county offices. I understand that others may differ. I stated in my verbal comments that I could accept partisan election of commissioners and non-partisan for all other elected county offices. I cannot accept that the voting public should be denied the right to vote on the commissioner issue.

I am aggrieved by the fact that you as a body previously voted (I understand it was 3 to 2) in favor of including question #4 as presented on Oct 6 and then brought it up for another vote and defeated (3-2) is of concern. The argument was made that to allow the public to vote on this matter was not democratic and would that it would be unfair to allow the public the opportunity to vote on the issue. I found the arguments for denying the public a vote on this issue to be incoherent at best. I found this to be of even more concern when I learned, from the chair on Oct 6, that this issue was raised by one or more commission members in the legitimate conduct of your mandate. This was not some sinister outside force!

I urge you to reinstate question #4. You have already set the multiple vote precedent so that should not be an issue. Let the voters decide, not one swing vote on a five member commission.

Please include this comment in the public record.

Thank you for your efforts to date.

Rick Fuhrman, Ravalli County Voter

Klarryse Murphy

From: Dave Campbell <dmc41752@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2015 11:04 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Please reconsider the non-partisan commissioners

Dear LGSC members, Thank you for your service and please do not remove the option of non-partisan commissioners from the ballot. I am appealing to you in particular Ms. Schroeder. This is an opportunity to make a positive change in county politics and one that should not be passed over easily. I am away from home so I read the article online having previously sent a note to the commission. I have worked with County Commissioners from 1990 to 2013 in my position as District Ranger on the Bitterroot Forest. The absolute partisanship of the commission in the past has caused problems over and over with the relationship with the Federal Government. Commissioners without a partisan debt to pay might actually look at issues and decide what is best for the county and not what the party would have them do.

This could only be a positive change. I noted that Scott Boulanger was adamant that commissioners remain partisan and this is not at all surprising since Scott was appointed (not elected) by a republican central committee much to the surprise of anyone outside of that small circle. I know Scott from administering his outfitter permit for a number of years. This is one example of where partisanship leads us and it is a cautionary tale indeed.

Please do not insult the intelligence of the voters and allow them to decide if they have had enough of partisanship!

Sincerely,

Dave Campbell

Dave Campbell
972 Judd Creek Hollow
Hamilton, MT 59849
(406) 370-8088

Klarryse Murphy

From: laSalle <lasalmom@montana.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2015 11:18 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission; LaSalle Sonny
Subject: Study Commission

I just read today's Ravalli Republic regarding partisan elections for commissioners and am confused by the rationale of the three of you that voted to remove the option from the ballot as well as the people that called Sharon. The basic principle of democracy is that people VOTE and leaving the option of partisan or not on the ballot supports that principle. I strongly believe in Rush's statement about "low information" voters and that could be the motivation for you to remove the option from the ballot. It is a lot easier and less work to vote partisan than it is to actually study the candidate and understand their principles and positions. Alan and Scott, are you letting your personal views get in the way of what really is in the best interest of the citizens of the County? George and I disagree on many things but the quotes attributed to him in the paper are right on target. Think about the basic principles of democracy and do the right thing!!

Veto J "Sonny" LaSalle



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www.avast.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Montana HOME <montanahome@qwestoffice.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2015 2:18 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Non-Partison

Dear Members of the RC Study Commission,

Thank you very much for using your heads and removing from the ballot proposal to make elections for County Commissioners Non-Partisan. This is a sneaky way to make it so the voters do not know who they are voting for. It is hard enough for the average voter to determine what the candidates stand for under the present system without making personal contact with each candidate. (We agree we should all do that but most don't and will never do that).

We could never vote for someone who is in favor of letting someone kill an unborn child, for example, and there are many more in our valley who feel the same way. When a candidate is a Non-Partisan candidate they could refuse to answer such questions because they can ask what it has to do with county government. (To many it is like killing the Jews under Hitler and just as serious). With the present system with parties and Central Committees one can get a good idea from the discussions and revelations to the party leadership. That applies to many other issues as well.

Putting Non-Partisan rules in, effectively moves the voter further from the process of deciding who has the principles they want and makes it easy for a pro-abortion, for example, to sneak under the wire and confuse the voters.

Again, thank you and good work. Please resist any attempt to put the Non-Partisan choice on the ballot.

Dallas and Jenny Erickson
4479 Store Lane
Stevensville MT 59870
(406)240-5277
montanahome@qwestoffice.net

Klarryse Murphy

From: Doug Nation <douglas.p.nation@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 10:57 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Non-partisan Issue on Ballot

I ask that these comment be forwarded to all LGSC members.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed ballot question to remove party affiliation on the ballot for County Commissioner seats. I strongly urge the LGSC to reconsider and put the party affiliation question for County Commissioners on the ballot. Let the voters decide if it is best to select future County Commissioners by "who they are" or by "what party they claim to represent". This is as important of a question as how many Commissioners to have on the BCC.

Since she has been the deciding vote in previous LGSC votes, I specifically ask Ms. Schroeder to please reconsider the issue and revert to her previous position of favoring to allow the voters of Ravalli County to decide if we want party affiliation listed on the ballot when selecting future County Commissioners.

Please, LGSC members, let the voters decide this question.

Best Regards,

Doug Nation
309 N. 6th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

Klarryse Murphy

From: Robin and David Bull <dbandrb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Partisan county commission or not

After reading the article in the paper about the study commission reversing its earlier position to let the citizens decide whether or not the commission should be partisan positions, I felt it was important to add my voice to those who support NON-PARTISAN positions.

As we can see on the national stage, partisanship leads to government dysfunction. Non-partisans are not beholden to partisan agendas or silly ideological positions or dogmas. Please let the people of Ravalli County decide whether or not a candidate for county commissioner should declare a party affiliation.

--Dave Bull

Klarryse Murphy

From: Johnhamtana@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:34 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Partisan Commissioners, or not

I believe one of the ballot issues for voters to decide on the last round of Study Commission was whether Commissioners should be elected on a partisan or non-partisan basis. The voters overwhelmingly endorsed partisan elections for all county offices.

I strongly believe you should put the issue on the forthcoming ballot for the voters to decide rather than have a five member Study Commission make the decision for us.

I'm sorry to say I haven't followed the Study Commission process well enough to know whether the County Treasurer, Clerk and Recorder and Sheriff partisan or non-partisan issues will be on the ballot. I also strongly believe they should be!

Cheers
John Ormiston
406-360-9530

Klarryse Murphy

From: Marci Mansfield Smith <marci@montana.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Partisan vs. non partisan for Commissioners

Importance: High

Dear Study Commission members,

Both Dave and I feel it's imperative to allow the VOTERS to decide whether to make the office of County Commissioner partisan or not.

Personally we both feel VERY strongly the office of County Commssioner should be a NON-PARTISAN office since it is basically administrative.

By making the Commissioner postition non-partisan, it will encourage voters to 'do their homework' and *really* find out about the qualifications of the individual running for the office. It's far too easy to simply 'pull the R lever or the D lever' without being informed about the candidate's capabilities to effectively run a multi-million dollar County for years.

We were dismayed that the recent vote by the Study Commission to remove this issue from the voting citizens of Ravalli County, and ask it be restored.

Sincerely,
Marci and Dave Smith
Victor, MT

Klarryse Murphy

From: Chris Neher <bioecon@montana.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:59 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Non-partisan CC elections

Dear members of the LGSC,

I recently read in the newspaper that the LGSC has now leaned away from letting the voters of Ravalli County decide whether our Commissioner races are non-partisan or not. Personally, I support non-partisan CC races in the county. We as an electorate have gotten far too dependent on simply looking for the "R" or "D" label to decide on the candidate of our choice. Lost is listening, reading, researching, and asking hard questions. Too many people think "If I know their party, I have all the information I need". How very sad. Political labels along with the extreme polarization of politics of late have combined to foster an electorate that is less and less informed on the issues that really affect our county.

Voting the party label without ever vetting the candidate led to the recent (fully avoidable) fiasco in the Treasurers office. I strongly support making all local county elections non-partisan. Lacking getting my way on the issue (as I recognize this is a decision for the voters to make), I want a chance to vote on the issue!

I am mystified as to the arguments against non-partisan elections unless those who oppose them simply fear the candidates they support will fare much better when judged by the voters on the basis of a single letter (R or D) than by the content of their ideas and convictions. Again, how very sad.

While I recognize there may be principled arguments for preserving party identification in CC races, your task as the LGSC is not to make that decision. Rather, it is to place on the ballot issues that voters of the county feel strongly about. This is clearly one of those issues.

The bottom line however is that those who oppose putting the issue on the ballot are making it abundantly clear that they fear that the majority of Ravalli County voters might disagree with them. There is something fundamentally wrong with the notion that voters should not be allowed to vote on an issue because a majority of those same voters might support that issue! If the issue goes down in defeat, so be it; no harm, no foul.

If however, the majority of voters support non-partisan CC elections, then the people have spoken. Seems like a pretty easy decision, unless one really doesn't care what the voters want.

Please, let the many (rather than the 3) decide this important issue.

Respectfully,

Chris Neher
Store Lane, Stevensville
493-7631

Klarryse Murphy

From: David Parsons <dparsons.mt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Ravalli County Stud Commission input

We would like to weigh in on the issue of whether county residents should be able to decide whether candidates for the Ravalli County Commissioner races should be partisan or non partisan.

We believe that this question should be on the ballot for the residents to decide. It is not right to not give us a voice on this issue.

David Parsons
Suzi Kimzey
5710 Yarrow Rd.
Florence, MT 59833

Klarryse Murphy

From: Kay Fulton <kayinmt@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 3:42 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Citizens Right to Vote on the Partisan or Non-partisan Issue

I am a resident of Ravalli County and live in Victor. I cannot attend any of the meeting scheduled due to surgery but I want you to make note of my position on this issue. I do not think the RCSC has the right to decide this issue for us, the citizens. Partisan or Non-partisan Issue should be left to us to vote on. Please rsvp to this email so I will know that it was received and logged in. Thank you, Kay Fulton

Klarryse Murphy

From: C. Grandstaff <grandstaff@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 5:44 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: non-partisan vote

Members of the Government Study Commission:

I read in the Ravalli Republic of your recent decision to deny citizens the right to vote on whether county commissioner positions should be partisan or non-partisan. I could not disagree more with this decision. Local government already took away the right to vote on airport expansion, the Republic Central Committee wants to take away our right to vote for the candidate of our choice in primary elections, and now this - another restriction of voting rights.

When voters are confronted with voting in non-partisan races, they step up and do what is required of them as responsible citizens: their homework. They pay closer attention to the race. I ask you to remember the non-partisan Justice of the Peace race of 2010. The incumbent, Judge Robin Clute, was challenged by a qualified and experienced candidate in former Judge Nancy Sabo. The voters paid close attention to this non-partisan race with two qualified candidates, and the vote count was so close as to command a recount. I contend this close race was due to the fact that it was a non-partisan position which required the voters to be attentive and engaged. Further, I believe it brought out the best in the voters, and that's something I'd like to see in every race: engaged voters who pay attention. I don't know why you wouldn't want that as well.

Having served as a county commissioner, I can assure you that partisanship rarely, if ever, comes into play with this position. It's partly the reason I ran as an Independent. Partisanship is played out largely on state and national stages; county commissioners, by comparison, serve largely as administrators. There's no need for party affiliation.

I would ask you to rethink your decision and, at the very least, please allow the voters to have the final say on this issue.

Thank you,
Carlotta Grandstaff
844 Sleeping Child Rd.
Hamilton, MT 59840

Klarryse Murphy

From: Patrice Promack <ppromack@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 9:18 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: The voters should choose

It is truly absurd and very wrong, that 3 members of the Study Commission should assume that THEY are the ones who should choose whether or not the election of County Commissioners should be partisan or nonpartisan. The Study Commission had previously decided in June to allow the voters to make this choice and had drafted a proposed ballot with that choice: partisan or nonpartisan. That June decision came after numerous public hearings and discussions among members that had taken place over a period of six months. However, in late August and again in September, Government Study Commissioner Alan Thompson raised the issue of denying the voters this choice. Each time it was defeated on a 3-2 vote. Commissioner Thompson raised it for the third time on Oct. 6, and this time the vote was 3-2 to strike the non-partisan vote from the proposed ballot. This motion had been defeated twice before, but on this last vote, Government Study Commissioner Sharon Schroeder (coercion perhaps?) changed her vote joining Commissioners Alan Thompson and Scott Boulanger in voting against allowing the voters to decide for themselves what is appropriate.

Alan Thompson said in his submittal to the Bitterroot Star last October 15 ("Meet the County Local Government Study Commission Candidates"), "the most important thing will be to listen to the will of the people". So Alan, listen **now**, and don't presume to decide FOR us!

And Sharon Shroeder said in that same article, "I believe citizen involvement is critical to this process." And she said "If you would like someone who is willing to listen to the citizens". And "hear what residents would like to see in Ravalli County". Sharon, changing your vote on the third time around does not go along with these words that you wrote before being chosen to be on the Study Commission. Call for another vote and change back to your original 2 votes...or what value do your words hold; and how does this reflect on your ethics?

The critical issue is not about whether the office should be partisan or nonpartisan but whether the voters should make this decision rather than having it made for them by 3 individuals! It is OUR right to make the decision!!!! As a concerned and involved citizen, I am filled with deep revulsion for, and disappointment with, this decision by the Study Commission.

Patrice Promack, DDS

Klarryse Murphy

From: Sarah Roubik <sroubik@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Please put partisan/non-partisan commissioner choice on the ballot

Dear Members of the Government Study Commission:

I will look forward to your next meeting. When I was at one of your meetings in the past, I had the understanding that the people told you that they would like to see the Commissioners' race be non-partisan, or at least have the opportunity to vote on that.

My understanding is that you would therefore put that on the ballot. I also heard that you voted on this twice to put it on the ballot and the third time you voted to keep the people from voting on this.

Why in the world would you want to prevent people from voting on something that they have requested?

One reason that I can see is that one of your members was very cross that we have open primary elections after he lost his race. According to the newspaper, he was trying to get the MT laws changed to close the primary. Partisanship appears to be very important to this member of your committee. It seems that this personal agenda may have gotten in the way of the job of the government study commission.

The people want the opportunity to vote on this issue. Please re-instate the ballot question that allows the voters to decide if they want to elect their commissioners in a partisan fashion or not. Let the people decide, not three people on the study commission.

Thank you.

Sarah Roubik
961-5212

Klarryse Murphy

From: Chris Linkenhoker <clinkenhok@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 12:02 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Type of government for Ravalli County

Alan Thompson wants to put people into one of four ideological boxes: conservative, liberal, independent or libertarian. He was quoted as saying this in the newspapers. He wants to do this so he can pre-judge people when a particular issue arises. Makes life easy and simple for him and others who think like him. It's called stereotyping.

But what about people who don't fit into one of his boxes; do they not count? What about citizens who would rather use their God-given brains to think through issues, regardless of political persuasion. How about the party of "rational thinkers", of which I am a member? I never make a judgement about an individual or an issue based strictly on their party affiliation, but a lot of people do and it keeps our county and nation in a constant state of conflict. It's why our Congress has become so dysfunctional. It's why getting a college education is so important - it expands your mind and allows you to make better decisions for yourself, your family and your nation.

Let's quit the constant bickering and back-biting. Let's go non-partisan in Ravalli County.

Chris A. Linkenhoker

Klarryse Murphy

From: Tim Peterson <peterson.timothy.s@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:12 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Let the voters decide

I believe the voters of Ravalli County should get to vote on whether the election for Ravalli County Commissioners should be partisan or nonpartisan

Klarryse Murphy

From: Russ Lawrence <russworks@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:41 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Non-partisan elections
Attachments: Non Partisan.docx

Oct. 13, 2015

Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission:

First of all, as someone who attended a meeting of the Local Government Study Commission in April and has followed it closely since its inception, I appreciate the groundwork that was prepared in advance, identifying potential alternative forms of government and other relevant issues, including that of non-partisan elections. I don't particularly care whether these first arose within the commission or from outside—I don't have time to research Montana law, and appreciate the fact that you did.

At that meeting, I spoke in favor of offering the non-partisan option on the ballot for all county offices, and I was not alone in doing so. The study commission itself was elected in a non-partisan manner, and I thought that Ravalli County voters did a good job of educating themselves, and electing a slate of capable and representative commissioners.

I was therefore stunned to discover that the non-partisan option for voting on County Commissioners was deleted from the draft report at a meeting that was noticed only as "Adoption of Tentative Report." I had read that report, which included the non-partisan option. In fact, I sat next to commission member Alan Thompson at the KLYQ studio when he summarized the contents of the report on the air, including the non-partisan option for all offices. Had I any indication that such a major change was contemplated at the meeting, I would have attended. That public notice was clearly insufficient, and because of it, Ravalli County may soon find itself in the crosshairs of yet another expensive lawsuit for its habitual abuse of Montana's notification standards.

Beyond such procedural issues, though, the three commission members voting to remove the non-partisan option seem to misunderstand some foundational concepts regarding American government. To claim that removing partisan designations from the ballot "tears away at the underlayment of democracy," as Commissioner Schroeder stated, is specious at best, and at worst elevates partisan politics above the principles of democratic government.

Those whom Schroeder heard from, who "strongly . . . believe in American government and representation," should note that our Constitution has quite a bit to say about our rights as voters, but nowhere does it mention political parties. Nowhere.

Further, Montana law specifically allows non-partisan elections, and Ravalli County would not be the first or only Montana county to elect its commissioners on a non-partisan basis. That is hardly "tearing at the underlayment of democracy."

Commissioner Thompson noted that "people need to have the right to know who they are voting for, whether they are conservative, liberal, independent or Libertarian." At both the state and national levels, however, the Republican party is tearing itself apart over how to define "Republican" values. Commission member Boulanger himself has been among the loudest complainers that some of those running as Republicans are too

liberal. If the Republican Party itself can't agree on what the "R" stands for, it's no longer useful as a label for voters, and we are better off with each candidate simply expressing their governing philosophy, and their stands on relevant issues, as clearly as they are able.

The Local Government Study Commission should put the question of non-partisan County Commissioner elections back in their report, and let the voters of Ravalli County debate its merits, and decide the issue.

Russ Lawrence
512 Blodgett Camp Road
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-1279

Russ Lawrence
(406) 363-1279 Cell
(406) 360-9124 Hamilton Downtown Association

Klarryse Murphy

From: Stephen Goheen <stephen@top-down.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 10:55 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Patisan / Non-Partisan option

Dear Study Commission,

We strongly support allowing the voters to decide whether the commissioners' races should be partisan or not.

We do not think that the study commissioners should make this call given the importance of this choice.

Let the voters make the call.

Thank you for your work on this project.

Gail & Stephen Goheen
922 Little Willow Creek Road
Corvallis, MT 59828
406-961-4384

Klarryse Murphy

From: Dave Campbell <dmc41752@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:49 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: RE: Upcoming meeting October 6th

Thank you - I have wanted to call as well but I do not have a phone number for Ms. Schroeder - She said she was influenced by phone calls - without a number I could not do that and urge her to leave the non-partisan issue on the ballot.

Dave Campbell
972 Judd Creek Hollow
Hamilton, MT 59849
(406) 370-8088

From: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission [mailto:LGSC@rc.mt.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Dave Campbell <dmc41752@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Upcoming meeting October 6th

Your comment has been passed on to the Study Commission. Thank you.

From: Dave Campbell [mailto:dmc41752@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2015 5:43 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov>
Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners Office <commissioners@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: Upcoming meeting October 6th

Dear Study Commission,

I appreciate the work you are doing for the citizens of Ravalli County so first I wish to say Thank you! I am aware of the meeting on October 6th but I will likely be out of town so I am submitting this comment.

I understand the recommendation of the commission is to return to 3 county commissioners with longer terms. I whole heartedly agree with this recommendation. I also understand the question of whether commissioners will be partisan is still being discussed. I fully support non-partisan County Commissioners and urge you to leave that recommendation for the voters to decide. Surely many voters will recall the mess that resulted from decisions for hiring and appointing officials that were based on partisan qualifications first and actual qualifications a distant second. Non-partisan candidates will be forced to discuss issues openly and free from some kind of party loyalty test.

Please add this comment to the record and once again thanks for your service on the study commission.

Sincerely,

Dave Campbell
Hamilton

Dave Campbell
972 Judd Creek Hollow
Hamilton, MT 59849
(406) 370-8088

Klarryse Murphy

From: Lorena Erickson <renaann311@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 1:11 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Attn: Alan Thompson

Mr. Thompson, I would like to ask you to be our speaker at the Ravalli County Republican Women's meeting at BJ's restaurant on October 27, 2015.

We would like your report, as chairman, on the study commission and how and why the commission has done such an about-face on partisan/non-partisan race, as well as all of the other aspects of the study.

We meet from 11:30 to 1:00, with our speakers generally scheduled from 12:15 to 1:00, unless you would like to set your own time schedule.

Please contact me by return email, or call 961-3330 for your response. We would certainly appreciate your presence at our meeting.

Thank you.

Lorena Erickson
Program chair, RCRW

Klarryse Murphy

From: Suzanna McDougal <sumac99@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 9:52 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: voting

I believe the citizens of Ravalli County should be able to vote on whether the election for county commissioners should be partisan or nonpartisan. Please make this happen.

Thanks.

Suzanna McDougal
Hamilton

Klarryse Murphy

From: Sharon Schroeder <jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Re: FW: Upcoming meeting October 6th

I just called Mr. Campbell and had a civil discussion with him. I also told him we had received his letter last week. Just an fyi.

Sharon

On Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 9:43 AM, Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov> wrote:

From: Dave Campbell [mailto:dmc41752@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 3:49 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: RE: Upcoming meeting October 6th

Thank you - I have wanted to call as well but I do not have a phone number for Ms. Schroeder - She said she was influenced by phone calls - without a number I could not do that and urge her to leave the non-partisan issue on the ballot.

Dave Campbell

972 Judd Creek Hollow

Hamilton, MT 59849

[\(406\) 370-8088](tel:(406)370-8088)

From: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission [mailto:LGSC@rc.mt.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:20 AM

To: Dave Campbell <dmc41752@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Upcoming meeting October 6th

Your comment has been passed on to the Study Commission. Thank you.

From: Dave Campbell [<mailto:dmc41752@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2015 5:43 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov>
Cc: Ravalli County Commissioners Office <commissioners@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: Upcoming meeting October 6th

Dear Study Commission,

I appreciate the work you are doing for the citizens of Ravalli County so first I wish to say Thank you! I am aware of the meeting on October 6th but I will likely be out of town so I am submitting this comment.

I understand the recommendation of the commission is to return to 3 county commissioners with longer terms. I whole heartedly agree with this recommendation. I also understand the question of whether commissioners will be partisan is still being discussed. I fully support non-partisan County Commissioners and urge you to leave that recommendation for the voters to decide. Surely many voters will recall the mess that resulted from decisions for hiring and appointing officials that were based on partisan qualifications first and actual qualifications a distant second. Non-partisan candidates will be forced to discuss issues openly and free from some kind of party loyalty test.

Please add this comment to the record and once again thanks for your service on the study commission.

Sincerely,

Dave Campbell

Hamilton

Dave Campbell

972 Judd Creek Hollow

Hamilton, MT 59849

(406) 370-8088

--

Sharon

Klarryse Murphy

From: Alan and Pat Thompson <cobbler380@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 3:19 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Re: Attn: Alan Thompson

I would be glad to speak to your group on the 27th. My phone number is 381-0990 if there is a reason to contact me, or of course through this e-mail.

Alan

On Monday, October 19, 2015 9:45 AM, Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov> wrote:

From: Lorena Erickson [mailto:renaann311@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 1:11 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission <LGSC@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: Attn: Alan Thompson

Mr. Thompson, I would like to ask you to be our speaker at the Ravalli County Republican Women's meeting at BJ's restaurant on October 27, 2015.

We would like your report, as chairman, on the study commission and how and why the commission has done such an about-face on partisan/non-partisan race, as well as all of the other aspects of the study.

We meet from 11:30 to 1:00, with our speakers generally scheduled from 12:15 to 1:00, unless you would like to set your own time schedule.

Please contact me by return email, or call 961-3330 for your response. We would certainly appreciate your presence at our meeting.

Thank you.

Lorena Erickson
Program chair, RCRW

Klarryse Murphy

From: terry nelson <terryndar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 7:02 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Just Say No.

Please do not bow to the political pressure of a completely partisan effort by the Democrats to put the non-partisan issue on the ballot. It is clear that Ravalli County is 60-70% Republican and the only chance the Democrats have to get one of their own elected is to play games with our elections. This ploy by Mr. Corn and the Democrats to put this issue on the ballot is THE MOST PARTISAN THING YOU CAN DO. It will most probably be defeated at the ballot box, but both sides will be expending a lot of time, energy and money fighting each other as partisans over this "non-partisan" issue. When Wal-Mart was originally slated to come to the valley, there was a meeting at the Hamilton Gym where around 1000 people were "rallied" to convince the commissioners that the entire valley wanted to stop it. However, after a ballot petition successfully gathered enough signatures, the MAJORITY of citizens voted against the big box ordinance. I know you have not heard from anywhere close to 1000 democrats yet, but they are attempting to sway you with a vocal minority. Please do what you know is the right thing and don't allow this partisan fight to continue into the primary season.

Thank You,

Terry Nelson.

9

Klarryse Murphy

From: Sue Pyron <sue@pyronfamily.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 7:45 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Do not put Non-partisan on the Ballot

Dear Local Government Review Committee,
I am in favor of five elected county commissioners. I want to know if they are Republican or Democrat.

Please keep our representative form of government with elected commissioners and no appointed County Administrator.

Larger counties in Montana which have employed an administrator typically pay one \$100,000.00 per year. An additional office administrative assistant which can run \$37,000.00 to \$50,000.00.

There would be no cost savings to the county if this structure was implemented.

All county officers should be elected not appointed. They are more accountable than when they are appointed.

Do not put non-partisan on the ballot. The electorate should have more information rather than less in order to chose wisely.

Five commissioners are more efficient than three. When you have three, it is easy for one strong personality to sway another to side with them and make a convenient majority.

Sincerely,
Susanna Pyron, Florence, MT

Klarryse Murphy

From: Glenda Edgeworth <gedgeworth@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 8:56 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: DO NOT PUT NON-PARTISAN ON THE BALLOT)

Please do not put non partisan on the ballot.

Glenda Edgeworth

Klarryse Murphy

From: niki@redquillranch.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 9:21 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Fw: Returned mail: see transcript for details
Attachments: 1798817433.dat; noname_7891077141213356598.eml

Sent from my LG G3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message-----

From: Mail Delivery Subsystem
Date: Tue, Oct 20, 2015 9:18 PM
To: niki@redquillranch.com;
Subject:Returned mail: see transcript for details

----- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors ----- (reason: 550 Host unknown) ----- Transcript of session follows -----550 5.1.2 ... Host unknown (Name server: rg.mt.gov: host not found)

Klarryse Murphy

From: niki@redquillranch.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 9:18 PM
To: lgsc@rg.mt.gov
Subject: Vote no

Committee Members Alan and Sharon

Please stick to yer-guns and don't allow a communist backed agenda to change Ravalli County into a non partisan election. There is no such election. It would be democrats masking as non partisan , and/or mindless drones that dems found to run... that can't tell when they are being brainwashed to vote dem.

Anything goes.

Why would only Republicans want candidates to declare beliefs?

Please....stay strong....protect.us
from a deceptive set-up.

Sent from my LG G3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Klarryse Murphy

From: Ray Damerai <damerals@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 10:29 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: government study

Please do not put non-partisan on the ballot !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Judy Damerai & Ray Damerai

Klarryse Murphy

From: Karolyn Simpson <simpsonkr37@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 6:48 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Partison vs non-partison elections

Do not put non-partison up for a vote. I like to know the political party each candidate belongs. If I don't know too much about the candidate, at least the indicated political party gives me an idea about the candidate's views and beliefs.

Karolyn Simpson

Klarryse Murphy

From: Charles Wissenbach <cwissen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: No To Non-Partisan

Please don't put non-partisan on the ballot and dignify it as a good choice. If we have elections non-partisan people simply will not know who they are voting for and they will end up voting for the best appearing campaign rather than the political persuasion and platform subscribed to by the candidate. This is especially important if we go to six year terms and only three commissioners. It would be very easy to get the county taken over by two sleepers who didn't have to identify themselves except by a myth of their own creation. __An Obama type offering beautiful unspecified change with apparently no downside. This is a plan for a government takeover that practically no one will be pleased with as it manifests itself over the years.

Thank you, Charles E. Wissenbach

Klarryse Murphy

From: Deidre Slagle <dslag4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 8:58 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: PLEASE do NOT put non partisan on ballot

PLEASE do NOT put non partisan on ballot
Thank you
Steve and Deidre Slagle
Stevrnsville

Klarryse Murphy

From: Nancy Ballance <nballance@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 9:10 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Do not put non-partisan on the ballot

To: Ravalli County Government Study Commission
From: Nancy Ballance, Representative House District 87

I respectfully request you vote **NOT TO PUT NON-PARTISAN ON THE BALLOT**

Nancy Ballance, HD87

Sent from my iPad

Klarryse Murphy

From: John McConnaughey <jmac@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 10:54 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Let us vote

The voters should get to determine partisan or non-partisan. Thank you

Klarryse Murphy

From: R J Brophy <rjb@montana.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 11:42 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: election of commissioners

We strongly feel that the question of whether the commissioners are chosen by partisan or non-partisan election is best left up for the voters to decide.

Robert Brophy
Katie Brophy

R. J. Brophy D.V.M.
1116 N. 1st
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-363-1123
406-363-5467 fax
rjb@montana.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Matt Brainard <brainard_3@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 3:29 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: non-partisan ballot

Do not put Non-Partisan on the ballot

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Klarryse Murphy

From: Valerie Gates <vggates@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 3:39 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Non - Partisan election candidates

I am a resident of Ravalli County. I have previously lived in another state where it was extremely difficult to find out the party affiliation of candidates. I want to know the party affiliation of anyone I am potentially voting for. There are small government, large government, socialists, communists, and many other candidates and I want to know exactly which of these groups my vote will be going to. I feel if this non-partisan approach is in the future of Ravalli County, those voting will not have the necessary information to make sure our elected officials are who we actually want in charge. The school board election is a perfect example of not having any idea what the candidates stood for as there was almost no current information to be found on any of them. Public elected officials should be honest in their political affiliation and beliefs.

Valerie Gates

Klarryse Murphy

From: DeJong <2meadowlarks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 4:42 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: partisan vs nonpartisan

Dear Members of the Study Commission,

I would like to give my input on the issue of putting the nonpartisan label beside candidates for the office of county commissioner. I think that is a very poor idea because that will make it difficult for the voters to identify the candidate's values and philosophy. The voters need the most information possible in order to thoughtfully cast their ballots.

I don't think this issue should be put to the county voters because I think there would be a lot of confusion in people's minds about the actual repercussions of using the label nonpartisan.

I also prefer to keep the voting from the entire county rather than restricting voting to only a candidate from a district.

Thanks for allowing my input on this issue.

Sincerely,
Megan DeJong

Klarryse Murphy

From: Bonnie <jtbt59@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Ballot

Do not put non-partisan on the ballot.

Sent from my iPhone

Klarryse Murphy

From: DERRELL W POOLE <onenger@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 10:32 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Meeting of 21 Oct. 2015

Dear Alan, George, Marilee, Scott, and Sharon,

a few weeks ago you voted to remove the partisan non-partisan question on County Commissioners. I was pleased with that but after the meeting last night I wonder if that vote was conducted for the right reasons. During the previous meeting in Hamilton not one person spoke in favor of a non partisan election. But since then you've heard from many who oppose partisan elections. Now it appears you are swayed to reconsider under what may seem like the majority voice of the people (the rule of the mob).

Last night I took lengths to convey that making a proper decision should be based on something greater than simply the whim of the people. The majority is often is wrong. Our founders realized this and established a government Instituted on Principles of freedom. So I wonder, was your vote a few weeks ago based on the whim of the moment or on what is right according to principles?

Recently a wise man said, "we must look to something greater than ourselves to know what is right". He was referring to God, but not being a Christian, I still realized the Truth in those words. Last night I pointed out that the Principles our Nation were founded upon a "Greater than ourselves" measure; that we can use these Principles to determine what is right on this issue. My arguments are not based solely on my convictions.

Last night I heard, "partisan politics offends me"; "its time for a change"; "we are missing out on some good talent" (Who is stopping good talent from running for office?); "we are tired of republicans holding the majority". I heard ridicule of an elderly woman who was distressed because there were no labels on the candidates. I heard ridicule of the Republican Party because of mistakes Republican Commissioners had made; questions of unethical appointments by republican officer (as if democrats have never cost this county 100,000s of dollars) in spite of the law which establishes as a duty to both parties to appointment such replacements according to the affiliation of the vacating official.

These are emotional arguments - they are not based on anything greater than the person's internalized feelings. Not even the Truth. The Truth is this; the majority in this county is republican. Republicans have not acted egregious to the law to cause it to be that way. The people who live here have made it that way. They have consistently chosen their candidates and elected their office holders based on their convictions of principles. The true reasons for the objection last night were indeed as partisan as anything the republicans have ever done.

The Truth is, those opposed to republican values understand that they cannot overcome an informed people. They taught our children wrong thinking instead of the truth about our Nation for generations. They do not teach our First Principles. Instead they ridicule those Principles. They realize they cannot manipulate people who know the truth - who understand the facts. Their tactics are the same - dis inform and then manipulate. They cannot accomplish anything without lying to us, deceiving us and tricking us. Therefore, seizing upon this opportunity they design to take away even more information I have a Right to.

My arguments are this; based upon the First Principles of our Nation, the Declaration of Independence, I have a right to every shred of information that I can acquire about a candidate - regardless of how silly it may seem to others. I don't see what difference that would make to anyone else? How does my knowing a candidates

affiliation cause a mature self reliant person from voting for someone they feel is the best candidate? It is my right to choose. It is my duty to choose responsibly. Is it up to the mob to manipulate my choices?

They want to make the case that republicans are blind, stupid people who can't make a decision for themselves. They try to convey themselves as enlightened. But I find them very myopic. They want to take away a label that tells me - even if I don't know anything else about a candidate - that, as a republican, I can be reasonably sure that he stands for:

Smaller Government

Protection of Property Rights

Protection of Parental Rights

Protection of the lives of the unborn

Protection of teaching our children proper education

Promotion of small business

Protection of Gun Rights

Limitations or even reductions of Taxes

Balanced Budgeting

Support of our local law enforcement

Freedom of religion

Protection of Traditional Family Values

Promotion of Self Reliance

Promotion of Self Government

A True and Principled understanding of Freedom

Protection of the Rights of the Individual

... among other right and proper principles.

No one mentioned these things last night.

Please. Maintain your previous decision to not include the Commissioners in the list of partisan / non partisan choices. What ever reasons you had for that decision it is still the right decision.

I am reasonably confident that this County will make the right choice about Partisan Elections. But it is to you to take a stand for what is right, right now.

Thank you for your unselfish service!

Derrell Poole

Klarryse Murphy

From: Terry Cook <terryc@cagworld.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: FW: Most important political thing you can do for the next 10 years!!

(DO NOT PUT NON-PARTISAN ON THE BALLOT)

Terry Cook
PO Box 1164
Darby, MT 59829



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Virginia A. Hoffman <lastword@montana.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 1:48 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: ballot issues

Dear commission members,

Thank you for the incredible amount of time each of you has put into public meetings to help decide the issues that will appear on the ballot next June. I would like to reiterate the comments I made at the meeting in Hamilton last night, namely:

1. I think it is very important to let the voters weigh in on whether commissioners should run partisan or nonpartisan.
2. I feel that it is unnecessary and overcomplicated to break out each of the other six local government offices for voters to decide the issue separately. They should be lumped together (but separated from the office of commissioner).

In addition, I would like to say that it's a good idea to go ahead and have these elections at the primary next June instead of waiting until November because of the schedule of implementation. I also think that it is incumbent upon each individual voter to do their homework and then take the time to vote, whether the election is in June or November. If these issues are important to people, and they should be, then they will take the time to cast their vote with no need for you to change when the ballot issues appear just for the purpose of casting a wider net.

Also, I appreciate the recommendation you made to the Board of County Commissioners concerning purchasing procedures and department head meetings. I hope this and future boards will heed your suggestions.

Thank you again for all your time and effort.

Virginia A. Hoffman
1946 Sutherland Ln.
Corvallis, MT 59828
406-531-1442
lastword@montana.com

Klarryse Murphy

From: Anne Ward <anneward1@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: please let us vote on County Commissioners running on a non partisan ticket

Hello,

I would like to express my desire to have the opportunity to vote on the issue of whether County Commissioners are elected on a non partisan basis, which I fully support. As a tax paying member of the community, I would urge the study commission to allow us to vote on this in the next election.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anne Ward
797 Mason Lane
Corvallis, MT 59828

Klarryse Murphy

From: Toddy Perryman and Pat Leonard <toddypat@bitterroot.com>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 12:30 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: vote on the issue of non-partisan elections

I would like to see the public get a chance to vote on the issue of partisan vs. non-partisan elections for county commissioner.

This is a tricky issue, and one which I believe should not be decided entirely by a panel, but rather, the general public should have the last word on it.

Thanks for all the work you are all doing to help improve the form of government we have.

Sincerely,

Toddy Perryman
Corvallis, MT

Klarryse Murphy

From: Jay Blakslee <jblaksleecorp@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 1:14 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Non-partisan vote

I, JAY BLAKSLEE OF VICTOR, AM CURRENTLY OUT OF TOWN TO RETURN AFTER NOV. 1ST.
THEREFORE IN MY ABSENCE I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU DO NOT PUT NON-PARTISAN
ON THE BALLOT!!!
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOU CONSIDERATION
JAY BLAKSLEE

Klarryse Murphy

From: Sue Pyron <sue@pyronfamily.com>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 2:12 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Please don't go with the mob. It is our right to know who we are voting for.

Dear Local Government Commission,
Please don't go with the mob. It is our right to know for whom we are voting. Freedom of information is a basic right in a Republic. The more information we have the more knowledgeable the electorate can be.
Thank you for serving on this committee.
Susanna Pyron, Florence, MT

Klarryse Murphy

From: hobohomes@gmail.com on behalf of Scout Wilkins <scout@scoutwilkins.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 7:52 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: partisan/non-partisan commissioners

Hi,

I'm writing to weigh in and say that I believe this question of whether or not the position of county commissioner should be partisan or not should be a question put to a vote. Thanks!

Nancy Wilkins

Klarryse Murphy

From: Grove Darlene L. <skippy777@centurylink.net>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: For Sharon

Hi Sharon,

Thanks for your last vote on the partisan/non issue. I do appreciate it. I commend all the friends that called you and talked to you about it also, wish more would respond to this document. I would like to see the Commission recommend non/partisan election for the Commissioners. I believe we would have a more informed voting public, plus other reasons. Guess we need more people to speak up for that option!

Thanks for all your time and effort also.

Darlene

"Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."

Klarryse Murphy

From: Bob Williams <bertram1700@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:11 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: A heartfelt thankyou,

for helping to carry the Montana Constitution forward for the next ten years!

imo, Patrick Henry, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson stand in the Patriot tradition of holding County residents responsible for determining Ballot form also language.

The Patriot paragraphs are not in the LTE in the Bitterroot Star, but are of course in the same attachment submitted for Valley Viewpoints in the Ravalli Republic!

Thankyou for continuing to work forward, through an arduous project.
So did Patriots of the 1700's.

Sincerely,

Bob Williams

Klarryse Murphy

From: Bob Williams <bertram1700@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: a 9 part Ballot preference//a quick question

1. Is it: "County Commissioners remain partisan"-Draft Final

2. or should it read: Elections for County Commissioner shall be on a partisan basis, OR Elections for County Commissioner shall be on a non-partisan basis[=?without selection/backing/support/endorsement from a political party?=impossible in Ravalli!]

3. or better yet, Elections for County Commissioner shall be on a Ballot including name of the candidate, proximate to the name of a political party(in three words or less.)

4. Better yet, for the latter is more simple, less prone to misunderstanding and interpretation.

5. Better yet, for "Commissioners remain partisan", and "Elections for County Commissioners shall be on a partisan basis", imo strays far afield from either an amendment to the "form of government" OR to the "plan of government."

6. For instance, two party politics in Ravalli has and will sway Elections. To better recognize that reality,

7. I go on to state my preference for a Ballot that prints name of political party of preference or affiliation, next to the names listed under County Commissioner (as MCA reads)

8. Better yet, by avoiding entangling definitions/understandings of what non-partisan (Election) or (Ballot) or (common words) denote and connote.

9. For instance, under Option 2 of consolidation, "non-partisan" proscribes a long list of categories.

My question. By what process, or accident, at what time, did the title: (DRAFT) Final Report; appear on the 25 page handouts?

Sorry for the length of this.

I am still very appreciative for LGSC carrying the Montana Constitution forward into the next ten years!

Sincerely,

Bob Williams
East of Stevensville

Klarryse Murphy

From: Bob Williams <bertram1700@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 5:50 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: incorrect info on website?

The 25 page handouts at Stevi also Hamilton, are printed as: (Draft in diagonal) Final Report.

Again, by what process, or accident, was that title placed upon those 25 page handouts, for previous minutes deal only with "the preliminary final report".

For instance, if there was a vote, to print under title of Draft Final Report, was there an announcement at the community meetings, that the Commission had moved beyond the tentative preliminary report, and was now presenting, for the first time, a draft of the Final Report? I heard no such announcement.

Lastly, imo we do have a partisan basis for election of County Commissioner, however we should have the opportunity to vote on a Ballot where we can Vote preference for a Commissioner Ballot that includes only the names of the filed Commissioner candidates,

OR Vote preference for a Commissioner Ballot that requires/compels that the name of the political party of affiliation/preference/campaign financing, to be printed proximate to the names of the listed candidates.

Let's face it, a lot of people who could become candidates are not, and do not want to, become identified, supported, affiliated, backed or involved with either of the two political parties.

Worse yet, both of the political parties are reluctant to introduce and promote a candidate without party affiliation, history, contacts and service.

And of course many voters are turned off by, and turned away from, the current two party system in Ravalli and in the USA.

Worse yet many residents half and a third my age have grown up being already disillusioned by the two party system.

Therefore, do franchise those classes of people, to vote for Ballot form and language that states names of Commissioner candidates, but not names of affiliated partisan parties.

A partisan ballot = identify name of political party, disenfranchises voters from names on the Ballot, disenfranchises voters also away from candidate names that might otherwise campaign and appear on the Ballot.

Yes, Registered Ravalli Republicans run about 2/3 when Democrats are about 1/3.

But that is not the question. The question remains, in what form and language, will Primary voters vote between names of Commissioner candidates on the Ballot.

OR, those names also the name of a political party proximate to those names.

Hoping the LGSC website info gets soon updated, with new titles.

Sincerely,

Bob Williams
Stevensville area

Klarryse Murphy

From: Bob Williams <bertram1700@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 3:31 PM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Copy of LTE sent to Bitterroot Star
Attachments: November 13 LGSC LTE.docx

Sent version one to both Ravalli Republic and the Bitterroot Star.
Nil interest from Ravalli Republic.

My attempt is to present reasons why a non-partisan ballot for County Commissioner would benefit the Voters and the election process of Ravalli County.

My hope is that members of the LGSC will chew on some of those reasons and reconsider the comparative benefits of a non-partisan ballot for County Commissioner, compared to a partisan ballot.

Do feel free to offer corrections and clarifications!

I'm way too old to not work toward common benefits!

Sincerely,

Bob Williams

Propping up one party Governance in Ravalli County

Dear Editor,

(With copy to LGSC)

The LGSC(Local Study Commission) has prepared Ballot form and language that would franchise Ravalli Residents to Vote in the Primary Election of June 7, 2016 for OR against 2018 Ballot language Electing only 3 County Commissioners!

By Law, on the 2016 Ballot, Commissioner candidates must reside in either District 2, or District 3! Up for election are two, special two year County Commissioner Terms, starting January 2017, running thru the 2018 Election cycle, and until 3 County Commissioners would take office 1/2/2019.

Voters looking for a Commissioner candidate from say the Hamilton business community, are again effectively disenfranchised. And whom all from Stevensville-Victor (District 2) might run for County Commissioner, depends a lot on whom all might run from District 3 (Corvallis-Pinesdale)!

Think it thru like others have months before now! The District 3 seat now held by J.R. Iman, is up for Election in 2016. J. R. works as a moderating citizen also as a moderating Republican!

Works with a five Commissioner system, apparently operating with a 3/2 balance. About 3 moderate Republicans and two conservative Republicans. In partisan terms: 5 Republicans, 0 Democrats, 0 Other Party or Independents! In partisan terms, Ravalli County sends 6 Republicans, 0 Democrats, 0 Other Party/Independents to Helena! In partisan terms, the LGSC is 4 Republicans, 1 Democrat, 0 Other/Independent.

The General Election of 2016 may well Elect a third conservative Republican County Commissioner, of the current five Commissioner form/plan of government.

In or after 2018, we might see a truly representative theocracy elected by partisan Ballot. A Catholic. A LDS. A Protestant. Probably two, maybe three, Commissioners of the same political party, functioning somewhat like a board of directors, but of partisan nature.

Do think again about the present opportunity to change "the plan of government" = "the form of government", and proceed to Vote for a non-partisan Ballot for County Commissioners to hire and fire heads of County Departments.

Check out suggested Ballot language by going to the Ravalli County homepage, then scrolling down to Local Government Study Commission. Go there and search and share information important to your interests and concerns!

When Ravalli County returns to a form of government with three Commissioners there still would be plenty of funded Republican and Democrat road signs, newspaper ads, and mailers. Then when it comes time to Vote, the names of filed Commissioner candidates would be listed, but not names of political parties!

- ✓ Time to look at the bigger pictures, thinking again about the lop sided partisan system that functioned as a one party Governance system during the wrongful firing of David Ohnstad. (Non-partisan elected Commissioners would not have fired the successful grant writing head of Road and Bridge!) During the Appointment of an incompetent Treasurer by partisan Commissioners incompetent to check out her past job experience.
- ✓ Also during the one party Governance system relying upon incompetence to illegally Approve the ill named Legacy Ranch Subdivision.
- ✓ The lop sided partisan, one party Governance system that refused to respond to what people from Lonepine had to say about harmful effects on ground groundwater, schools, traffic, and wildlife, that would result from the deficient proposal for the largest ever Subdivision in Ravalli County.

- ✓ Partisan one party governance has been the driver from wrongful payouts obtained by Estate Developers, to big airport bias, to wrongful stealth process for awarding building permits upon the floodplain of the Bitterroot River.

One way to sustain one party Governance suggests that on Ballots, the name of the Republican, OR the Democrat, OR another, political party, must appear proximate to the names of candidates for County Commissioner. Best way to prop up that one party Governance system, is to compel Commissioner candidates to on the Ballot, state what political party accepts/endorses/finances their affiliation.

However, at present, potential Commissioner candidates may not be affiliated with either Party and have no desire to identify and/or affiliate as Democrat OR as Republican! Worse yet, the local, Republican and/or the Democrat Party, may have sparse interest in Commissioner candidates who are truly independent of the current Ravalli "two party power system = 1 party, and 1/6 party", partisan system!

Commissioner candidates know that the Ravalli Republican Party is very well organized. That the Ravalli Democratic Party is barely organized, underfunded, and has not been capable of turning out the vote. Ravalli Republicans are already pointing out they could sweep the Primary Election, and two or more Republican candidates for the two County Commissioner positions, will be on the high turnout November 2016 Ballot.

Consider the June 7, 2016 Vote for County Commissioner! Within a District, if two well positioned Republicans win more primary Votes, than does a third place finisher Democrat, imo, those two Republicans would advance to the November General Election Ballot. If that happened in District 2, also in district 3, as I see it, there would be no Democrat Commissioner names on the State and Federal Ballot only a year away from now.

Looks to be plenty of reason to 'protect the Republican franchise', might be the majority opinion. Plenty of reasons to let some brave souls campaign and appear on the June 7, 2016 Ballot as Democrats. Plenty of reasons to compel filed Commissioner candidates to on the Ballot state what political party is supporting them. Say the *Patriot Political Party*.

In my opinion, a non-partisan Ballot does not = a non-partisan Election process. A non-partisan Ballot does not = a non-partisan "nature of government." The Ravalli partisan election process also Voters would benefit from a non-partisan Ballot for County Commissioners.

In my view, a partisan Ballot disenfranchises voters away from Commissioner candidates who are not affiliated/advanced/supported by the Ravalli partisan system. A non-partisan Ballot enfranchises all Ravalli residents.

- Voters who have become disillusioned by partisan politics in Ravalli County.
- Voters who have grown up already disillusioned by partisan politics.
- Voters turned off by, and turned away from, the current two party partisan franchise system.

A partisan Commissioner Ballot disenfranchises perhaps a quarter or more of Ravalli residents!

Time to hear from people preferring a plan of government involving non-partisan Ballots for County Commissioner, until the next opportunity for a Local Government Study Commission.

Oh! *The Patriot Party!* Why of course, that would be followers of Thomas Payne. Thee. Thomas Jefferson. James Madison in the widely referenced, Federalist Papers #10.

Do search and there read about "factions of government":

■ *Government exists to resist the nature of holders of wealth and power.*

Do consider how partisan Ballots sustain holders of wealth and power while also considering the legality and practicality of a non-partisan Ballot for Ravalli County Commissioners.

Bob Williams

Stevensville

Klarryse Murphy

From: mark fowler <erhsaud@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 9:29 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission

Dear sir,

I would like to speak to you on the subject of Tax Collection. As I understand it, Government in this country operates of the people, by the people and for the people. It is the last section of that statement that I have a question about. As I understand it , if a person makes a mistake on their taxes for some reason and pays too much to Ravalli County, then Ravalli County is under no obligation to refund the mistake. How then does the Tax Authority act "for the people" ? Mistakes should be corrected in an open government system if we expect that our government really work for the people. If the local government cannot uphold to our countries ideals, can we then expect that the State, our National government will act in our best interests as well ?

Thanks for your consideration,

Mark Fowler

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Klarryse Murphy

From: Grove Darlene L. <skippy777@centurylink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 9:24 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Today's meeting - comments

To Alan and members of the Commission
From: Darlene Grove, Stevensville

I had planned to attend the meeting on the final draft this afternoon, but circumstances arose that preclude my being there. That being the situation, I would like to leave the following comment.

I have felt from the beginning that most of you on the Commission were people I knew and thought would be objective and fair despite your own personal feelings. Perhaps that was part of the reason I did not attend more meetings. And as you went through the year, I thought that was true. Then the partisan/non-partisan issue came up. My perception of that was it definitely was politically/partisan motivated, which was a great disappointment.

I have been very cognizant of past study commissions and remember that in the past, voters opted for non-partisan election of commissioners. However, the outcome was conditioned on the passage of another facet/or item on the ballot. It did pass, but could not be implemented because it was predicated on the passage of the other issue. Too bad. However, this time, it will be a clean choice.

So in your deliberations this afternoon, I hope in all fairness, you will leave it as a choice of the voters.

Thank you for all your time and effort.

Darlene and John Grove

Klarryse Murphy

From: Chris H <hockman_cw@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:19 AM
To: Ravalli County Local Government Study Commission
Subject: Public correspondence to the LGSC

Dear LGSC,

Please advise where the correspondence to the Ravalli County LGSC is available for public review.

Sincerely,
Chris Hockman