

BIG HORN COUNTY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION
FINAL REPORT

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August 15, 1986

To The Citizens of Big Horn County:

The Big Horn County Study Commission elected by the voters on November 6, 1984, and thereafter appointed present this final report to the citizens of this county.

The purpose of the study commission, as defined in state law, is "to study the existing form and powers of our county government and procedures for delivery of local government services and compare them with other forms available under the laws of the State of Montana." If some change is deemed necessary, the study commission may submit such proposed change to the electors.

In the conduct of their review the study commission has sought advice and information from a number of people in the county. Opinions and recommendations were solicited from local government officials, community organizations and citizens. All meetings of the study commission were open to the public. Public hearings were held to determine citizen opinion.

Upon completion of its review of the governmental system of Big Horn County, the study commission made two recommendations which were summarized in the tentative report issued in April, 1986. The study commission subsequently held public hearings at various locations throughout the county to obtain additional public input regarding its recommendations and any other aspect of governmental modification. This report is intended to acquaint you, the citizens of Big Horn County, with the finalized recommendations of the study commission and the reasons therefor.

The initial recommendations of the study commission included a recommendation that the membership of the board of county commissioners be nominated from and elected solely by the residents of apportioned districts. The United States District Court for the District of Montana, by its decision in the case of Janine Windy Boy, et al, vs. Big Horn County, et al., Civil Action No. CV-83-225-BLG-ER, has reached a similar conclusion. The United States District Court has issued an order directing that in the future, county commissioners will be nominated from and elected by the registered voters of apportioned districts.


Therefore, there is no futher need for our recommendation for a modification of the method of electing county commissioners and it is hereby withdrawn. If you should have any questions regarding the election of county commissioners we urge you to contact the Big Horn County Election Administrator for information.

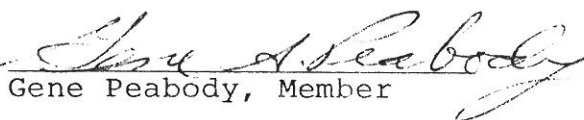
The initial recommendations of the study commission also included a recommendation that the election of county public officials should be conducted on a non-partisan basis. However, as a result of the discussions with the members of the public during our recent hearings, the study commission has concluded that there is general concensus that the county is best served by a partisan system of elections. Therefore, we hereby withdraw the initial recommendation for a system of non-partisan local elections.

The study commission has concluded that the existing form of county government as modified by the recent decision of the United States District Court will serve our county well in the future. We therefore recommend no further modifications of our system of local government.

Respectfully submitted,

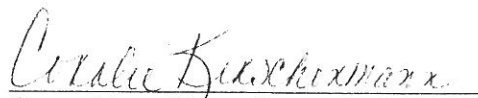

E.W. Mac Clean, Chairman


Sam Denny, Member


Gene Peabody, Member

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of the Big Horn County Study Commission's Final Report as adopted August 29, 1986 by unanimous vote of the Commission.

DATED THIS 22nd day of September, 1986.


Coralie Kirschenmann,
Secretary