



Cascade County Study Commission

*Your Choice,
Your Voice
For Improved
County Government*

Courthouse Annex, Room 104 / 325 Second Avenue North / Great Falls, Montana 59401 / (406) 727-3311

2-10-86 PRESS RELEASE: regarding future schedule, and recent decisions. 2-10-86

At their February 6, 1986 meeting, the members of the Cascade County Study Commission decided to postpone their Public Hearing, which was set for February 20, 1986. The Public Hearing has been rescheduled for March 20, 1986, and will be held at the Group W Studio as originally planned.

This decision was made because the group does not feel they will meet their self-imposed deadline for publishing their Tentative Report. They now plan to distribute that report in early March, prior to the March 20th Public Hearing.

Meetings originally scheduled for February 11 & 13, 1986 have also been cancelled do to scheduling conflicts among Study Commission members. A meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 1986, at 7:15 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers of the Annex.

During recent meetings, several points of their tentative plan were established: The Study Commission voted in favor of proposing a Commission-Executive form of county government. The members agreed that this plan of government should be contained in a Charter (or Constitution). Under this form of government, the Commission is usually the legislative/policy making body, and the (elected) Executive is the administrative head of the government.

The study commission voted to increase the size of the County Commission from three members to five. They also decided that the Board of County Commissioners should serve part-time, instead of full-time as they currently do. The Study Commission voted to continue to nominate County Commission candidates from districts, and elect them at-large, also a current practice in Cascade County. They voted in favor of overlapping terms for the County Commissioners.

Veto-power for the (elected) Executive was favored by the Study Commission. The members agreed that the Board of County Commissioners should have a majority over-ride vote over the veto, but they did not establish what number or percentage of votes would be necessary.

The Study Commission held an initial discussion concerning their preferences for the other elective offices, such as Auditor, Sheriff, and Surveyor, etc. Only two decisions were made in this area: They propose to retain the Sheriff and County Attorney as elected offices. Discussions of the other offices will continue at future meetings.

The Study Commission also decided to propose partisan elections for all county offices. Three members voted in favor of partisan and two members abstained from voting. The two members who abstained would prefer to leave the partisan vs. non-partisan issue up to the voters as a sub-option on the ballot.

All of these proposals are tentative! When the Study Commission completes this first stage in their decision-making process, they will issue a Tentative Report to the residents of the county. Public Hearings will then be held to accept input and questions from the public. Following the Public Hearings, the Study Commission will make any changes in their proposal(s) which they deem necessary, and then a Final Report will be issued. The public will have an opportunity to study this Final Report and cast their ballots for, or against, the final proposal(s).

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