



# ELECTION RESULTS

## SPECIAL LEVIES

The array of proposals placed on the ballot for county voters ranged from health and safety to economic development and recreation. Of the 21 special votes across the state, 14 of them passed. The closest vote came in Yellowstone County for its health and safety levy. The proposal for additional health services funding passed by 28 votes (23,149 to 23,121).

In Sanders County, voters were given the chance to repeal the County Resolution which had formed the planning board. The vote to repeal the resolution, and consequently the planning board, was successful.

Library levies passed in Beaverhead County and Anaconda-Deer Lodge. Anaconda-Deer Lodge voters also passed funding for elderly activities and for senior citizens / disabled programs. Hospital/nursing home levies did not fare as well. The levy proposal passed in Liberty County, but was defeated in Glacier County and Granite County.

Ambulance and fire truck funding was approved in both Wheatland County and Teton County. The levy for the fire district passed in Beaverhead County, as did the public safety proposal in Roosevelt County. However, the jail bond vote in Glacier County failed.

Recreation or park districts were defeated in Missoula County and Jefferson County, but passed in Ravalli County. A weed district was defeated in Mineral County but the weed levy passed in Jefferson County.

Valley County looked favorably on its economic development proposal.

## HIGHLIGHTS—INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## COUNTY OFFICIALS

Turnover in county elected positions was steady between 17% to 19%, except for county school superintendents and sheriffs, who endured a 25% change.

<b>County Office</b>	<b>New Officials</b>
County Commissioners	31
County Attorneys	10
Clerks and Recorders	10
Justices of Peace	11
County School Superintendents	8
Sheriffs	14
County Treasurers	9

JoAnn Johnson was re-elected as the Chouteau County Clerk and Recorder and Jo Anne Johnson was elected as the new Ravalli County Treasurer.

Two sets of spouses were uncontested in their bids for re-election. In Powell County, Cele Pohle was re-elected as Assessor with 2,051 votes and her husband, John, was re-elected as Coroner by 2,070 votes. In Sheridan County, Milt Hoveland was re-elected as Clerk and Recorder with 1,549 votes and his wife, Shirley, was re-elected as Treasurer with 1,524 votes.

Kelly Gebhardt, Musselshell County, was elected to the Montana Senate. Sam Samson, Jefferson County, was unsuccessful in his bid for election to the Montana House of Representatives.

A full listing of successful candidates is found on the website at <http://maco.cog.mt.us>.

**FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GORDON MORRIS**

**Lobbying Rules**

As you can see by reading the memo from Commissioner of Political Practices Linda Vaughney on page 3, she will require "elected local public officials" to register. But, she recognizes the fact that the legislature will be asked to change the law as it affects local elected officials, and as a consequence she will be delaying the fee payments to March 1<sup>st</sup>. This means that if MACo Resolution 2002-18 is successful, no fee would be assessed. She is avoiding the need to refund fees collected under the old law. I think this is an acceptable outcome to the situation. I would like to thank Commissioner Vaughney for taking the lead in this regard and working with us to get suitable legislation passed early in the session.

I would re-emphasize that every county should file a "Principal Authorization Statement" (L-2). This does not mean that you would have to report expenses except in the case where you actually employ a lobbyist. Local elected officials should also get a license. Finally, county employees are not exempt under the proposed law change. They will need to register and pay the fee. This could be an administrator, road supervisor, sanitarian, weed supervisor, etc. This does not constitute a change, but rather the application of the law as it was originally written.

**Upcoming Legislative Session**

Resolutions Committee Chair Mike Murray has been working closely with MACo staff preparing for the session. I am pleased to report that as of this writing 19 bills are already drafted or are in the process. We have only 14 more to go. I would like to see the bills all drafted by early December and be able to circulate them for review.

We will be using the Internet and the MACo web site for more and more information during this session. I point this out to both alert everyone and ask those without Internet access to let us know, so we can take other steps to keep you up-to-date. We will have a link on our web page to our bills and a link to the list of all bills pertinent to county government.

The session is going to be an interesting one and a very difficult one because of the budget crunch. We will need to very closely monitor the state budget process for departmental and program budgets. In my estimation, one budget, in particular, that will be interesting, will be for the Supreme Court and the district court expenses for the new biennium.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**NOVEMBER**

November 5	Election Day (State holiday)
November 7	Stakeholders Advisory meeting; Capitol
November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday
November 14-15	Sheriff and Peace Officers Assoc.; Kalispell
November 15	District Court Council
November 18-22	Magistrates Association; Whitefish
<b>November 19-21</b>	<b>MACo Board Retreat; MACo Conf. Room</b>
<b>November 25</b>	<b>JPIA Bond Working Group; MACo; 10:00 am</b>
November 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>December 3-5</b>	<b>Joint JPA/JPIA Trustees Retreat</b>
December 5-6	Attorneys Association; Billings
<b>December 9</b>	<b>MACo Board of Directors; Colonial; 4:00 pm</b>
<b>December 9-11</b>	<b>Elected Officials Conference; Colonial Hotel</b>
December 12	BOS Council of Commissioners; MACo
<b>December 16</b>	<b>JPIA Bond Working Group; MACo; 10:00 am</b>
January 6	58th LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS
<b>January 14-16</b>	<b>Loss Control Conference; MACo Office</b>
January 29-30	BOS Joint Workforce Council; Helena
February 5-7	County Superintendents of Schools; Helena
<b>February 18-21</b>	<b>Midwinter / DES Conference; Colonial Hotel</b>
February 28-Mar. 4	NACo Legislative Conference; Washington DC
April	GASB Training-Management & Analysis
April 7-10	County Road Supervisors; Fairmont
April 28-May 2	Magistrates Association, Lewistown
<b>May 5-23</b>	<b>MACo District Meetings</b>
May 14-15	BOS Joint Workforce Council; Great Falls
May 28-31	Western Interstate Region (WIR); Reno
June	GASB Training-Reports; Supplementary Info.
July 11-15	NACo Annual Conference; Milwaukee

**Training for Elected Officials**

I want to call everyone's attention to the MACo orientation for "newly elected officials." This orientation is scheduled for December 9 –11, 2002, at the West Coast Colonial Hotel in Helena. Our records indicate that there are over 80 newly elected officials. It will be a large group and they will all be encouraged to attend. I ask you to help in getting the word out and encouraging attendance.

We have a great program planned and it will be very worthwhile. With that in mind, there will be a registration fee and per diem costs that counties should be prepared to reimburse. It is an advantage to everyone, current elected officials and taxpayers, to see that all of the newly elected officials start off on the "right" foot. MACo intends to see that happen with a little help from our allied associations—treasurers, clerks and recorders, and so on. Anyone interested in the agenda can call the MACo office and we will forward it immediately. They were mailed out on October 7 to all counties, but I know it is probably buried on the desk. I appreciate your interest in this effort. Thank you for helping inform the new officials.

## COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES RULES ON LOBBYING FEES

(Commissioner Vaughey asked that this information be circulated. She is attempting to avoid the circumstance of refunding fees, which would be an inordinately time consuming and expensive process.)

Montana Code Annotated 5-7-102 (6)(a) provides that the definition of "lobbying" means:

the practice of promoting or opposing the introduction or enactment of legislation before the legislature or the members of the legislature by a person *other than a member of the legislature or a public official*;  
(emphasis applied)

MCA 5-7-102 (13) defines "public official" as:

An individual, elected or appointed, acting in his official capacity *for the good of state government*. (emphasis applied)

As you are aware, there will be a bill introduced in the upcoming Legislative Session that, if passed, would extend to *elected public officials* an exemption from lobbyist registration, similar to that which is applied to elected state public officials. It is my understanding that such legislation would be effective upon passage and approval and might be retroactively effective January 1, 2003.

In anticipation of the latter, and in order to save the potential costs to city, county and state governments of processing payments and subsequent refunds of lobbyist license registration fees, we are notifying you of our intention to revise the due date of lobbyist license fees for *elected public officials*.

I have no authority to suspend lobbyist registration in anticipation of potential legislation; so it will be necessary: 1) for elected local public officials intending to lobby during the 2003 Legislative Session to register with my office by filing form L-1, Lobbyist License Application; and 2) for the city, town, or county represented by the public official to file a form L-2, Principal Authorization Statement. License fees for elected local public officials will be due March 1, 2003, unless otherwise directed by legislative action.

**November 15:** Revised forms, L-1 Lobbyist License Application and L-2 Principal Authorization Statements, will be available and may be downloaded from our website at [www.state.mt.us/cpp](http://www.state.mt.us/cpp). It will be important for lobbyists and their principals to provide e-mail addresses in the spaces provided on the forms.



# COMMISSIONER ELECTION RESULTS

R = Republican   D = Democrat   NP = Non-partisan   I = Independent   G = Green

COUNTY	INCUMBENT	CANDIDATES	ELECTED
ANACONDA-DEER LODGE	#4 Paul Chirico      NP	#4 Paul Chirico-NP Connie T. Daniels-NP	#4 Connie Ternes Daniels   NP
	#5 Wayne Ternes      NP	#5 Wayne Ternes-NP	#5 Wayne Ternes      NP
BEAVERHEAD	Donna Sevalstad      R	Donna Sevalstad-R	Donna Sevalstad      R
BIG HORN	John Pretty on Top      NP	John Pretty on Top-NP	John Pretty on Top      NP
BLAINE	M. Delores Plumage      D	M. Delores Plumage-D	M. Delores Plumage      D
BROADWATER	James V. Hohn      NP	James V. Hohn-NP Timothy Ravndal-NP	James V. Hohn      NP
BUTTE-SILVER BOW	#1 Mike Kerns      NP	#1 Mike Kerns-NP	#1 Mike Kerns      NP
	#2 Pam Haxby Cote      NP	#2 Joe Lee -NP Bob Worley-NP	#2 Joe Lee      NP
	#7 Ellen LaBreche      NP	#7 Bud Walker-NP	#7 Bud Walker      NP
	#9 Bill Melvin      NP	#9 Laura Lee Dunlap-NP Andy Burton-NP	#9 Laura Lee Dunlap      NP
	#10 Mike Sheehy      NP	#10 Mike Sheehy-NP Katherine Ogrin-NP	#10 Mike Sheehy      NP
	#11 David Palmer      NP	#11 Ted Bury-NP David Palmer-NP	#11 Ted Bury      NP
CARBON	Albert Brown      NP	Albert Brown-NP	Albert Brown      NP
CARTER	John Kerr      R	John Kerr-R	John Kerr      R
CASCADE	Gayle Morris      D	John T. Rosenbaum-D Lance Olson-R Paul Stephens-G	Lance Olson      R
CHOUTEAU	Harvey Worrall      R	Harvey Worrall-R Timothy L. Pegar-D	Harvey Worrall      R
CUSTER	#1 Duane Mathison      NP	#1 Duane Mathison-NP	#1 Duane Mathison      NP
	#2 Dan Connors      NP	#2 Curtis T. Almy-NP Milo Huber-NP	#2 Milo Huber      NP
DANIELS	C. William Tande      R	C. William Tande-R	C. William Tande      R
DAWSON	#1 Kathleen Alley      D	#1 Kathleen Alley-D Jim Skillestad-R	James Skillestad      R
	#3 Bill LaBree      R	#3 Bill LaBree-R Harold Skartved-D	Bill LaBree      R
FALLON	William Duffield      R	Deb Ranum-R Steve Gonsioroski-D William Duffield-write in	Deb Ranum      R
FERGUS	Joe Spika      NP	William D. Fry-NP Kenneth W. Ronish-NP	Kenneth Wayne Ronish      NP
FLATHEAD	Dale Williams      R	Gary D. Hall-R Karen Reeves-D Dale Williams-write in	Gary Hall      R
GALLATIN	Bill Murdock      R	Bill Murdock-R	Bill Murdock      R
GARFIELD	Julie Jordan      R	Julie Jordan-R	Julie Jordan      R
GLACIER	Allan Lowry      D	John Wesley Ray-D	John Wesley Ray      D
GOLDEN VALLEY	Edgar Lewis      R	David Paugh-R	David Paugh      R
GRANITE	Scotty Morrison      R	Clifford G. Nelson-R	Clifford G. Nelson      R
HILL	Douglas Kaercher      D	Douglas Kaercher-D Byron Welter-R	Douglas Kaercher      D
JEFFERSON	Sam Samson      NP	Chuck Notbohm-NP David H. Kirsch-NP	Chuck Notbohm      NP
JUDITH BASIN	Henry Vaskey      R	Jerome Kolar-R	Jerome Kolar      R
LAKE	Mike Hutchin      R	Mike Hutchin-R Pat Erickson-D	Mike Hutchin      R

COUNTIES	INCUMBENT		CANDIDATES		ELECTED	
LEWIS AND CLARK	Karolin Loendorf	R	Steve Mandeville-R Ed Tinsley-D	Ed Tinsley	D	
LIBERTY	Loyd Boyer	D	Kenneth Gagnon-R Don Marble-D	Don Marble	D	
LINCOLN	Rita Windom	R	Rita Windom-R Gary Huntsberger-D	Rita Windom	R	
MADISON	#2 Frank Nelson #3 C. Ted Coffman	NP NP	#2 Frank Nelson-NP #3 C. Ted Coffman-NP Jerry Welsh-NP	#2 Frank Nelson #3 Ted Coffman	NP NP	
McCONE	Connie Eissinger	D	Connie Eissinger-D Beryl Zahn-R	Connie Eissinger	D	
MEAGHER	Jamie Doggett	R	Jamie Doggett-R	Jamie Doggett	R	
MINERAL	Judy Stang	D	Judy Stang-D Tony Pearson-R	Judy Stang	D	
MISSOULA	Barbara Evans	R	Barbara Evans-R Phoebe Patterson-D	Barbara Evans	R	
MUSSELSHELL	Kelly Gebhardt	I	Larry Lekse-R Judith Stephenson-D	Larry Lekse	R	
PARK	Dan Gutebier	NP	Traci Isaly-NP Jim Durgan-NP	Jim Durgan	NP	
PETROLEUM	Lloyd Rowton	R	Lloyd Rowton-R	Lloyd Rowton	R	
PHILLIPS	Richard Dunbar	R	Richard Dunbar-R	Richard Dunbar	R	
PONDERA	Bill Rappold	R	John Holden-R Joe Christiaens-D Bill Rappold-write in	Joe Christiaens	D	
POWDER RIVER	Donald McDowell	R	Don McDowell-R Nancy Espy-I	Nancy Espy	I	
POWELL	Kay Beck	R	Dwight O'Hara-R	Dwight O'Hara	R	
PRAIRIE	Ann Marie Davis	I	Ann Marie Davis-I	Ann Marie Davis	I	
RAVALLI	Jack Atthowe	D	Greg Chilcott-R Candi Jerke-D	Greg Chilcott	R	
RICHLAND	Henry Johnson	D	Henry Johnson-D Gene Foss-R	Henry Johnson	D	
ROOSEVELT	Dean Harmon	D	Roger Bertelsen-D Jim Shanks-write in	Jim Shanks	D	
ROSEBUD	Gary Fjelstad	D	Gary Fjelstad-D	Gary Fjelstad	D	
SANDERS	Harold Hank Laws	R	Hank Laws-R	Hank Laws	R	
SHERIDAN	Robert Nikolaisen	D	Robert Nikolaisen-D Archie Petersen-R	Robert Nikolaisen	D	
STILLWATER	#1 Chuck Egan #3 Larry Gee	D R	#1 Chuck Egan-D #3 Maureen Davey-R	#1 Chuck Egan #3 Maureen Davey	D R	
SWEET GRASS	Lloyd Berg	R	Lloyd Berg-R	Lloyd Berg	R	
TETON	R. F. Sam Carlson	R	Sam Carlson-R Brad Dezort-I	Sam Carlson	R	
TOOLE	Ben Ober	D	Ben Ober-D Joseph Pehan-R	Ben Ober	D	
TREASURE	Charlotte Mackley	D	Mack Cole-R	Mack Cole	R	
VALLEY	Marlene Erickson	D	Dave Pippin-D Ron Reddig-R	Dave Pippin	D	
WHEATLAND	Richard Moe	R	Richard Moe-R	Richard Moe	R	
WIBAUX	Sam Scammon	R	Larry Mick Nistler-D Glenn Hutchinson-R	Glenn Hutchinson	R	
YELLOWSTONE	J.A. Ziggy Ziegler	R	John Ostlund-R Janice Munsell-D	John Ostlund	R	

# Attorney General OPINIONS

## Volume 49 No. 21

**Question:**

Does a county of the State of Montana have the obligation to fund the legal defense expenses of an indigent individual in justice court?

**Held:**

3-5-901 (4) MCA specifically limits state payment of costs for court-appointed counsel for indigent criminal defendants to district court criminal cases.

**Requested by:**

Gary Ryder, Treasure County Attorney

## Volume 49 No. 22

**Question:**

May a county water and sewer district levy against both real and personal property to pay general obligation bonds issued to finance the construction of a sanitary sewer system?

**Held:**

General obligation bonds issued by a county water and sewer district are payable by levy on the taxable value of all real and personal property within the district.

**Requested by:**

Dennis Paxinos, Yellowstone County Attorney

## Volume 49 No. 23

**Question:**

1. Does a comprehensive plan adopted prior to October 1, 1999, have any legal effect after October 1, 2001, if it does not meet the current requirements of 76-1-601 MCA?
2. If a city or county fails to adopt a growth policy, is it prohibited from zoning previously un-zoned land, rezoning previously zoned land and amending or enforcing existing zoning regulations?
3. If a city or county fails to adopt a growth policy, what annexation authority of subdivision review is authorized?
4. If a city or county fails to adopt a growth policy, when may an emergency interim zoning regulation be adopted pursuant to 76-2-206 and 76-3-306 MCA?
5. When a city and county have established a joint planning board, must a growth policy be adopted for the planning board's entire jurisdiction in order for zoning decisions to proceed?
2. Zoning regulations lawfully adopted pursuant to master plans, comprehensive plans and comprehensive development plans prior to October 1, 2001, are valid and enforceable. However, after October 1, 2001, county and municipal zoning regulations authorized by Title 76, chapter 2, parts 2 and 3, may not be adopted or substantively revised unless a growth policy is adopted for the entire area of the planning board having jurisdiction.
3. A municipal governing body may not extend municipal boundaries pursuant to the Planned Community Development Act of 1973, without conforming to a growth policy.
4. The expedited review provisions of the Subdivision and Platting Act may not be utilized without a compliant growth policy.
5. If a city or county has not developed a growth policy, interim zoning regulations may be implemented only when: there is an exigent circumstance related to public health, safety and welfare; the zoning measure reasonably relates to the exigency; and more formal planning processes are underway as required by statute. Failure to adopt a growth policy is not, in and of itself, an exigency that permits adoption of emergency interim zoning.
6. A growth policy must cover the entire planning board jurisdiction for zoning decisions to proceed.

**Held:**

1. A comprehensive plan adopted prior to October 1, 1999, has no legal effect as the basis for new local zoning or subdivision regulations unless it meets the requirements of a growth policy pursuant to 76-1-601 MCA.

**Requested by:**

Charles Harball, Kalispell City Attorney  
Fred Van Valkenburg, Missoula County Attorney

# COUNTY NEWS

**PARK COUNTY** adopted a zoning district to regulate resource extraction. Coal bed methane developments will now have to go through a conditional-use permit process.

**GALLATIN COUNTY** amended its interim zoning district by adding a temporary moratorium on gas drilling, until the zoning district and its oil and gas exploration sections are completed.

**FLATHEAD COUNTY** approved cooperative projects recommended by the new citizen-based Resource Advisory Committee. Projects include road maintenance and trail construction to be done by private contractors in FY 2003.

**BROADWATER COUNTY** has saved PILT funds over the last five years and can now fund a new jail facility.

**YELLOWSTONE COUNTY** Commissioner James Reno protested the recent Attorney General opinion on county responsibility for inmate medical costs. He wrote, "We have a concern that certain individuals, with pending major medical procedures, may purposely cause themselves to be arrested so the county will be responsible."

**LINCOLN COUNTY** formed a county-wide port authority for economic development. The new 7-member board will be appointed by the three city councils and the county. The port authority can levy up to two mills, issue bonds, provide incentives to businesses and can own land to be leased to businesses.

**CHOUTEAU COUNTY** is participating in plans to upgrade ferries at Carter, Virgelle and McClelland. Federal ferry improvement funds will fund new ferries and towers.

**ANACONDA-DEER LODGE** is enforcing its Decay Ordinance to clean up or demolish junk buildings.

**BUTTE-SILVER BOW'S** Community Enrichment Program issues citations against owners for weed infestations, junk vehicles, substandard buildings and other eyesores.

**PARK COUNTY** changed a zone designation from agricultural to commercial. The City of Livingston claims the rezone violated the city-county comprehensive plan and is illegal spot zoning and may sue.

**TETON COUNTY** has contracted with a Great Falls firm to design a new law enforcement facility.

**STILLWATER COUNTY** courthouse has a serious mold problem from years of water damage from a leaking roof. The fourth floor may have to be evacuated.

**MINERAL COUNTY** made its first online purchase—a new typewriter. The process saved taxpayers \$140 and came with a 5-year warranty, rather than the usual 1-year.

**FERGUS COUNTY** Road and Bridge Department is continuing negotiations on a FY 2000 controversy. The County implemented its "Last, Best and Final Offer" from FY 2002 and hopes to finalize negotiations for a signed contract.

**LINCOLN COUNTY** set up a combination community service program between Youth Court Services and forest related after-school programs. Funding comes from Secure Rural Schools Act and 21st Century Community Learning Center grants.

**GALLATIN COUNTY** tabled discussion of Churchill North subdivision because of concerns about groundwater levels, absorbing prime farmland, increasing traffic and strain on a small rural school.

**MEAGHER COUNTY** received a Community Development Block Grant for \$500,000 to remodel the Mountainview Medical Center. The grant will be combined with other grants to remodel in response to 58 Fire Life Safety violations.

**LINCOLN COUNTY** courthouse received a 103 foot communications tower donated from US Customs Port of Roosville.

**GALLATIN COUNTY** appointed an Open Lands Coordinator. The salary will be paid, in a large part, by money generated from a special open lands license plate. The position is to work with the Open Lands Board on projects to be funded by the \$10 million open space bond approved in FY 2000.

**CHOUTEAU COUNTY** gave money from the welfare farm trust fund to the Fort Benton Library. In 1999 the state declared that the welfare farm in the Geraldine area is exempt from property taxes. As a goodwill gesture, the owner had donated funds to the welfare farm trust fund to be used for charitable purposes.

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY** will soon have a financial administrator. To comply with GASB-34, the county was required to establish the position. The county also hired a grant writer, a GIS Coordinator, an Economic Development Coordinator, and a Resource Planner. All positions are funded from grants.

## FROM COUNTY WEED DISTRICTS

To all MACo Members,

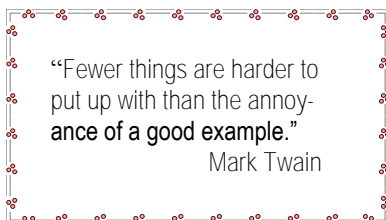
On behalf of the Montana County Weed Coordinators, I would like to thank you for your support of our involvement with the various MACo activities during the past year. The Weed Coordinators Breakfast held during the conference in Big Sky was a great success; we greatly appreciate the support the attendees showed by participating in our event.

In addition, we are grateful to MACo for allowing weed coordinators to be involved in the activities of the various MACo Committees. It is the hope of the weed coordinators that we can assist MACo to develop processes that will lead to improving the utilization of Montana's natural resources, while concurrently responding to the needs of Montanans. I, for one, have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work together with the Commissioners to address the issues that Montana is facing. We look forward to continuing this relationship and we hope to help meet the challenge of the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Scott Bockness**

Yellowstone County  
MACo Public Lands Committee



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SER- VICES FROM MT DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

The Accounting and Management Systems Program has professional and paraprofessional staff to meet all of the budgeting, accounting and reporting technical assistance needs of local governments throughout Montana. Of significant importance is the fact that the services are **fully funded** by the State of Montana and can be obtained **at no charge** to your county.

The Bureau encourages counties to use their services to the greatest extent possible and necessary. They desire to be a reliable resource in all areas of local government accounting and finances.

Branch offices are:

### Billings

Norm Klein  
Accounting Fiscal Manager  
2720 3rd Ave. North, Rm. 235  
406-245-2747  
nklein@state.mt.us

### Glendive

Lorin Flesjer  
Accounting Systems Officer  
100 South Merrill, Room 10  
406-365-6582  
loflesjer@state.mt.us

### Helena

Main Office  
301 South Park, Room 340  
406-841-2909

Philip Strommen, CPA  
Accounting Systems Officer  
406-841-2910  
pstrommen@state.mt.us

Craig Shepherd  
Accounting Systems Officer  
406-841-2902  
crshepherd@state.mt.us

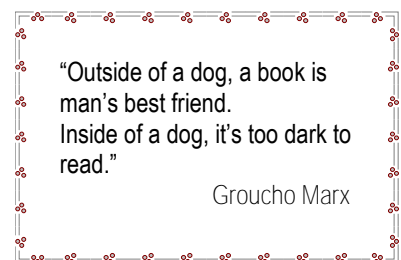
(continued in next column)

## MACo EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELECTED NATIONAL LEADER

MACo Executive Director Gordon Morris was elected to head the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) at the recent annual conference in Deadwood, SD. His term will be for one year. He succeeds David Bliden, Executive Director of Maryland Association of Counties.

NCCAE, which consists of state association directors from 48 states, is staffed by the National Association of Counties. NCCAE provides workshops pertaining to the administration of state associations. The topics at the October conference included personnel management, affects of state budgets on counties, long-range planning for associations, and the possibility of state/local legal centers.

Morris also serves as the NCCAE representative on the NACo Board of Directors.



Marlene Hughes  
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406-841-2900  
mahughes@state.mt.us

Glenda Craft  
Information Systems Technician  
406-841-2901  
glcraft@state.mt.us



## COAL BOARD GRANTS

### Current Contracts

Rosebud County	
Health Care Center.....	\$50,000
Big Horn County	
County Plan .....	\$55,000
Custer County	
Planning.....	\$21,000
Powder River County	
Airport .....	\$100,081

### New Contracts

Treasure County	
Patrol Vehicle .....	\$28,394
Planning.....	\$8,500
Horse Creek Road.....	\$45,300
Big Horn County	
Road Equipment.....	\$113,000
Housing .....	\$40,000
Communications.....	\$35,124
Rural Addressing .....	\$13,864
Richland County	
Assisted Living.....	\$75,000
Musselshell County	
Comprehensive Plan ...	\$30,000
Water Drilling .....	\$300,000
Rosebud County	
Castle Rock Road.....	\$50,000

### Pending Applications

Musselshell County	
Old Divide Road .....	\$63,000
Rural Fire Station.....	\$66,500
Road Equipment.....	\$56,700
Big Horn County	
Dump Trailers .....	\$112,000
Road Scale .....	\$34,535
Custer County	
Regional Jail Study .....	\$59,500

## EASTERN MONTANA NATIONAL FOREST ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Each of the five national forests described in the Forest Economic Assessment has received a CD containing a full copy of the report. There is a synopsis available for each county with national forest lands in eastern Montana. This report was intended primarily as economic input when revising Forest Plans, but also for use with project environmental documents when appropriate.

If a county would like more information regarding the methodology, forest level economic assessments, or the overall assessment, please contact the planning officer in the local National Forest Office.

Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest  
Peri Suenram 406-683-3967

Custer National Forest  
Mark Slacks 406-657-6200 x240

Gallatin National Forest  
Jim Devitt 406-587-6749

Helena National Forest  
Dwight Chambers  
406-449-5201 x265

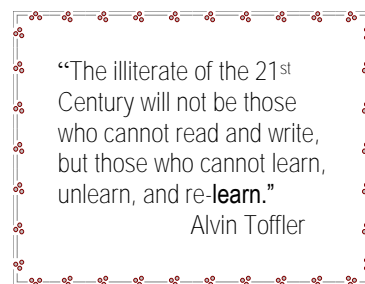
Lewis and Clark National Forest  
Robin Strathy 406-791-7726

## STATE OIL AND GAS LEASE QUARTERLY SALE

The quarterly oil and gas lease sale conducted by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is scheduled for December 3, 2002 in Helena.

"Before any activity occurs, DNRC will prepare a site-specific environmental review. The state Board of Oil and Gas must also review and issue a permit before any activity can occur," said Monte Mason, DNRC Minerals Management Bureau Chief.

The December sale includes tracts in the following counties: Blaine, Carter, Daniels, Fallon, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Lewis & Clark, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Pondera, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Stillwater, and Toole.



## SANITARIAN AWARDS

During their recent annual conference in Great Falls, the Montana Environmental Health Association presented the following awards:

1. William G. Walter Outstanding Sanitarian of the Year, to a sanitarian who has shown outstanding job performance in the past year—**Brian Clifton of Cascade County**
2. Vernon E. Sloulin Rookie of the Year, to a new member who has served less than eighteen months as a sanitarian—**Barbara Woodbury, Gallatin County**
3. Distinguished Service Award for contributions to environmental health in Montana from outside the membership—**Steve Anderson, Anderson Pre-Cast and Supply, Boxeman**
4. Excellence Award to a member for excellence of leadership and motivational skills—**Ken Hall, Fort Peck Tribal Health Center**
5. Donald E. Pizzini Outstanding Achievement Award for contributions for several years to the field of environmental health—**Theresa Blazicevich, Montana Department of Environmental Quality**

# NACo INFORMATION

## FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**Dean Harmon, Roosevelt County**

On July 13, I attended this Steering Committee meeting in New Orleans. Although several topics were discussed, the issues which may affect Montana were:

Budget shortfalls are created by an economic slow down and increased national unemployment. Nationally, tax revenues plunged 8% in the first quarter of 2002 in all major categories—corporate, personal and sales.

Montana has actually suffered less than states which have sales taxes, as spending growth slowed from 8% in 2001 to 2.4% in early 2002. This caused projected revenue shortfalls for 40 states. Our unemployment rate was less than 5% as of April 2002.

In the many states with sales taxes, lost sales tax revenues are occurring due to lack of taxation on online or remote sales. There are efforts being made to achieve a uniform sales tax among states which could save many states hundreds of millions of dollars in lost E-Commerce sales taxes.

Also discussed was the impact of anti-terrorism insurance legislation on counties. The deletion of this coverage after September 11, 2001, leaves counties vulnerable to significant losses. Legislative attention is being given to this exposure in part in the form of HB 3210, which will require reinsurance and bans punitive damages following terrorist attack.

## ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

**Kathy Bessette, Hill County**

### *Land Use and Growth Management Subcommittee*

In a Supreme Court ruling, "Should the government be required to compensate property owners for every development moratorium, regardless of its purpose, duration, or potential impact on property values?", Court gave a resounding "NO!"

### *Solid and Hazardous Waste Subcommittee*

Nuclear waste transportation is the "hot topic".

### *Water Quality Subcommittee*

Speakers from LSU described Sea Grant Universities assistance to coastal states to maintain clean water and other environmental issues. One area receives 64" of rain per year and over 500,000 residents are on septic systems. Officials are concerned about the cost of clean up of the area.

### *Energy Subcommittee*

Discussion included fuel cells to run vehicles and ethanol from prairie grass rather than corn.

### *Environmental, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee*

Reaffirmed resolutions include 1) guidelines for DOE to assist counties with the training, personnel, planning and funding for any mishap in the transport of nuclear waste; 2) to encourage watershed stewardship; 3) to increase fuel economy for clean air; 4) to support pipeline safety improvements; 5) to support funding for environmental education and 6) for childhood asthma reduction.

(next column)

New resolutions include: 1) modifying the existing national energy policy; 2) requiring the DOE to develop national policies regarding the transportation of radioactive waste; 3) supporting a single location for the storage of the nation's high-level nuclear waste; 4) reauthorizing TEA-21 (the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century); 5) modernizing the flood hazard-mapping program.

Other informative workshops which I attended included:

1) Conducted by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, grants for public libraries 2) utilizing and retaining volunteer firefighters to help with homeland security, 3) improving access to health care at less cost, 4) improving relations between counties and Indian nations and 5) running your county government more like a business (very interesting).

I felt this conference was a very worthwhile experience and I would encourage more Montana commissioners to attend these sessions. It provides the opportunity to share our experiences, problems and solutions with commissioners from other areas as well as learning how others solved similar problems. In order to maintain the lifestyle of the West, we need to educate people from more populated areas about some of our concerns and problems.

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