

Local Government Study Commission
January 6, 2016

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am.

Roll Call: George Corn, Alan Thompson, Sharon Schroeder, Marilee Shockley
Absent: Scott Boulanger

Minutes for December 8th – Sharon moved to approved as written. George seconded. All approved.

Discussed the financial report – Approximately \$30,600 left in the budget.

Report from committee members of past information packets & Discussed ways to inform the public of our report – Passed out a paper on the Summary of Recommendations from the previous Local Government Study Commission. The previous study commission did not mail out information so we do not have anything to refer back to. Sharon likes how the previous commission put the ballot questions on the left side of the page and the explanations on the right. George suggested keeping it at two pages and on the outside in large letters have some wording to catch the attention of the public to show that it is voter information. Discussed whether to portray the pros and cons to every ballot issue or to only identify the recommendation of the committee. Marilee preferred to portray both the pros and the cons. George and Sharon preferred to limit it to specifically identifying the recommendation of the committee.

George brought a memo from Mr. Recht that expressed a few concerns and suggestions that he had about the wording of the ballot. Mr. Recht and George worded ballot question #1 in a way to clarify the transition plan directly in the ballot question. Sharon felt adding the transition plan on the ballot will confuse the voters. Marilee suggested putting the transition plan on the sample ballot. Committee decided to leave the transition plan off the ballot, but to use this description in the voter packet.

Decided to delete the wording of “on the Ravalli County Board of Commissioners” out of the line item on the ballot because that wording is already in the ballot question.

Discussed the maximum number of pages we could put in a voter packet that would not overwhelm the voters. Sharon felt two pages printed on both sides. Alan felt three pages at the most.

Planning the chart for the voter packet -

Question #1: Use the third paragraph of the report summary on the report (page 3) to explain the proposal.

Question #2: Use page 3, paragraph 4 of the report summary on the report to explain the proposal or use the last sentence on page 5, “Six year terms allow for continuity in government management with no possibility of a majority elected in a single election.”

Question #3: “Since commissioners make decisions that affect all residents of the county, candidates should be elected at-large.” (page 3, paragraph 6)

Question #4: Under present form of government, “Partisan designation for Board of County Commissioners” - “Partisan (i.e. party affiliation) gives the voters an idea of the candidates’ political philosophies.” (page 3, paragraph 5 to explain the proposal)

Question #5: “These are positions that complete their tasks as mandated by law and do not set policy. Voters would be responsible for determining the candidates’ qualifications” to explain the proposal.

Discussed putting the report summary and key provisions in the voter packet - Combine the first sentence of the Letter to the Citizens with the first sentence of second paragraph then skip down to the last paragraph of the letter.

On the Report Summary, use the “a,b,c,d” section and the transition plan paragraph. Add the vote number ratio of the study commission in the key provisions into the “a,b,c,d” section.

Replace the second paragraph of the report summary which explains the transition plan and replace it with the transition plan that George and Mr. Recht wrote then add in the minority report.

Discussed printing on an 11x17 page so the ballot will fit on one page. Alan and Sharon will get bids for mailings of 15,000 and 20,000. Black verses color on the outside panel. 2 pages 8.5x11 or 2 pages 11x17.

Sharon will put together a draft of the voter pamphlet to be used on the white board next week. Marilee reminded that our voter packet needs to be sent out before the absentee ballots get sent out. George will check with Regina to ask by what date she needs our ballot.

General Business - Next meeting will be Thursday, January 14th at 9:00 am. Alan will be gone February 2 – 11. Sharon will be gone from the start of February until February 22. Sharon will be in town for the first week of March but will be gone the second week. She will be coming home on March 10th.

Adjourn: George moved to adjourn at 12:53 pm. Marilee seconded. All approved.