

1950

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1950-3 RAISE LOCAL DEBT LIMIT
Approved 55.8%
72.6% voted, 65,300 for and 67,491 against

Constitutional Amendment

1949 Laws Chapter 137 (H Bill 420) proposed amendment of Article XIII section 6 of the constitution to raise the limit on school district, municipal and township debt from three percent of taxable valuation to five percent. Teachers, PTAs and women groups endorsed the change and the state superintendent of public instruction said it was necessary to permit new school construction for increasing numbers of children.

Voters in most urban counties, along the High Line and in the lower Yellowstone Valley approved the change while voters in Silver Bow, Deer Lodge and 14 rural counties, mostly central and southern, opposed it. The rate of vote on this measure and the relaxation of county debt limit was similar and there was substantial correlation of county standings on the two measures (Pearson's r = .90).

1950-4 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Approved 50.7%
72.8% voted, 77,644 for and 75,641 against

1949 Laws Chapter 6 (H Bill 3) proposed amendment of Article VIII section 1 of the constitution to allow division of the bureau of agriculture, labor and industry. Labor groups long had complained that the single agency mandated by the constitution usually was headed by a farmer or rancher little interested in urban labor affairs. Lawyers said the single department could be abolished but not dissolved without constitutional amendment. The change had been proposed in each of six sessions prior to 1949 and Governors Sam Ford and John Berner endorsed the change. Finally with only two members opposed the 1949 legislature put the matter to the electorate.

Voters in more populous and industrialized counties generally favored the measure but it was opposed in Lewis & Clark and 32 rural counties. There was some correlation of vote for this amendment with vote Democratic for congressman (Pearson's r = .49).

1950-5 WORLD WAR II VETERANS BONUS
Approved 58.2%
87.2% voted, 108,231 for and 75,411 against

This initiative proposed a \$22 million bond issue serviced by a two-cent tax on cigarettes for "adjusted compensation" to Montanans in military service during World War II. They would receive \$15 for each month of overseas service and \$10 for each month of domestic service (text at 1951 Laws 781). Newspapers reported casualties in the Korean War and Chinese troops had intervened as voters decisively approved this veterans bonus. Voters in northern counties gave strongest support, generally more than 60 percent, and voters in only five scattered central and southern counties opposed the measure. Age evidently had some influence on the vote. Median age for the state was 29.9 years in 1950; average median age in the eight counties most favorable to the bonus was 28.2 years, and in the eight counties least favorable, 30.86 years. The state supreme court reversed its 1923 decision that

SENATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COUNTY	(D) 26 (R) 28 (1) 2	(D) 41 (R) 49
Beaverhead	*George M Gosman (R)	J S Brenner (R)
Big Horn	*William B Spear Jr (R)	Clyde L Hawk (R)
Blaine	*Thomas A Ross (R)	Richard Nixon (D)
Broadwater	*H Bristol (D)	L J Anders (R)
Carbon	*M H Wilson (D)	William Meecey (R)
Cardell	*C E Casper (R)	Ben Brownfield (R)
Cascade	Charles A Bovey (D)	George Anderson (R)
Chouteau	Evon L Anderson (R)	Paul Meyer (D)
Custer	*Henry J Sawtell (R)	Norris E Harford (R)
Daniels	*Carl Lindquist (R)	Keith W Trout (D)
Dawson	*T J Johnson (D)	E Neil Taylor (R)
Deer Lodge	Edward A Wenger (D)	John Haysler (R)
Fallon	L W Busch (R)	John Emmons (R)
Fergus	E R Roehl (R)	Frank F Fulton (R)
Flathead	G M Moss (R)	Robert J Phillips (R)
Gallatin	*Carl Lehmkind Jr (D)	Ory J Armstrong (R)
Garfield	*C H Mahony (R)	Walter C Sykes (R)
Golden	*J Hung Anyon (R)	Lovitt I Westlake (D)
Granite	*George P Balfour (R)	John J Macdonald (D)
Hill	Chen Etlman (D)	David M Higgins (R)
Hilli	*Jess L Angstrom (D)	Ben F Proctor (R)
Judith Basin	*Philip C Duncan (D)	John H Hesse (D)
Lake	George S McKenna (D)	Arnold Rieder (D)
Lewis & Clark	*Ray Kelly (D)	J Henry Wilson (D)
Liberty	*Fred H Padbury (R)	R H Weidman (R)
Lincoln	*David F James (D)	Henry Loble (D)
McCone	*W Weydeneyer (R)	J Miller Smith (R)
Medison	*J M Horland (D)	Fred E Barrett (D)
Meagher	*Hortimer J Lotz (R)	Allen Goodman (D)
Mineral	*Oliver Ebert (R)	Martin J Beck (D)
Missoula	H A Tabbals (D)	W G Sagninsky (R)
Musselshell	Donovan Wachen (R)	Drville Roestad (R)
Park	*J A Lopate (R)	Arthur Jensen Sr (D)
Petroleum	*Edwin F Parricott (D)	Thomas F Helms (R)
Phillips	*Kenneth R Cole (R)	John Karlberg (D)
Pondera	*Wm B W Phillips (D)	Earl Clark (D)
Powder	*Leroy Anderson (D)	Earl Wortking (R)
Powell	*J Fred Toman (R)	Edward J Skidby (R)
Rawlins	*J Fred Toman (R)	A J Watkins (R)
Richland	*Charles Brown (R)	J P Sartart (R)
Roosevelt	*W J Walters (R)	J L Scott (R)
Sanders	Donald Nutter (R)	D C Bestman (R)
Sheridan	*S B Wallander (R)	D C Lordridge (D)
Silver Bow	R C Harken (D)	Volney Anderson (D)
	Glen H Larson (R)	Oliwer M Lien (D)
	Andrew Dahl (D)	M S Conley (R)
	Troy Evans (R)	Clifford J Hauge (R)
	Webster Keller (D)	Lloyd J Michals (D)
	*Leo J Fowler (D)	Sam Babich (D)
	Paul R Rice (D)	Alex Blawett (R)
	George W Wilson (D)	Daniel McCarthy (D)
	*D M Harring (D)	Mike Loughtan (D)
	Robert S Cotton (D)	John H Lauthard (R)
	E F McCully (D)	Edward J Esp (R)
	Oscar Neuvig (D)	L V Donalt (R)
	Rex Hibbs (R)	C W Epton (D)
		Edrick Wilson (D)
		Reiner Blixson (D)
		William Van Dyke (D)
		Clam Parker (D)
		Carl B Peters (R)
		R H Gebhardt (R)
		L M Pritt (R)
		Edward J Foley (D)
		Walter Freshman (D)
		Robert G Dwyer (D)
		James Mountain (D)
		Lloyd Barnard (D)
		John M Schultz (R)
		George R Pience (R)
		Charles L Crist (R)