BALLOT ISSUES

1952:1 FOUR-YEAR LOCAL OFFICERS — Constitutional Amendment

Rejected 46.9% — 71,2% voted, 88,604 for and 100,200 against

For the third time, 1951 Laws chapter 132 (S Bill 63) proposed amendment of Article XVI section 6 of the constitution to increase the two-year term of local officials to four years. The Municipal League again sponsored the change, with support from the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. But voters liked the proposal no better than they had in 1942 (1942:2) and 1944 (1944:2). Senators from 13 rural counties almost blocked its submission and their constituents agreed.

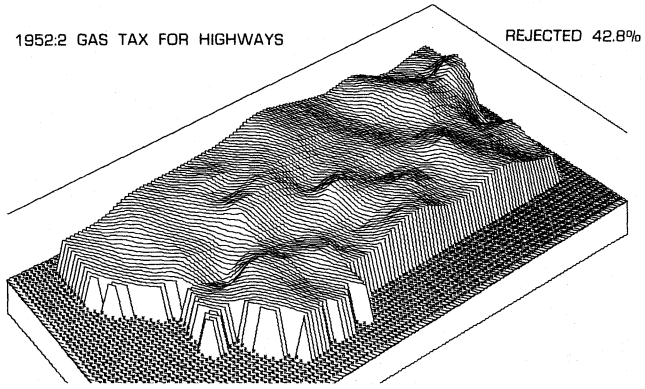
There was a favorable vote in nine northern and western counties but voters in the major centers (except Lewis & Clark) who previously favored the change now opposed the longer term, along with most rural voters. As in 1942 and 1944, opposition was strongest in central and southeastern counties.

1952:2 GAS TAX FOR HIGHWAYS — Initiative Legislation

Rejected 42.8% — 67.6% voted, 76,627 for and 102,455 against

A Highway Improvement Association sponsored this initiative for an additional one-cent gasoline tax to secure $1.8 million in matching funds for primary highways; the tax would become seven cents, about one-fourth the current cost of gasoline. Sponsors said the state was $4 million short in funds to match available federal highway allocations and that 15 to 20 years would be required to complete the primary highway system at current rates of funding (Great Falls Tribune, October 29, 1952).

Voters in eight north-central and northern counties favored the tax but all west-slope counties, contrary to previous funding votes, opposed this measure along with nearly all the southern and southeastern counties. Two months after voters rejected this proposal Governor Aronson told the 1953 legislature that the state lacked almost $7 million in funds to match available federal allocations for highway construction in the state (1953 House Journal page 9).



THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

January 5 - March 8, 1953
(Three Extra Days)

1952

SENATE	COUNTY	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
(D) 20 (R) 36		(D) 32 (R) 62	
J S Brenner (R)	Beaverhead	George E Gleed (R)	
Willis B Spear (R)	Big Horn	Clyde L Hawks (R)	
Thomas A Ross (R)	Blaine	Richard Nixon (D)	
*W F Bristow (D)	Broadwater	Lester C Goodwin (D)	
W R Mackay (R)	Carbon	G W O'Connor (R)	
*C E Gardner (R)	Carter	Ben Brownfield (R)	
*Charles A Bovey (D)	Cascade	George Anderson (D)	Leo C Graybill (D)
		Ralph C Bricker (R)	Ole S Gunderson (D)
		Fritz Norby (R)	Leonard D Regan (D)
		Ernest C Steel (R)	
*Evon L Anderson (R)	Chouteau	James Wood Jr (D)	
Charles M Hatch (R)	Custer	Tim M Babcock (R)	Roy A Hanson (R)
Carl Lindquist (R)	Daniels	E Neil Taylor (R)	
R L Robbins (R)	Dawson	R J Hilger (R)	
E A Wenger (D)	Deer Lodge	John Emmons (D)	Wayne McAndrews (D)
*L W Busch (R)	Fallon	Frank F Fulton (R)	
Earl Moritz (R)	Fergus	Robert J Phillips (R)	Charles Cerovski (D)
*G M Moss (R)	Flathead	Ory J Armstrong (R)	Fred O Broeder (R)
		Cliff E Haines (R)	Robert C Sykes (R)
Herman Dokken (R)	Gallatin	Dean Chaffin (R)	R P Purdy (R)
		Walter L Sales (R)	
C H Mahoney (R)	Garfield	John J MacDonald (D)	
George N McCabe (D)	Glacier	David M Higgins (R)	
Oscar P Balgord (R)	Golden Valley	Dan H Corcoran (R)	
*Chan Ettien (D)	Granite	Eric V Johnson (R)	
Jess L Angstman (D)	Hill	H H Hess (D)	Robert A Durkee (D)
John C Alley (R)	Jefferson	Arnold Rieder (D)	
*George S McKenna (D)	Judith Basin	Gerald H Hughes (R)	
Lloyd I Wallace (R)	Lake	R H Weidman (R)	A L Atkinson (R)
Fred H Padbury (R)	Lewis & Clark	W R Totten (R)	J Miller Smith (R)
		Thomas D Tobin (R)	
David F James (D)	Liberty	Fred E Barrett (D)	
*W Weydemeyer (R)	Lincoln	Allen Goodgame (D)	
J M Hofland (D)	McCone	Martin J Beck (D)	
*Mortimer J Lott (R)	Madison	W G Sagunsky (R)	
Walter A Donahoe (R)	Meagher	Paul Ringling (D)	
*H A Tibbals (D)	Mineral	John McDonnell (R)	
*Donovan Worden (R)	Missoula	Bess R Reed (R)	C N Nybo (R)
		Thomas F Haines (R)	Jack W Rimel (R)
		John H Toole (R)	
Clyde Brewer (R)	Musselshell	L W Goffena (R)	
Paul Working (R)	Park	Scott A Pfohl (R)	C E Walton (R)
*Kenneth R Cole (R)	Petroleum	M N Gershmel (D)	
Fred L Robinson (R)	Phillips	A J Watkins (R)	
LeRoy Anderson (D)	Pondera	J P Seifert (R)	
Charles Scofield (R)	Powder River	Lisle D Powell (R)	
Don F Valiton (R)	Powell	J A McElwain (R)	
Charles Grandey (R)	Prairie	H H Haines (R)	
*W J Winters (R)	Ravalli	Fred Wetzsteon (R)	Joseph Iten (R)
*Donald Nutter (R)	Richland	Floyd L Sax (R)	
B R Taylor (R)	Roosevelt	Chris S Tange (R)	
*R C Harken (D)	Rosebud	Mrs A Arnold (R)	
*Glenn H Larson (R)	Sanders	E H Mahoney (D)	
*Andrew Dahl (D)	Sheridan	Lloyd J Michels (D)	
*Troy Evans (R)	Silver Bow	John Cavanaugh (D)	Rudy Johnson (D)
		Mike Loughran (D)	Thomas E Tobin (D)
		Robert Marsenich (D)	Mervin Dempsey (D)
		Robert G Dwyer (D)	
*Webster Keller (D)	Stillwater	John H Leuthold (R)	
A R McDonnell (R)	Sweet Grass	O A Sippel (R)	
*Paul R Rice (D)	Teton	E V Omholt (R)	
*George W Wilson (D)	Toole	R F Juedeman (R)	
D M Manning (D)	Treasure	Archie Wilson (R)	
*Robert S Cotton (D)	Valley	Homer J Clowes (D)	Lloyd Barnard (D)
*E F McQuitty (D)	Wheatland	William Van Dyke (D)	
*Oscar Nesvig (D)	Wibaux	Clem Parker (D)	
*Rex Hibbs (R)	Yellowstone	Charles L Crist (R)	C O Hansen (R)
		George R Pierce (R)	Carl B Peters (R)