1954

1954:2 APPOINTED BOARD OF PARDONS — Constitutional Amendment

Approved 66.1% — 65.1% voted, 97,875 for and 50,167 against

1953 Laws chapter 106 (S Bill 48) proposed amendment of Article VII section 9 of the constitution to replace the ex officio board of pardons (secretary of state, attorney general and auditor) with one appointed as the legislature might provide. Constitutional detail regulating board operation would be deleted and pardons, remissions of fine and commutations of sentence would be granted by the governor on recommendation by a majority of the board. Dissatisfaction with the cumbersome involvement of four elected officials in the pardon function was general; the proposal had bipartisan sponsorship and no legislator voted against it.

Chairman William A Clark had warned the 1889 constitutional convention against concentrating the clemency power in the governor who "could for mere political considerations grant a pardon" (Proceedings page 431). The Peoples Voice, ever distrustful of concentrated authority, exhumed the testimony of the copper magnate to support its opposition to this amendment (September 24, 1954). But voters in every county favored the change and support was strongest among central and northern urban centers. Missoula County was the exception, voting with 29 rural counties in the third of vote least favorable.

1955 Laws chapter 153 established a three-member board of pardons appointed by the governor "to administer the executive clemency, probation and parole system."

1954:3 $2 MILLION ASYLUM BONDS — Bond Issue

Approved 87.4% — 72.3% voted, 143,587 for and 20,759 against

1953 Laws chapter 246 (H Bill 215) proposed a $2 million bond issue serviced by a one-mill property levy for construction and improvement of facilities for the insane at the Warm Springs asylum in Deer Lodge County.

1954:4 $1.5 MILLION CHILDRENS HOSPITAL BONDS — Bond Issue

Approved 83.5% — 69.2% voted, 131,400 for and 25,982 against

1953 Laws chapter 248 (H Bill 251) proposed a $1.5 million bond issue serviced by a one-mill property levy for construction and improvement of facilities and land purchase at the Boulder training school in Jefferson County.

Governor Bonner had recommended a $1 million building program at Boulder (1951 House Journal 30) and a 1953 legislative committee found "dangerous overcrowding," fire hazards and insufficient staff housing (1953 House Journal 330). The house proposed a $2.25 million bond issue but the senate reduced the amount to $1.5 million. A 1953 legislative committee found serious overcrowding, inadequate fire and sanitary facilities, insufficient staff housing and intermingling of tubercular with non-tubercular patients at Warm Springs (1953 House Journal 333). The house proposed a $3 million bond issue but the senate cut the amount to $2 million. There were no negative votes on either measure

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

January 3 - March 5, 1955
(Two Extra Days)

SENATE	COUNTY	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
(D) 23 (R) 33		(D) 49 (R) 45	
*J S Brenner (R)	Beaverhead	George E Gleed (R)	
*Willis B Spear Jr (R)	Big Horn	Clyde L Hawks (R)	
*Thomas A Ross (R)	Blaine	Richard Nixon (D)	
Lester C Goodwin (D)	Broadwater	Patrick F Hooks (D)	
*William R Mackay (R)	Carbon	George Holecek (D)	
Ben Brownfield (R)	Carter	C C Bentz (R)	
Charles A Bovey (D)	Cascade	G D Anderson (D)	Leo C Graybill (D)
		Ralph C Bricker (R)	Ole S Gunderson (D)
		Fritz Norby (R)	Ronald W Holtz (D)
		Leonard D Regan (D)	
Gordon McGowan (D)	Chouteau	James Wood Jr (D)	
*Charles M Hatch (R)	Custer	R A Grant (D)	T E Nelstead (R)
*Carl Lindquist (R)	Daniels	E Neil Taylor (R)	
*R L Robins (R)	Dawson	A S Hagenston (D)	
*Edward A Wenger (D)	Deer Lodge	John Emmons (D)	W McAndrews (D)
Karl Wenz (R)	Fallon	Frank F Fulton (R)	
Earl Moritz (R)	Fergus	Robert J Phillips (R)	Charles Cerovski (D)
Charles J Jellison (R)	Flathead	Ory J Armstrong (R)	Fred O Broeder (R)
		Clifford E Haines (R)	George Siderius (D)
*Herman Dokken (R)	Gallatin	Dean Chaffin (R)	R P Purdy (R)
		Walter Sales (R)	
*Charles Mahoney (R)	Garfield	John J MacDonald (D)	
*George McCabe (D)	Glacier	Carl P Minette (D)	
*Oscar P Balgord (R)	Golden Valley	William J Nelson (D)	
H A Murphy (R)	Granite	Hugh Cumming (D)	
*Jesse 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	A L McInnis (D)	
*Lloyd I Wallace (R)	Lake	Clarence P Bick (D)	Mrs A A Baumgartner (R)
*Fred H Padbury (R)	Lewis & Clark	Ralph J Conrad (R)	J Miller Smith (R)
		Gene A Picotte (D)	
*David F James (D)	Liberty	Fred E Barrett (D)	
H H Anderson (D)	Lincoln	Allen Goodgame (D)	
*J M Hofland (D)	McCone	Martin J Beck (D)	
W G Sagunsky (D)	Madison	Sumner Gerard (R)	
*W A Donahoe (R)	Meagher	Paul Ringling (D)	
C E LaCombe (D)	Mineral	Arthur N Jensen (D)	
Donovan Worden (R)	Missoula	Bess R Reed (R)	C N Nybo (R)
		Thomas F Haines (R)	George T Howard (R)
		T A Mangan (D)	
*Clyde Brewer (R)	Musselshell	Earl E Clark (D)	
*Paul Working (R)	Park	Arch Allen (R)	Clarence E Walton (R)
Kenneth R Cole (R)	Petroleum	M N Gershmel (D)	
*Fred L Robinson (R)	Phillips	Lee C Schumacher (D)	
*LeRoy Anderson (D)	Pondera	Cecil C Parker (D)	
*C L Scofield (R)	Powder River	Lisle D Powell (R)	
*Don F Valiton (R)	Powell	M K Daniels (D)	
*C W Grandey (R)	Prairie	H H Haines (R)	
William A Groff (D)	Ravalli	Fred Wetzsteon (R)	Norris Nichols (R)
Donald Nutter (R)	Richland	Floyd L Sax (R)	
*B R Taylor (R)	Roosevelt	Chris S Tange (R)	
R C Harken (D)	Rosebud	Sivert O Mysse Jr (R)	
Glenn H Larson (R)	Sanders	E H Mahoney (D)	
Andrew Dahl (D)	Sheridan	Lloyd J Michels (D)	
Robert G Dwyer (D)	Silver Bow	J J Cunningham (D)	Ray Lee (D)
		Mike Loughran (D)	Thomas E Tobin (D)
		Frank D Reardon (D)	J A Mountain (D)
		Mervin Dempsey (D)	
Webster Keller (D)	Stillwater	John H Leuthold (R)	
*A Ronald McDonnell (R)	Sweet Grass	O A Sippel (R)	
Paul R Rice (D)	Teton	W G McOmber (D)	
G W Wilson (D)	Toole	R F Juedeman (R)	
*D M Manning (D)			