

Montana Common Cause
P. O. Box 654
Helena, Montana 59601

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Dear Dorothy Eck:

Common Cause, a national citizen's lobby organization, has stated as one of its chief goals the "overhaul and revitalization of government, to create effective and responsive institutions and processes." Montana members of Common Cause, including over 550 residents from all areas of the state, have been actively involved in the effort to insure the passage of a modern state constitution.

A poll of Montana Common Cause members identified the following as being the most important issues to be contained within a constitution that would maximize state government's accountability, accessibility, and responsiveness to the people:

- (1) Unicameral Legislature - a one-chamber house, which would eliminate two-house deadlocks, and guarantee greater citizen participation through a simpler, more visible legislative process.
- (2) Citizen's Right to Know - constitutional provisions insuring citizen access to all governmental proceedings, records, and process (including well publicized, open meetings, and recorded votes at all meetings of public bodies).
- (3) Annual Legislative Sessions - to remove existing barriers to the efficient and thorough conduct of Montana's Legislative affairs.
- (4) Single-Member Legislative Districts - one legislator for each district, resulting in clear representation, clear responsibility, and clear accountability.

As all of the above issues have been included within the proposed state constitution, and are lacking in the present state constitution, Montana Common Cause fully endorses and supports the passage of the newly proposed constitution. In addition, Montana Common Cause, strongly urges the passage of the unicameral alternative to the state legislature.

In our opinion, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention have done an admirable job in writing the proposed constitution. It is now the job of the Montana citizens to work toward the passage of this document. In the next two months prior to the June 6th vote, Montana Common Cause members shall be active in this effort.

Respectfully,

Bryant & Robin Hatch
Bryant & Robin Hatch
Co-Chairman
Montana Common Cause

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