

MONTANA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

Executive Offices
1728 Ninth Avenue

P. O. Box 1794
Helena, Montana 59601

March 23, 1972

Mr. Fred Martin
Delegate, Constitution Convention
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Dear Mr. Martin:

As the Executive Director of the Montana League of Cities and Towns, I have reviewed the proposed Constitution as it would apply to the cities and towns of Montana.

In my opinion the Constitution as a whole is an excellent document and should prove to be a foundation on which Montana can progress in the future.

Specifically those portions of Article VIII, Revenue and Finance, that pertain to the cities and towns participating in Highway revenue for streets and alleys to be set by the legislature is an excellent provision for the advancement of Local Government's problem of construction and maintenance of streets and alleys. The removal of Local Government debt limit set by the old Constitution and now left to the legislature should prove to be a flexible means of obtaining necessary improvements on the local level. The removal of the restriction of participating in state-wide funds is probably the most progressive and will prove to be beneficial to local governments.


Relative to the Article XI, Local Government, it is our opinion that the Local Government Committee did an outstanding job of updating the present Constitution to provide for the ever-changing needs of Local Government. We feel that under the provisions of this Article that the citizens in a community will develop a greater interest in their local government and that officials of these municipalities will be able to better serve their community.

We especially like the provisions for the legislature to extend legislative authority to counties and allow self-government operation of our cities and towns. We further feel that the Intergovernmental Cooperation section will stimulate greater cooperation between all local government units and will definitely trend to promote more efficient

local government at a savings to the taxpayer. The voter review section should stimulate all our local government officials to be intently aware of their actions as to the operation of their government and be responsible to development of more efficient and progressive local government administration.

I personally feel that most of the requests of the Montana League of Cities and Towns' Executive Board and Legislative Committee have been projected in the new Constitution. I realize that our next big job and the job of those involved in the Constitution Convention is to get acceptance by the voters of Montana. I assure you that the Montana League of Cities and Towns will make every effort to acquaint the public with this excellent document and its provisions.

Sincerely,



Dan K. Mizner
Executive Director

DKM/m