

On June 6 you can vote FOR the new constitution or AGAINST IT.
If you vote against it, you automatically vote FOR the present 1889 constitution.

Consider carefully what that means.

A vote against the proposed constitution is a vote for:

1. A legislature that can meet no more than 60 calendar days every two years (probably the single biggest issue in causing the Constitutional Convention to be called).
2. A legislature that cannot call itself into session even though the need is great.
3. A legislature where votes in committee and in the Committee of the Whole are not recorded, and where the citizen cannot know how his representative actually votes.
4. A legislature where committees may meet in secret and the citizens cannot even hear their own public business discussed.
5. Multi-member legislative districts instead of single-member districts. (In Yellowstone & Cascade Counties, for instance, a voter now has to choose between at least 36 candidates for House & Senate).
6. A legislature that is forced to try to reapportion and redistrict itself, with deadlocks, gerrymandering, and court appeals often resulting.
7. A legislature that is always subject to having its bills vetoed by a governor who can simply put them in his pocket and forget them at the end of the session; he never even has to say what he is opposed to.
8. A legislature that cannot adjourn and meet again during its term without starting all bills over from scratch.
9. No way for the people by "initiative" to amend the Constitution.
10. No constitutional backing for water claims that will allow Montana to claim its fair share of the water which flows out of our state. If we don't have strong claims legalized in our own state law before 1978, downstream state claims will restrict our amount of water use forever.

11. No provision guaranteeing all existing rights to water use.
12. No possibility of a real "small claims court". We will be stuck with J. P. courts that have a \$300 limit in the old constitution, with no requirements for J. P. qualifications or training or salary.
13. No consumer counsel to represent customers at hearings of the public service commission.
14. Forcing all welfare burdens on counties.
15. No guarantee of control of schools by local school districts.
16. No "right of privacy" guarantee.
17. No "right to know" guarantee.
18. No right to clean and healthful environment.
19. No adult right for 18 year olds.
20. No "rights of children" clause.
21. No guarantee of "secret" ballot.
22. A tax article that says that mining property may never be valued at more than the price paid the United States (usually from \$2.50 to \$5.00 an acre). Try to get that deal on your property!
23. A tax article that taxes mining corporations on their "net proceeds" only, after all other expenses.
24. A tax article that sets up a system where some of the largest corporations only pay a \$50 license each year AND NO INCOME TAX.
25. A tax article that may force Montana to go to a sales tax of about 8%, or an income tax 2 1/2 times the present high one, if the U. S. Supreme Court decides that taxes for schools must be levied by the state in order to assure equalization. Property taxes now levied by counties would have to be replaced by state taxes, and if the current "two mill levy" is maintained in the constitution the state cannot use an equalized property tax. It must go then to sales and income tax increases.

(Incidentally, large corporate holdings which pay no income tax would then be free of the only taxes they pay, county levies).

26. A \$100,000 debt limit that has caused the state to get around the constitution by bond issues (now at well over \$100 million) which force the state to pay higher rates of interest. Every year Montana loses another million dollars because of this one 1889 requirement alone!
27. Mandatory tax on all personal property, including bank accounts. This law is simply overlooked in many places now.
28. No place to appeal tax grievances about appraisals except to the same agency that made them in the first place.
29. No taxation of private interests in government owned property.
30. No judicial standards commission to investigate whether a judge, because of disability or bad habits, does not perform his duties properly.
31. No recognition of unique heritage of Indians.
32. Allowing the governor to veto proposed Constitutional amendments which the legislature wants to offer to the people for vote.
33. A Lieutenant Governor (Executive Branch) presiding over the Senate (Legislative Branch) even though the constitution assigns separate duties to the three branches of government in order to preserve "checks and balances."
34. A governor and lieutenant governor who may be of opposite political parties and who cannot work together well.
35. No way to remove a governor even temporarily, if he should become incapacitated and unable to function in office.
36. A section on "labor" which prohibits consideration of having in some places 4 ten hour workdays with 3 days off each week.

37. Keeping the old doctrine of "sovereign immunity" whereby state and local governments cannot be sued.
38. A law that forbids an elected official in city county or state from receiving any increase in salary, even though inflation may change the economic picture drastically during a six year term (as for county commissioners).

If you really want all these things, then vote for the old constitution; vote against the proposed new constitution on June 6. And you will get a lot more stuff that isn't bad but is unnecessary. In fact you get almost 16,000 more words in the old one.
