



NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR FORREST H. ANDERSON • STATE CAPITOL • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 • (406) 449-3111

FOR RELEASE: JUNE 20, 1972, STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR FORREST H.
ANDERSON, HELENA

Government must be free to act and I proclaim the passage of this Constitution, declaring it to be a major step in that direction.

Government must be open, and it must be trusted.

This new Constitution alone will not give us good government.

It will, however, give the people of Montana the opportunity to build a better government at the State level, at the county level and at the city level.

I deem it a great honor to be Governor of Montana on this day, thus providing me with the opportunity to help in the establishment of a new and better future.

Having served as a State Representative, County Attorney, Supreme Court Justice, Attorney General and Governor, I have experienced the serious limitations and inequities of the Old Constitution.

The 1889 Constitution was written at a time of great public distrust in government. For 83 years, it has stifled new ideas; postponed progress; paralyzed the legislature; made it easy for special interests; and deprived the people of Montana of good government.

Equally important is the fact that Montana has been a colony to many of its sister states. The adoption of this

Constitution gives our people a direction toward the removal of that status.

Wisely administered, the new Constitution brings us hope and the people of Montana are to be congratulated for their wisdom in adopting a new basic body of law.