1924:4 EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUNDS — Constitutional Amendment

Approved 59.9% — 70.3% voted, 73,574 for and 49,267 against

1923 Laws chapter 134 (H Bill 27) proposed addition of Article XXI to the constitution to establish trust funds for gifts and legacies to the university system and to public schools. Preference in investment of these funds was to be given to home and farm mortgages and to educational bonds. The supreme court would have general supervision of administrative arrangements for the funds. In 1938 this article was amended to consolidate several funds into a single trust and legacy fund.

Support was substantial in northern and eastern counties but voters in five southwestern counties including Deer Lodge and Silver Bow were opposed. Correlation with the vote to establish professional standards for school administrators was strong (Pearson's r = .875); correlation to Democratic vote for president and governor was negative but only marginally significant (Pearson's r ranged from -.483 to -.549).

1924:5 REPEAL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY — Legislative Referendum

Approved 57.5% — 77.5% voted, 77,948 for and 57,540 against

1923 Laws House Bill 8 (Text at 1925 Laws page 488), subject to voter approval, repealed the presidential preference primary established by voter initiative in 1912. Conduct of a third general election each fourth year had always been a focus of attack on the primary and critics said it cost at least $250,000 to benefit only the printers of the ballots. Fewer than 33,000 votes had been cast in the May 1924 primary. True to his progressive convictions, Governor Dixon pocket-vetoed the referendum on March 12, 1923, asserting that "a majority of the people of Montana would even go a step farther and nominate their candidates for president in a direct nation-wide primary." But the 1906 amendment that established the initiative and referendum had exempted direct legislation from veto, along with "measures referred to the people by the legislative assembly" (Article V section 1). Nearly a year later Dixon wrote to the secretary of state that "I have since discovered that the veto does not extend to a bill of this kind" and advised him to "disregard my letter of March 12, 1923." So the referendum to abolish the preferential primary was restored to the 1924 ballot.

The decisive vote to abolish the preferential primary scarcely sustained the governor's estimate of its popularity. Voters in every county had initially favored the primary in 1912; after experience with three primaries, only three counties (Silver Bow, Deer Lodge and Treasure) would have retained them. Other counties that initially had given strong support (Missoula, Flathead and Lewis & Clark) now voted strongly for termination.

NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

January 5 - March 9, 1925
[4 extra days]

1924

SENATE	COUNTY	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
(D) 16 (R) 39 (F-L) 1		(D) 34 (R) 66 (F-L) 2	
Frank A Hazelbaker (R)	Beaverhead	Pearl I Smith (R)	
W A Peden (R)	Big Horn	Fred E Gordon (R)	
James Griffin (R)	Blaine	Parker T Anderson (D)	Harry L Burns (R)
*Charles S Muffly (D)	Broadwater	Grant Reed (R)	
John T Spencer (R)	Carbon	Albert Budas (R)	J O Higham (R)
		Alex Fairgrieve (R)	
*John Oliver (R)	Carter	T E Nelstead (R)	
*J W Speer (R)	Cascade	F L Graybill (D)	E M Larson (R)
		Houghton A Duncan (R)	Julius J Wuerthner (R)
		C F Holt (R)	Ed Shields (D)
*Seymour H Porter (D)	Chouteau	Harry C Donaldson (R)	David C Morris (R)
H C Smith (R)	Custer	W W Andrus (R)	W P Flynn (R)
Luther F Greenup (R)	Daniels	Fred Hanson (R)	
George McCone (R)	Dawson	Catherine C McCarty (D)	Henry R Green (R)
T P Stewart (R)	Deer Lodge	Charles A Lemmon (D)	Si Stoddard (D)
		Charles F Murphy (D)	
*C C Conser (R)	Fallon	Theodore R Bergstrom (D)	
*Charles V Peck (R)	Fergus	E O Hedrick (R)	Albert Johnson (R)
		Noble M Walker (R)	B F Moulton (R)
*Robert Pauline (R)	Flathead	W M Cusick (D)	J H McAfee (R)
		T E Lincoln (D)	G M Moss (R)
William H Buttelman (D)	Gallatin	E J Parkin (R)	John W Walton (R) ? John A.
		Allen H Sales (R)	
W C Henderson (R)	Garfield	Albert Holton (R)	
F A McCabe (R)	Glacier	P A Peterson (D)	
G H Corrington (R)	Golden Valley	Samuel O Fletcher (R)	
*John R Page (D)	Granite	John D Kennedy (R)	
William T Cowan (R)	Hill	T J Troy (R)	Robert A Patterson (R)
*I A Leighton (R)	Jefferson	E N Joffray (D)	
*John L Mears (R)	Judith Basin	R C Bricker (R)	
Ralph R Tower (R)	Lake	Dennis Dellwo (D)	
W Ray Church (D)	Lewis & Clark	Lester H Loble (D)	Raymond T Nagle (D)
		David R Smith (R)	
Frederick T Dell (D)	Liberty	Leonard Plank (D)	
*H G Pomeroy (R)	Lincoln	Timothy Miller (D)	
John A Green (D)	McCone	J J Moriarity (D)	
*M M Duncan (D)	Madison	Bazel Tinsley (D)	
C A Linn (R)	Meagher	Orville Harris (R)	
*George R Cooper (R)	Mineral	William Castles (R)	
*Burton Watson (D)	Missoula	Albert Besancon (D)	W C Peat (R)
		John L Campbell (R)	Fred W Zeh (R)
F T McCormick (R)	Musselshell	Clarence Merritt (R)	
Harry M Shelver (R)	Park	H S Masters (R)	M D Steeves (R)
Guy Schellenger (R)	Petroleum	R J Woods (D)	
John Survant (R)	Phillips	N J Brandt (R)	Ben Nelson (R)
Christian F Gilboe (R)	Pondera	Charles A Akofer (D)	
John L Scofield (R)	Powder River	W T Waite (R)	
W J Paul (R)	Powell	William E Keeley (R)	
F W Delaney (D)	Prairie	W R Flachsenhar (R)	
*Thomas Kane (R)	Ravalli	G B Strange (R)	Mark D Fitzgarrald (R)
*W K Adams (R)	Richland	Arthur White (R)	
J W Schnitzler (R)	Roosevelt	Arthur Ryder (R)	Harry Schoening (R)
*Charles M Dowlin (R)	Rosebud	Walter E Clarke (R)	
*John D Garber (D)	Sanders	A S Ainsworth (R)	
*Charles E Taylor (F-L)	Sheridan	Robert Larson (F-L)	A T Larsen (F-L)
*Thomas J Walker (D)	Silver Bow	M Kerr Beadle (D)	Ernest A Hardcastle (D)
		John J Caplis (D)	Peter J Kelly (D)
		Tod Doran (D)	Sam Kinville (D)
		James T Fitzgerald (D)	M J Mulholland (D)
		Thomas Fox (D)	Leo J McGrath (D)
*J H Leuthold (R)	Stillwater	Joseph Hoffman (R)	
Robert Brownlee (R)	Sweet Grass	C A Rupert (R)	
*Harmon T Rhoads (R)	Teton	T A Meagher (D)	
*T L Clark (D)	Toole	Everett A Rice (R)	
Charles R Swift Jr (R)	Treasure	A J Plumer (D)	
*Peter Peterson (D)	Valley	Elmer Johnson (R)	William M Ruffcorn (R)
*I S McQuitty (D)	Wheatland	Herb C Hawley (R)	
*W L Staggs (R)	Wibaux	Glenn T Davis (R)	
*C W Demel (D)	Yellowstone	John J Berryman (R)	Richard Throssel (R)
		Ernest T Eaton (R)	Ole M Wold (R)
		Robert Leavens (R)	