BALLOT ISSUES

1948:2 CANCEL UNCOLLECTABLE TAX DEBTS — Constitutional Amendment

Approved 70.4% — 59.2% voted, 93,461 for and 39,248 against

1947 Laws chapter 197 (H Bill 397) proposed amendment of Article V section 39 of the constitution to allow cancellation of personal property taxes and county relief loans not collectible and more than 10 years delinquent. Sponsors estimated that $2 million in old personal property taxes not secured by property subject to tax seizure, and another $1 million in emergency seed, feed and relief contracts dating from prewar days of agricultural depression were carried on county records as assets because the constitution allowed their termination only by payment. The association of county commissioners said that clearing the books of these old bad debts would encourage more vigorous collection of current debts secured by real property subject to tax seizure (Great Falls Tribune, Oct 23, 1948).

Voters in every county favored the amendment and the range of difference among county voters was not great. Voters in High Line grain-growing counties gave strongest support, possibly reflecting concern about old seed-grain loans. Support less than two-to-one was mostly in southern and southeastern livestock counties.

1948:2 $5 MILLION UNIVERSITY BUILDING BONDS — Bond Issue

Approved 60.4% — 55.8% voted, 75,601 for and 49,621 against

1947 Laws chapter 249 (H Bill 406) proposed a $5 million bond issue to be serviced by a 2 1/2 mill general property levy for construction and renovation of facilities in the six-unit university system. The ex officio board of examiners would allocate the funds among the units. Initially the proposal was for $7.5 million to be spent in all the state institutions, but late in the session the senate limited the amount and scope of the proposal to the university units. The measure passed with only a handful of negative votes in either house of the legislature.

Correlation of vote on this measure with the mill levy for university operation was extremely high (Pearson's r = .982), indicating the extent to which voters paired their response to the two funding proposals.

1948:3 10-YEAR UNIVERSITY MILL LEVY — Legislative Referendum

Approved 60.8% — 57.1% voted, 77,820 for and 50,167 against

1947 Laws chapter 217 (H Bill 148) proposed a 10-year six mill property levy to help finance the operation of the six-unit university system, the agricultural experiment station and the agricultural extension service. The initial proposal, introduced by legislators from six counties with university units, was for a 20-year, seven mill levy.

This was the fourth in a series of decennial levies and the most favorably received by the modest number of voters who cast ballots on the measure. In contrast to earlier years, strongest support was conspicuously situated in eastern High Line counties, along with Gallatin and Yellowstone where units of the system were located. For the first time no west-slope county was among the third of vote

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

January 3 - March 4, 1949
(One extra day)

1948

SENATE	COUNTY	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
(D) 23 (R) 31 (Ind) 2		(D) 54 (R) 36	
George M Gosman (R)	Beaverhead	J S Brenner (R)	
Willis B Spear Jr (R)	Big Horn	Clyde L Hawks (R)	
Thomas A Ross (R)	Blaine	Richard Nixon (D)	
*Howard J Doggett (R)	Broadwater	Guy L Ewing (D)	
H H K Wilson (D)	Carbon	John M Jarussi (D)	J J Cunningham (D)
*Frank B Buck (D)	Carter	John Oliver (R)	
*Charles A Bovey (D)	Cascade	John F Dusak (D)	Leo C Graybill (D)
		Ralph C Bricker (R)	Ole S Gunderson (D)
		David R Domke (D)	Ronald W Holtz (D)
*Austin E Lynch (D)	Chouteau	H R Culbertson (D)	
Henry J Sawtell (R)	Custer	Keith W Trout (D)	
Sheridan Wilcoxon (R)	Daniels	E Neil Taylor (R)	
J D Walsh (R)	Dawson	John Harpster (R)	
Edward A Wenger (D)	Deer Lodge	John Emmons (D)	Gene A Smith (D)
*L W Busch (R)	Fallon	C H Duppler (R)	
*Herbert H Haight (D)	Fergus	Robert J Phillips (R)	J E McKenna (D)
*G M Moss (R)	Flathead	Ory J Armstrong (R)	Ernest Burns (D)
		Carle F O'Neil (D)	
Carl Lehrkind Jr (D)	Gallatin	Lovitt I Westlake (D)	Herman Dokken (R)
		Walter L Sales (R)	
C H Mahoney (R)	Garfield	John J MacDonald (D)	
J Hugo Aronson (R)	Glacier	Ed C Williams (D)	
Oscar P Balgord (R)	Golden Valley	Dan H Corcoran (R)	
*M R Henderson (R)	Granite	John R Page (D)	
Jess L Angstman (D)	Hill	H H Hess (D)	R J Anderson (D)
*Archie E Simon (D)	Jefferson	Philip C Duncan (D)	
*Gerald H Hughes (R)	Judith Basin	J Harry Wilson (D)	
Ray Kelly (D)	Lake	R H Weidman (R)	I A Robertson (D)
Fred H Padbury (R)	Lewis & Clark	John J Haytin (R)	W L Hunter (R)
		Henry Loble (D)	
David F James (D)	Liberty	Walter Laas (D)	
*D F Fewkes (R)	Lincoln	Allen Goodgame (D)	
J M Hofland (D)	McCone	Martin J Beck (D)	
*Mortimer J Lott (R)	Madison	C Lester Martin (R)	
Oliver Ebert (R)	Meagher	Orville Rostad (R)	
H A Tibbals (D)	Mineral	Arthur Jensen Sr (D)	
*Donovan Worden (R)	Missoula	Oscar Helding (D)	John Karlberg (D)
		Tom Mulroney (R)	Winfield E Page (R)
J A Liggett (R)	Musselshell	Earl E Clark (D)	
Edwin F Perriott (D)	Park	Paul Working (R)	Earl H Hall (D)
*Kenneth R Cole (R)	Petroleum	Edward J Skibby (R)	
Mrs B M Phillips (D)	Phillips	Eric Anderson (R)	
Leroy Anderson (D)	Pondera	N A Peterson (D)	
J Fred Toman (R)	Powder River	C L Scofield (R)	
Don F Valiton (R)	Powell	J A McElwain (R)	
C W Brown (Ind)	Prairie	W L Ganson Jr (R)	
*W J Winters (R)	Ravalli	C J Taber (R)	Thomas P Koch (D)
*Ralph P Blair (D)	Richland	Volney Andersen (D)	
S B Wallander (R)	Roosevelt	J H Frerich (R)	
F F Haynes (R)	Rosebud	R C Harken (D)	
*Glenn H Larson (R)	Sanders	Paul K Harlow (D)	
*Andrew Dahl (D)	Sheridan	Lloyd J Michels (D)	
*M J Mulholland (D)	Silver Bow	Walter T Ballard (D)	Edward J Foley (D)
		June McCarthy (D)	Elmer Clark (D)
		Mike Loughran (D)	Frank Tierney (D)
		Henry F Mernin (D)	Robert G Dwyer (D)
*S C Arnold (R)	Stillwater	E A Blenkner (R)	
Leo J Cremer (Ind)	Sweet Grass	Leonard J Esp (R)	
*Paul R Rice (D)	Teton	Lyle H Standish (R)	
*George W Wilson (D)	Toole	Cedor B Aronow (D)	
D H Manning (D)	Treasure	Archie Wilson (R)	
*T H Markle (R)	Valley	Robert S Cotton (D)	Lloyd Barnard (D)
*E F McQuitty (D)	Wheatland	William Van Dyke (D)	
*P A Fischer (R)	Wibaux	W C Howard (D)	
*Tom Burke (R)	Yellowstone	George R Pierce (R)	Carl B Peters (R)
		Myron Tripp (D)	Melvin N Hoiness (R)
		R H Gebhardt (R)	Fred C Krieg (R)