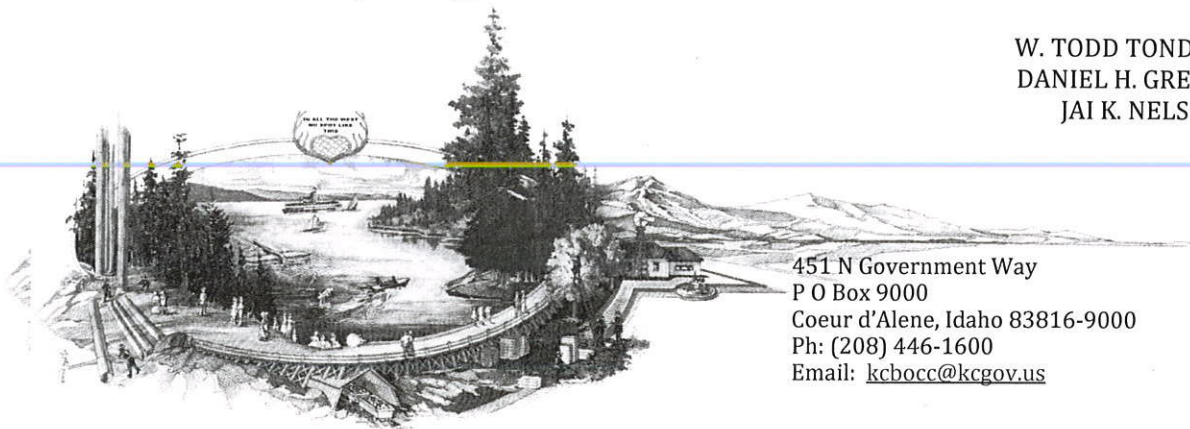


Kootenai County Commissioners

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Press Release

Date: March 13, 2012

Re: November Ballot Measure

The Board of County Commissioners has requested Prosecutor Barry McHugh's office draft a ballot measure to restructure Kootenai County government.

Idaho Statute 31-5001 authorizes the creation of optional forms of county government. The option on the ballot will be the commission-manager form and will also propose that several county elected officials be appointed rather than elected. Those offices are the Assessor, Clerk, Coroner and Treasurer. The offices of Sheriff and Prosecutor will continue to be elected. The Board of County Commissioners will continue to be made up of three members.

History: A study commission was formed in 1996 to study the issue of restructuring. The commission recommended the Board be expanded to five members and the offices of Assessor, Clerk, Coroner, Prosecutor, Sheriff and Treasurer be appointed. Additionally, a salary review commission, established in 2005, also recommended the Board be expanded to five members and the Assessor, Clerk, Coroner, and Treasurer positions be appointed. However, neither study commission's recommendations were presented to the citizens for a vote.

If the measure passes, the Board will have the authority to hire a manager to carry out specific administrative duties. A sample of the duties would include hiring and dismissal of employees, preparing a preliminary budget for the Board's review and entering into contracts.

One of the primary goal's of this restructuring is to streamline decision making with a more efficient and effective process.

All three of the current County Commissioners made campaign pledges to allow the voters to decide on having a manager. This Ballot measure will fulfill that promise. Ultimately, it's up to the citizens to determine the appropriate form of county government.

The measure will be on the general election ballot in November 2012 and will require a simple majority for passage.