

RESOLUTION: COUNTY MANAGER BALLOT ISSUE

PREFATORY STATEMENT

Our current form of county government, consisting of nine separate elected officials, has served Kootenai County well for 100 years. It was established by the Idaho Constitution which authorizes each county elected official to have various duties, roles, and independent responsibilities in order to create formal checks and balances; and provides for direct election of these officials *by* the people to ensure accountability *to* the people.

PREAMBLE

Whereas, The current Kootenai County Board of Commissioners have directed by resolution that a “Commission-Manager form of Government”, found in *Idaho Statute 31-53*, be placed on the November 2012 General Election ballot; and

Whereas, This ballot measure, if passed, would eliminate the right of county voters to choose, and hold accountable, their elected county officials by disenfranchisement coupled with an insulating layer of bureaucracy; and

Whereas, Accountability in government comes from the ballot box and accountability in business comes from market forces; and

Whereas, The county manager position is a business model it is not applicable to government; and

Whereas, A county manager, as an unelected official, would have vast law enforcement powers; as outlined in *Idaho Statute 31-5204*; and

Whereas, Our Founding Fathers understood that the governing process must have checks and balances to prevent abuses of power and purposefully rendered the legislative process cumbersome in an effort to protect the public from faulty legislation brought to the fore by unfettered and hasty actions; and

Whereas, The currently elected Kootenai County Clerk, Assessor, Coroner, and Treasurer, have stated opposition to the passage of this legislation; and

Whereas, The county manager position if passed by ballot and appointed by the commissioners would be the chief enforcement officer of the Unified Land Use Code *Idaho Statute 31-5204 (b)* and would not be directly responsible to the voters and property owners residing in Kootenai County; therefore

MAIN MOTION

Resolved, That the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee go on record as being opposed to the “Optional Commission-Manager Form of County Government Ballot Measure” currently being marketed as “Streamline.”

Resolved, That the Kootenai County Republican central committee actively support the “In Favor of retaining the present form of county government” position.

Prepared by the Legislative Subcommittee, Tom Robinson; Chairman.