

Optional Commission Manager Form of County Government

Ballot Measure

Shall Kootenai County adopt the commission-manager form of county government that is authorized by Idaho Statute 31-5301? The statute is authorized in Section 12, Article XVIII, of the Idaho State Constitution. The County Commissioners, Sheriff and Prosecutor will continue to be elected whereas the Assessor, Clerk, Coroner, and Treasurer will be appointed to act as administrative officers as specified in Idaho Title 31, Chapter 53, sections 5307 through 5312.

In Favor of adopting the commission-manager form of County government

In Favor of retaining the present form of County Government

Meaning, Purpose and Result to be Accomplished:

In 1994, the Citizens of Idaho ratified Article XVIII, Section 12 of the Idaho Constitution authorizing optional forms of county government. In 1996, the Idaho Legislature adopted 31-5001 through 31-5809 authorizing the optional forms of county government. In 1997 a study commission established by the Commissioners of Kootenai County recommended that a ballot measure be brought forward to the public to authorize the adoption of optional forms of county government. Again in 2005, another study commission for Kootenai County recommended to the Commissioners that a ballot measure be placed before the citizens to adopt an optional form of county government. In August of 2012, the Commissioners of Kootenai County, by Resolution 2012-88, have placed on the ballot a measure to adopt an optional form of county government.

This proposed amendment will allow the county to operate in a similar form to many other public entities in the state of Idaho including, but not limited to, hospital districts, school districts and municipalities. Currently, county governments are different in their organizational structure when compared to most public or private entities in the state of Idaho.

The commission-manager will serve as the professional manager of the county and serve at the pleasure of the elected county commissioners and may be removed by the Board at any time. Existing county officers will serve out the remainder of their terms.

If approved by the voters, any subsequent ballot measure to adopt another optional form of government may not be placed on the ballot for a minimum of four years.