

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:42:18 AM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Amy Sherman
Address	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	Amy_sherman2007@yahoo.com
Question or Comment	I have been made aware of an effort to not have the right to vote for who is elected sheriff but rather having them appointed. Appointed by whom? This does not seem like the direction this community should go in. We deserve free and fair elections, even for Sherriff. I am opposed to a commission, committee or anyone other than the public's vote appointing law enforcement leaders. Thank you for your time.

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbooc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 7:53:30 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Jill Spicer
Address	9696 E Riley Loop, Athol, ID 83801
Phone	2085615125
Email Address	jspice292003@yahoo.com
Question or Comment	Commissioner Brooks, I oppose you wanting to take away our community's right to vote for the sheriff and other county officials of our choice. I do not want a commission to appoint anyone this should be the people's choice.

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:39:00 AM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Keith N Kruse
Address	6504 N Idlewood Dr
Phone	8586633930
Email Address	keith@kruseassoc.net
Question or Comment	<p>Opposed to idea of County Commissioners appointing sheriff and other normally elected officials. Moved here because the area was directed by the voice of the people not a few elected officials. Our voice needs to continue to be heard in this process. The power to decide direction in our area should still be by the people not by the few. Commissioners can be voted out as easily as voted in.</p> <p>Trusting that you will listen to the voices in the community as you work through this decision.</p>

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbooc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:22:26 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Kenneth Owens
Address	8485 N Hayden Pines Way
Phone	3607798067
Email Address	kenowenspiano@gmail.com
Question or Comment	Don't steal our rights of voting for who we want to serve us. Commissioner Brooks is trying to strip away our right to elect our Sheriff and other county officials, like the County Clerk and Prosecutor and instead "appoint" them by 5 party time commissioners.

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbooc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:11:51 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Nancy Walker
Address	3825 N. Ramsey Rd. apt 501
Phone	1 210 784 7102
Email Address	walkern48@yahoo.com
Question or Comment	Sending this to let you know prefer to have our coroner, sheriff, clerk, assessor, treasurer, and prosecuting attorney be elected and not appointed. I am a Kootenai County voter. . I would appreciate if this is even going to be changed from electing to appointing that it not be. Sincerely Nancy Walker

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbooc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:01:25 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Nancy Walker
Address	3825 N RAMSEY RD 501
Phone	+1 210 784 7102
Email Address	walkern48@yahoo.com
Question or Comment	I as a voter in Kootenai County. I prefer that our coroner, sheriff, clerk, assessor , treasurer and prosecuting attorney all be elected not appointed. See how those that are appointed never leave and are in office for 30 years . Need term limits on all official government people. Thanks for your feed back on all of this. Looks like trying to change it to appointing . Sincerely Nancy Walker

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:55:56 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Sandra Ball
Address	2125 E Greenleaf Ln
Phone	2086647687
Email Address	sball73113@gmail.com
Question or Comment	I would like the citizens to be the ones to vote for Sheriff, County Clerk and Prosecutor. I do not believe this is a good idea to have the commissioners take care of it for us. The community needs to be making the call, not the comissioners. Thanks for listening, Sandra Ball

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [kcbocc](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:14:20 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Terrance Diederichs
Address	2496 E Eightmile Ave. Athol ID 83801
Phone	2085615103
Email Address	tmod700@gmail.com
Question or Comment	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>It is my understanding that Commissioner Brooks is asking for a vote to strip the residents of Kootenai county of the ability to vote into office Sheriff and some other positions that we now have a say in.</p> <p>This is unacceptable as the residents of Kootenai county have the right to elect into offices who we decide not some 9 member panel that is deciding what is best for us.</p> <p>I ask that you reject this proposal and let us decide what or who is best for us.</p>

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [kcbocc](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:24:16 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Tracy Threet
Address	29554 N Lewellen Creek Rd
Phone	9516604142
Email Address	threet.tracy@gmail.com
Question or Comment	<p>Good morning/afternoon to all,</p> <p>I am writing to express my displeasure at the notion of the BOCC even considering making changes to how county positions, including the sheriff's position, are staffed.</p> <p>These elected officials are elected by the constituents within the county. I and many others find this potential action totally irresponsible and downright corrupt! Trying to take away the citizens' rights to elect their governing officials reeks of corruption and cronyism!</p> <p>This is a total overreach of powers and not what the people elected you for. There is absolutely NO legitimate reason to even entertain this idea. To think that each of you in your position would take steps to deny citizens their rights to democratically vote for each of these elected positions is despicable!</p> <p>You were not elected to the BOCC to disenfranchise voters! You were not elected to enact a power grab! You are crossing the line, and voters will take notice!</p> <p>Respectfully, Tracy Threet</p>

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [kcbocc](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:55:35 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Warren Mueller
Address	2635 W Loire Dr
Phone	2283642004
Email Address	warrenmuellerid@protonmail.com
Question or Comment	Dear Commissioners,

I just find it astounding that you all are proposing again, a scheme to move the county to the county manager form of government. Or, another way to put it is, you must be tone deaf to be proposing this.

After a year of one unelected bunch of bureaucrats after another creating mandates, with threats of civil, criminal penalties for not adhering to such mandates. After all this, you basically want to create a new unelected bureaucrat who will determine who our sheriff is, who our county clerk is? Creating even more unelected bureaucrats?

Let me save you some time and trouble. We don't want this. We will fight to block this and if you get it on the ballot we will work double time to soundly defeat it.

Respectfully,

Warren Mueller
Coeur d'Alene

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Dear Commisioners:

On March 9th I attended Special Meeting Agenda. Before I address the issues, I find it sad The Pledge of Allegiance was not performed. This occurs quite frequently and it is disturbing.

The Optional Forms of Government workshop is an oxymoron. I see this as fantasy of Mr. Brooks. The present form appears to be working. If you feel a need to increase your number from 3 to 5 put it out as a referendum instead of trying to jump through hoops on who should be on this 9 member commission. A commission that is not needed.

I have attended several of these meetings and I find Mr. Brooks behavior bordering on bullying and condescending, especially to Mrs. Duncan and women in general during a public format. He refers to the public he doesn't agree with, as JBS members, 3%ers, and Militia folks. Perhaps he would also like to throw in deplorables. This brings to mind what the left calls Americans that don't walk in LOCK step with them. A clueless, classless, leftist attack. We, the public can decide if changes to our form of government is needed. We do not need a board member doing character assassinations on groups he feels are below him.

Mr.Fillios did his best to assuage the fact this is not just about electing the Sheriff. However, I personally feel this issue is paramount. This is why I have attached the following study. Call it my second attempt at showing the Kootenai Board Commisioners the importance of electing a Sheriff.

Election is the best option.

There are at least four reasons to support election of the sheriff.

1) The sheriff provides a check and balance as an elected county official directly responsible to the citizens that protects from undue influence by members of the county board or by other county officials. There are also several checks upon the unfettered discretion of the sheriff. The voters can remove the sheriff from office during the election; the county board, subject in some states to appellate review, controls the budget and salary of the sheriff; and in extreme cases statutes authorize the removal of the sheriff from office for misfeasance or nonfeasance of duty.

2) In our *democracy*, we should have the right to choose who is to be sheriff. In many counties the sheriff is the single most powerful individual and institution. *Despite the efforts of appointment proponents*, voters who have had a chance to decide the issue have nearly universally decided to keep the office elective. Citizens should have the freedom to choose their sheriff and direct election is the best means to accomplish that.

3) The election of the sheriff is consistent with national traditions and practices. Election of sheriffs is nearly uniform throughout the United States. History has shown in those jurisdictions in which the sheriff is appointed there is a decrease in quality and continuity of law enforcement services and administration. When the sheriff is subject to the whims and caprices of the board of commissioners, the office becomes more politicized, not less.

4) There is stability and continuity of office. Sheriffs at the county level and city police departments at the municipal level handle local law enforcement. While city police departments on the whole do a good job, comparison of the continuity, innovation and public responsiveness of the office sheriff to city police demonstrates the perils of appointment. There is no objective, empirical data that proves city police departments headed by an appointed law enforcement official are any more creative, innovative, stable or cost-effective than the office of sheriff.

Thank you

J.M. Archambault

From: [Anita](#)
To: [kcbooc](#)
Subject: Study Commission
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:03:52 AM

Commissioners Brooks, Fillios and Duncan,

It has come to my attention that Kootenai County Commissioners are creating a "study commission" to change our form of government here in Kootenai Co. I'm concerned that Kootenai Co is moving away from elected officials to appointed officials, creating a less representative government. We've seen that most recently with the Panhandle Health District mask mandate, imposed by unelected officials.

I urge you to dissolve this commission and to allow Kootenai Co to continue be a representative government.

Sincerely,
Anita Dupzyk
114 S Acer Loop
Post Falls, ID 83854
(916) 719-9173

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [kcbocc](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:52:38 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Adrienne Potter
Address	5207 E. GIFTED VIEW DR.
Phone	9164962723
Email Address	adriennenelson57@gmail.com
Question or Comment	<p>Please dissolve the study commission to look at a new 'appointed' form of government and allow Kootenai County to continue to be a representative government!</p> <p>NO on changing our form of government from elected officials to appointed.</p> <p>Respectfully, Adrienne Potter</p>

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:17:34 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Jonathan Brozek
Address	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Phone	916-601-8782
Email Address	Treeblind@protonmail.com
Question or Comment	<p>New to the area. Moved to northern idaho to seek out a home for my family without the disgusting bureaucratic policies of the failing west coast and other like minded states. Im ashamed you would attempt to have a conversation of not electing an official especially a sheriffs position and thinking appointment would be better serving to this community. I strongly oppose this. Stop wasting our tax money</p> <p>DO BETTER</p>

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:05:01 AM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	James H. Hollingsworth
Address	1203 W. Orchard Ave
Phone	12087727748
Email Address	jimhollingsworth@frontier.com
Question or Comment	Please do not change the form of government. If the job is more than you can handle then resign and we will suggest someone else for the job. We do not need another Panhandle Health in our midst. This government has served us well for over 100 years and there is no reason to change it. Thanks. Jim Hollingsworth

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [kcbocc](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:52:01 AM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Janet B Whiteacre
Address	12868 E Twete Rd
Phone	2088186012
Email Address	jan.whiteacre@gmail.com
Question or Comment	I hereby object to the proposed change in County government by appointing various officials as opposed to a Countywide vote of all registered voters. The fact that this is being done in an EMERGENCY meeting is a tad suspicious and as a registered voter and resident of Kootenai County, I strongly oppose this action.

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From: [Melissa](#)
To: [kcbooc](#)
Subject: Appointing a sheriff
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:00:48 PM

Good Afternoon,

I'll keep this short and simple. You you want to appoint a committee who appoints a sheriff? I don't know anything else that sounds more corrupt than that. This is how things are done in King county where Seattle resides, One of the most corrupt counties in America right behind DC. Do you think that anybody who lives in Kootenai County wants to be anything like Seattle? Do you not believe that everybody moving here and living here is trying to escape the tyranny of Democratic ran states? This is a red state and that is the exact reason people love it, stop trying to change that. The people of Kootenai county have spoken, will you listen? With everything happening in politics and in America in general you really want to make decisions which create more distrust in the government? Let the people choose, period.

Melissa Brozek
(916)212.2738

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:51:17 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Patrick Tuley
Address	2728 E. Hayden View Dr/
Phone	2087721513
Email Address	pgtuley@msn.com
Question or Comment	My wife and I are whole heartedly against the current proposal to increase the number commissioners, hire a county manager change currently elected positions to be appointed positions. Just putting it on the ballot is a waste of tax payer money since it has been voted down twice already. This proposal is just a way of stocking a swamp with reptiles (AKA bureaucrat's. We will work against any commissioner who supports it (regardless of political affiliation).

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [kcbocc](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:31:16 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Rebecca BRAUSEN
Address	19184 W. Treend Rd.
Phone	12084570909
Email Address	beckybr20@yahoo.com

Question or Comment I am writing as a concerned citizen of Kootenai County , regarding the bylaws that will be discussed today for the new committee being established that will be considering a new form of government in the county. I am unable to attend your meeting, but want to make my voice heard. I do NOT want to give an unelected official (The County Manager) the authority or power to hire and fire the county Sheriff, Clerk, Assessor, Coroner, Prosecuting Attorney or Treasurer. Now More than ever, we need to keep these important positions accountable to WE THE PEOPLE in Kootenai County.

The accountability of these government officials should be to people. I also have a problem with the Panhandle Health Board, which should be accountable to the citizens.

Please respond to me with your position on this very important issue. I would like to be more involved and kept abreast as a member of the Kootenai County Republican Women Federated.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Brausen
beckybr20@yahoo.com

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:41:41 AM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Susan Markham
Address	865 W Jenicek Loop
Phone	2084493448
Email Address	arsuma@yahoo.com

Question or Comment I want to oppose the changing of how the commissioners are to serve. I oppose designating only one of the five for decision making. All should serve full time and all should vote on issues.

This action regarding the Office of Sheriff becoming an appointed position should be a grave concern of the people of the county. Chiefs of Police are appointed by the mayor or city council. As such, they are accountable to them, not to the people of the city. If the Chief disagrees or becomes in conflict with the mayor or council, they are fired as they serve at THEIR will, not the will of the people. This is why Chiefs nationwide were ordered to stand down and not take action during all the violent riots that occurred. The action by the commissioners isn't about the good of the people of good for the county. This action is about control... Control of the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff is elected by the people and serves for the people. The Sheriff is accountable to the people through the election process or even the recall process. If this is approved, the commissioners could order/direct the Sheriff what regulations to enforce, such as Covid 19 restrictions or certain gun laws or what ever they want! that are a clear and present danger to our Second Amendment Rights. The action that is being proposing should not be by a vote of the commissioners, it should remain a vote of the people of the county. This proposal will be strongly opposed. Don't give the control of the Sheriff to the commissioners. The commissioner and any other commissioners who support such an idea needs to be voted out!

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbocc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:13:36 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Sandra (Sandi) Turner
Address	2141 E. Grandview Dr., CDA
Phone	2085122418
Email Address	sanditurner@protonmail.com
Question or Comment	<p>Dear Commissioners: I attended this mornings meeting to hear about the "draft" authored by Bill Brooks to create a "new form of government." My main questions while listening was, What spurred this action? The answer I heard from Mr. Brooks was "we 3 can't talk with each other outside of a meeting, and the County has grown so much." This does not justify spending tax payers' money to do this study that has an entirely different focus, changing the form of government, and especially without the approval of the citizens (your bosses) in the first place. It appears much simpler: change the rules so that you can talk with each other. The 2nd reason given by Mr. Brooks was the county is growing, 3 commissioners isn't enough. The question then comes, do we need to assess the size of the job of a commissioner and determine if the elected official is suitable to handle the job? Talking with the 100 or so people standing outside the government office after I spoke for the record in the meeting, I learned that we do not need to elect more commissions, we need to elect people who can do the job. Bill Brooks should resign if he is not up to doing the job. We do not need anymore meetings on this subject, it should be dropped off the agenda immediately. Thanks you Leslie Duncan for not supporting this initiative. Sandra Turner</p>

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbooc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:52:20 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Casey Hammond
Address	7842 W Fivepoint St. Rathdrum, Idaho 83858
Phone	2086996456
Email Address	caseyhammond59@yahoo.com

Question or Comment Commissioners Leslie Duncan, Bill Brooks, and Chris Fillios,

My husband and I are both second generation lifetime North Idahoans, thus our love, respect, and concern for our county and state runs deep. As elected commissioners, we the people expect you to represent the will of the people and to make decisions that uphold our state constitution. Therefore, we most vehemently reject any bylaw that you are suggesting that circumvents our right to vote for our county officials.

We the people refuse bureaucracy, we say NO to any BYLAW to give "an appointed city manager" (aka tyrant/czar) the sole right to appoint/hire/fire our County Sheriff, Coroner, or any other official that our state constitution says "shall be elected by the people."

We the people will not stand for our voting rights to be circumvented! We demand our rights and liberty guaranteed by our Constitution and Bill of Rights be upheld, and we remind you that you work for us, thus we expect you to stand for the rule of law.

Respectfully,

Curtis and Casey Hammond

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From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: kcbooc
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact the Board of County Commissioners
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:21:52 PM

Contact the Board of County Commissioners

Name	Thomas Tucker
Address	2454 W Fairway Drive
Phone	2087044240
Email Address	Tuckert777@gmail.com
Question or Comment	I would like to inform you as a citizen of Kootenai County I say no to any bylaw that gives "an appointed city manager" the sole right to appoint/hire/fire our County Sheriff, Coroner, or any other official that our state constitution says "shall be elected by the people." We the people will not stand for our voting rights to be circumvented. We demand our rights guaranteed by our Constitution be upheld, and we the people will elect our local leadership especially County Sheriff.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: [david.levine](#)
To: [kcbocc](#)
Cc: [Nancy Jones](#)
Subject: Comments- Operational Form of Government Bylaws
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 3:01:45 PM
Attachments: [KCOptional form of Govt Proposed Bylaws Comment-Levine.pdf](#)

Commissioners Fillios, Brooks and Duncan:

Attached are my comments regarding the proposed Operational Form of Government Bylaws. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Dave Levine

Operational Form of Government Bylaws Comments
Dave Levine

Proposed Bylaws Sections	Comments
Line #18-19: General Section	If the Study Commission's recommendation is to keep the current form of government no other action would be required. The current statement seems to imply that a new form of government would be recommended.
Lines # 39-52: Objective Section	The sections seem to be in conflict with the Mission Statement. It provides specific areas for the Study Commission to consider. The mission statement tasks the Commission to compare current government structure with those available under Idaho State Statutes. It might be better to remove this section or modify the objective to focus the group on determining if the current form of government is the most effective or if other options provided by the State Statutes should be recommended.
Lines # 60-62: Authority Section	Same comment as those under General Section
Lines #68-73: Responsibilities Section	Same comment as those under Objective Section.
Lines #75-79: Membership Section	As demonstrated at your recent Status Meeting the public will have strong feelings about changes to the current form of government. The Study Commission will have a challenging job and their success will depend on having a Chair capable of making sure all views will be heard and the meetings will be conducted in a safe and responsible manner. Instead of the Study Commission selecting the Chair, another option could be considered. Instead of each County Commissioner appointing 3 members, the number could be reduced to 2 members each. The County Commissioners would select the Chair, the 7 th member, by a unanimous vote. This could demonstrate to the public that this Chair would be a neutral member and that the Study Commission would consider all views in making their determination.
Lines 89-90: Meetings Section	Setting no specific deadline usually delays commissions from staying focused and taking on hard decisions. Setting a six-month deadline with the possibility of asking for an extension may be a better option. The more time it takes for the Study Commission to make a decision, the greater the likelihood that public frustration will grow.
Lines 90-91: Meetings Section	Setting a two-week meeting requirement sets an expectation that may not be the most productive. If the Study Commission wants to meet weekly or establish subcommittees to do research, the specified meeting timeline may not be met. Setting a hard deadline (see above) will help set the meeting schedule requirements.
Lines 96-98: Meetings Section	Will the County supply a resource to draft meeting minutes or will the Study Commission need to establish a secretarial position?

My name is Joseph M Archambault

I am a resident of CDA

This letter is to address the Commissioner's on my feeling pertaining to the direction the Board is wanting to go. Mr. Brooks at the last meeting (which was open to public comment) stated his reasons why there should be a study looking into expanding the amount of commissioners and the proposal of making the Sheriff's position an appointable position, not an elected. His reasoning was very alarming. Stating the present system in Idaho (Kootenai) was old and archaic, needing to be changed. I will address his views.

1) Mr. Brooks you must want to change our Constitution. It is older than 131 years. Your statement indicating if it's old it must be modernized. Wrong, your proposal is absurd and left leaning.

2) Mr. Brooks, the Bible is much older than the 131 years you stated. Are you suggesting we change the Bible? I certainly, for your sake pray that is not the case.

3) Removing the people from electing the county Sheriff and making it being under the Board's control is ludicrous. It screams of the leftwing's agenda of defunding the police. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in a county. He and his deputies patrol county grounds and have the power to apprehend persons who are a threat to peace and order. Being duly elected, rather than a puppet for a county commission.

4) I do agree on adding 2 more members, based on county growth. That being said, setting up a study group must be done via an election. Having the sitting commissioners pick the study group is giving you absolute control of our destiny.

5) Both Mr. Brooks and Mr. Fillios portray an agenda that hangs on more government control, Mrs. Duncan does not. Based on that observation having the public involved as the selection committee will eliminate any possible biases.

6) Please read the attachment, hopefully educating the Board.

Issues Presented for Study

In most of the states the long-standing historical practice has been that the sheriff is elected for a four-year term of office. An issue which periodically arises in various jurisdictions around the United States, often in response to a particularly current and unusual situation or one of local government political conflict, is whether or not the status of this office should be changed from elected to appointed.

A Historical Perspective

The question presented is not a new one, having been around in some form for at least 300 years. In 1682 the City of London and County of Middlesex were concerned with moves by the Crown that would deprive them of the right to elect their sheriffs. The American county itself has its antecedents in ninth century England when the King divided the country into “shires”, or local government units. Three officials oversaw the shire: the earl, the sheriff, and the bishop. Of these, the shire-reeve, later called sheriff, was second in importance to the earl. Originally appointed, the English sheriff eventually became an elected official.

When English colonists set up local governments in America the units and types of officials were patterned after the English model but with adaptations including the appointment of local officials by the colonial governor. Appointment remained the norm until during the Jacksonian era when states switched to election of many county officials. Today the number of local positions still elected has been significantly reduced, but across most of the country the sheriff remains an elected official.

Present Elected Status of Sheriff

Across the country popular election is the almost uniform means of selection of the sheriff. Sheriffs are elected to four-year terms in 41 states, two-year terms in three states, a three-year term in one state and a six-year term in

one state. The races are on a partisan ballot in 40 states and on a non-partisan basis in 6 states.

A few states do not have the office of sheriff as such. There are no sheriffs in Alaska and that office was essentially abolished in the year 2000 in Connecticut. Hawaii does not have the position traditionally associated with the office of sheriff. In Rhode Island, the governor appoints the sheriff. In two Colorado counties and Dade County, Florida, sheriffs are appointed by the county executive.

Some jurisdictions have explored switching to a system of appointed sheriffs and at least two have had an appointed sheriff and returned to a system of elections. In Multnomah County, Oregon the sheriff became appointed on January 1, 1967. From January 1, 1967, to late 1978 the county board appointed six different sheriffs. Due to dissatisfaction with that system, the voters returned to election of the sheriff. The position of sheriff in King County, Washington, which is the Seattle area, was elected until 1968. At that time the Home Rule Charter of the county was amended and the sheriff became appointed, serving at the pleasure of the elected executive. After several years under this system the voters restored to position to being elected. Popular reports indicate that the voters felt that public safety and law enforcement services would be improved by the return to election of the sheriff.

In nearly 3100 other jurisdictions throughout the country, the sheriffs are elected, although in some jurisdictions sheriffs are appointed to fill out unexpired terms if there is a death or resignation of the incumbent. In 20 states a vacancy in office is filled by appointment by the county board of commissioners. The office of governor fills a vacancy by appointment in 9 states and a variety of other means are used in the remaining states to fill a vacancy, including special election, appointment of the chief deputy and appointment by the political party of the former sheriff. Several states use a combination of appointment and special elections, depending on when the vacancy occurs.

Efforts to place the issue of appointment before the voters have rarely resulted in a change from elected status. In 1994 Iowa held a referendum to change the status of sheriff from elected to appointed. *That initiative was heavily defeated by the voters.*

Election is the best option.

There are at least four reasons to support election of the sheriff.

1) The sheriff provides a check and balance as an elected county official directly responsible to the citizens that protects from undue influence by members of the county board or by other county officials. There are also several checks upon the unfettered discretion of the sheriff. The voters can remove the sheriff from office during the election; the county board, subject in some states to appellate review, controls the budget and salary of the sheriff; and in extreme cases statutes authorize the removal of the sheriff from office for misfeasance or nonfeasance of duty.

2) In our *democracy*, we should have the right to choose who is to be sheriff. In many counties the sheriff is the single most powerful individual and institution. *Despite the efforts of appointment proponents*, voters who have had a chance to decide the issue have nearly universally decided to keep the office elective. Citizens should have the freedom to choose their sheriff and direct election is the best means to accomplish that.

3) The election of the sheriff is consistent with national traditions and practices. Election of sheriffs is nearly uniform throughout the United States. History has shown in those jurisdictions in which the sheriff is appointed there is a decrease in quality and continuity of law enforcement services and administration. When the sheriff is subject to the whims and caprices of the board of commissioners, the office becomes more politicized, not less.

4) There is stability and continuity of office. Sheriffs at the county level and city police departments at the municipal level handle local law enforcement. While city police departments on the whole do a good job, comparison of the continuity, innovation and public responsiveness of the office sheriff to city

police demonstrates the perils of appointment. There is no objective, empirical data that proves city police departments headed by an appointed law enforcement official are any more creative, innovative, stable or cost-effective than the office of sheriff.

Good Morning:

This letter is being sent to the Kootenai County Commissioners expressing my concern in their plan moving forward to establish a committee to evaluate changes to our current method of Government which has been in place for over 140 years.

I moved from Northern Nevada to Kootenai County (CDA) last summer. I had been a resident of the State of Nevada for over twenty years. One of the reasons I moved here was because Kootenai County has a small County atmosphere with all the amenities needed to have a great life and enjoy the natural surroundings. I also moved here because the California cancer was moving into my County (Lyon) in Nevada with all these broad ideas to change things to the way they were in California. These new residents had no intention of assimilating to Nevada's way of life.

In my short time living here, I have met wonderful new neighbors who share my values in life and politics in general. They have moved to Kootenai County from other parts of the Country and assimilated to Idaho values and politics.

I attended my first Kootenai County Commissioners meeting last Tuesday. I have attended numerous City Council meetings, Board of Supervisors meetings and numerous State Commission meetings. I was appalled to see how Commissioner Fillios conducted the meeting. It was apparent he was not prepared for the public's response to his and Commissioner Brook's decision to establish a committee to review and possibly change county operations. The people of Kootenai County are frustrated and upset. They did not nominate Commissioners to drastically change county operations and take away the rights of the people and give it to the Commissioners.

I was an Officer with the California Highway Patrol for over 30 years. I have been dealing with Government Officials for years both in the CHP and outside agencies. Its amazing how people in positions of power always seem to want more power. My big issue is the possibility that the Sheriff with be appointed by the Commissioners vs the public. The Commissioner of the CHP is appointed by the Governor of California and works at their discretion. I worked in three counties and worked closely with the Sheriff of these counties. It was obvious they put their constituents ahead of State politics.

Commissioner Brooks was condescending to the audience last week stating that if the study shows that things should not be changed, they will stay the same. The Commissioners will go with the decisions made of the committee. How dumb do you think we are? The Commissioners appoint the members of the committee and the Commissioners are not going to appoint people that disagree with their points of view.

I never thought I would be interested in politics, but after seeing the circus show last week, I'm thinking about it. I certainly can not do any worse than two of our current Commissioners.

I have served as past president of a national organization. I currently serve as vice chairman of a large nonprofit organization that oversees preserving transit history and is an advocate in current transit operations. I have operating my own business for almost forty years with clients in all fifty states and twenty countries.

I want to thank the Commissioners for allowing my letter of concern to be added to the public record.

Sincerely,

James Giraudo
2881 E Winter Pines Ct.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815