

# CITY OF MISSOULA LOBBYIST REPORT

*For the week of March 2 to March 6, 2015*

## **Issues Update**

### **1) Local Option Authority Legislation**

- a. Efforts this week by the League, Billings and Missoula lobbyists are to survey members of the House Taxation Committee to get a feel of where they are. I've been able to survey six so far (four democrats, two republicans) on my list of outreach. Three of the four Ds are "yes." One is leaning "no" due to concerns that this is regressive with personal concerns that it's a first step to a statewide sales tax. The two Rs are both leaning "no", but said they remain open to discussing.

### **2) HB471 – Revise local government property tax cap**

- a. Testified in favor. With material provided by Dale Bickel, we were able to show several specific examples of what the city is up against and how moving the cap from half the rate of inflation to the full rate of inflation would ease some of the budgetary issues communities face. The League, and representatives from four other cities, along with MACO, all testified in favor of the bill. There were no opponents. The Montana Taxpayers Association testified as informational witnesses only.
- b. According to the county's lobbyist, we may be one vote short of this bill getting out of committee, so we need to be working several key Republicans.

## **Revised Bill Activity for Period Ending February 27, 2015**

Legislative team consisting of Mayor John Engen, Bruce Bender, Dale Bickell, John MacDonald, Ginny Merriam, Jessica Miller, and Colleen Rudio reviewed and prioritized activity for the period ending February 27, 2015. The following two adjustments were made to the list submitted for City Council review on Monday, March 2, 2015.

### **1) Bills Supported and Active – Removed**

- a. HB99 – Revise fuel tax laws (Revenue Bill)

### **2) Bills Supported and Inactive (Probably Dead) – Added**

- a. HB14 - Creating broadband development fund through bonding (Revenue Bill)