

TONY O. MARTIN

January 15, 2010

Dear Members of Beckley City Council:

Changing an election is never an easy decision and will always come with some sacrifice. Since we have decided to take this step, why not follow the example of other cities that have had success in adjusting their municipal elections to coincide a with national, state or county-wide election?

If we really want to make an effort to increase voter turnout, we have the opportunity now to align our municipal elections with the 2010 congressional mid-term elections. In doing so, we increase voter turnout and can save an equal amount of money by sharing the cost of the election with the county. Unlike your prior move in this direction to align our municipal elections with presidential elections, this option presents the same benefit, would not require you to extend your terms an additional year, and would only reduce it by six months.

We need to do something. I think we're all in agreement that the current proposal will save money but offers no guarantee, only hope that voter turnout will increase. I only ask that if we're going take on the expense of putting an option on the ballot for the voters of Beckley, it be one that is more likely to accomplish the end result.

I have enclosed some additional information for your review and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony O. Martin



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