

# CITY OF MISSOULA LOBBYIST REPORT

*For the week of January 5 – January 9, 2015*

## **Issues Update**

- 1) Local Option Authority: Local Option Authority: The League has taken the lead on drafting the language for the bill draft that Sen. Larsen submitted. We are in the process of looking for a sponsor for the bill – there's a preference for this to be someone from the eastern part of the state. Meanwhile, MacDonald accompanied Dave Nielsen with the League to meet with the legislative services bill drafter today. The language is essentially settled upon and we are in the process of finalizing the bill process to get this back to Cliff. There are several other bill drafts – all on hold at this point – dealing with local option authority. The preference continues to be to use the LC submitted by Larsen.
- 2) Inspection of Rental Property: This was a bill request from City Council Member Wilkins and Rep. Steenberg agreed to carry it. The initial bill draft put together by legislative services went further than Mr. Wilkins was anticipating, so we are looking at some other options. MacDonald corresponded with Steenberg and with the bill drafter at Legislative Services and we are looking at a different approach to address this. MacDonald will be meeting with Steenberg next week to discuss different options.

## **Direct Lobbying Update**

- 1) SB18 – Dick Barrett, Dave Nelson and Tim Burton (League of Cities and Towns)
  - a. Discussed potential local impact of SB18 to revise the timeframe in which the Department Revenue must calculate the growth rate of entitlement share pool. First hearing was Jan 8, 2015 and impact being reviewed by City staff. League of Cities and Town appeared in favor of the bill.
- 2) LC1549, LC1794, LC1550, LC1547 – Cynthia Wolken
  - a. Discussed a variety of potential bills introduced by Cynthia Wolken with potential impact to local government. LC1549 to generally revise resort tax law, LC1794 to revise deb tax laws, LC1550 to increase the gas tax; and LC1547 interim study on local government funding. Limited bill language to date, City is reviewing to determine impact if any.

## **Bill Review Update**

- 1) 23 House Bills identified with review requests to City staff
- 2) 13 Senate Bills identified with review requests to City staff