THE 1914 ELECTIONS

PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION

August 25, 1914

DEMOCRAT		OFFICER	REPUBLICAN		THIRD PARTIES	
John M Evans	16,456	U S Representatives	Fletcher Maddox	7,423	J M Brinson (Prog)	2,827
Tom Stout	15,355		W J McCormick	6,245	W D Rankin (Prog)	2,495
			H H Parsons	5,612	Lewis J Duncan (S)	2,854
			S N Nicholson	3,750	W E Kent (S)	2,365
J M Clements	7,115	Assoc Justice Supreme Ct	W L Holloway	13,620	C A Wallace (S)	2,912
J B Poindexter	6,212				J F O'Connor (Prog)	203
J E Erickson	5,923					
J E McCormick	9,108	Public Service Comm'r	Daniel Boyle	8,144	J A Williams (Prog)	3,238
Earl J Jacobson	6,190		Nathan Godfrey	3,400	J J Pietla (S)	2,857
J A Lovelace	4,413		O W Long	1,704		

GENERAL ELECTION

November 3, 1914

Newspaper headlines counted 11 nations at war in Europe as voters went to the polls in November. German armies were on the English Channel and in northern France. In Butte a regime of martial law to quell labor violence had only recently been moderated after the state supreme court held military trials there to be invalid and troop presence was reduced from five companies to two.

In the first general state primary nominating elections, both Democratic candidates for U S representative and a Republican associate justice were unopposed; all three won reelection by comfortable pluralities as Socialist and Progressive candidates drew substantial third-party votes. Socialist candidates ranked third ahead of Progressive candidates when both were in a contest. A Democrat replaced a Republican on the public service commission in a contest that got more votes than the average of votes cast for the two congressmen.

One Democrat and one Republican were elected in short-term district judicial elections. Theodore Lentz (R) began 20 years of service in the Fourth Judicial District (Missoula and neighboring counties).

In state legislative elections a bloc of five Progressive senators held the balance between Republicans and Democrats and they delayed organization of the senate for several days and seven ballots until one of them broke ranks and voted with Republicans to select personnel and committees. In the Congress Democrats retained majorities in both houses but their strength in the House of Representatives receded substantially from the high point reached in 1912.

Montana Senate	(D) 16 (R) 19 (Prog) 5 (I) 1	U S Senate	(D) 56	(R) 40	
Montana House of Reps	(D) 55 (R) 36 (S) 3 (I) 1	U S House of Reps	(D) 230	(R) 196	(3d) 9

SUMMARY OF STATE VOTE

ELECTED		OFFICER	DEFEATED	
John M Evans	(D) 37,012	U S Representative	Washington J McCormick	(R) 26,161
Tom Stout	(D) 35,156		Fletcher Maddox	(R) 26,046
			Lewis J Duncan	(S) 12,278
			W E Kent	(S) 9,430
			Wellington D Rankin	(Prog) 6,694
			James M Brinson	(Prog) 6,166
J E McCormick	(D) 32,163	Public Service Comm'r	Daniel Boyle	(R) 31,239
			J J Pietilla	(S) 10,112
			James A Williams	(Prog) 8,113
William L Holloway	(R) 36,415	Assoc Justice Supreme Ct	James M Clements	(D) 31,495
			Charles A Wallace	(S) 10,875

BALLOT ISSUES

Four of the six 1914 election issues reached the ballot by voter petition and the level of voting indicated that the ballots had unusual salience. 1913 Laws chapter 66 (H Bill 310) had improved the ballot form by a requirement that the subject of each initiative and referendum measure would be identified by a few words and that a single consecutive number would be assigned to each issue.

Male voters extended the suffrage to women six years before the 19th Amendment set that principle for all states. Voters paired the proposal to consolidate the university system and the first proposal of a general mill levy to support higher education and defeated both. A pair of issues designed to cement a farmer-labor reform alliance -- workmens compensation and farm loans -- touched life conditions of most voters and there was a "life style" issue for sports buffs, one of the sort that illuminate subtle cultural differences among regions of the state.

1914:1 WOMAN SUFFRAGE — Constitutional Amendment

Approved 52.2% — 96.9% voted, 41,302 for and 37,788 against

1913 Laws chapter 1 (S Bill 1) proposed amendment of Article IX section 2 of the constitution to delete "male" as a requirement for voting. In territorial days women had the vote in school elections and on tax levies if they owned property, but that limited suffrage was lost in 1889. The long suffragette struggle gained new impetus in the Progressive era and Jeannette Rankin of Missoula emerged as a leader of the campaign; 1912 party platforms of the major parties supported woman suffrage.

Strongest voter support ranging up to 70% was in northwestern counties and in Yellowstone, Rosebud and Custer counties. The historic southwestern mining counties opposed the change, along with Blaine and Sheridan counties in the northeast.

1914:2 10-YEAR UNIVERSITY MILL LEVY — Legislative Referendum

Rejected 38.3% — 91.8% voted, 28,703 for and 46,265 against

1913 Laws chapter 117 (H Bill 309) proposed a special one-mill property levy for ten years to support the four-unit higher education system, vocational education in the high schools, and elementary schools with an insufficient local tax base.

This was the first of seven decennial mill-levy proposals for support of state higher education and the only one of that series to be rejected by the voters. Only Missoula and Mineral county voters favored it and opposition ranged above 70 percent in central and southern counties. There was substantial correlation between the votes on this issue and on university consolidation (Pearson's r = .668).

1914:3 CONSOLIDATE UNIVERSITY UNITS — Initiative Legislation

Rejected 39.7% — 94.1% voted, 30,465 for and 46,311 against

This initiative proposed to consolidate the State University (Missoula), the Agricultural College (Bozeman) and the School of Mines (Butte) at either Bozeman or Missoula as might be decided by a five-member commission of presidents of consolidated state universities. In December, 1912 the state board of education favored consolidation but that position was rescinded six months later.

A bill to consolidate the system (S Bill 74) failed to get serious consideration in the 1913 legislature but 1913 Laws chapter 92 (S Bill 105) nominally combined Missoula, Bozeman, Butte and Dillon

units into a University of Montana and directed the board of education to put a chancellor at the head of the system.

University President Craighead and Public Instruction Superintendent Davee campaigned for consolidation and Agricultural College President Hamilton opposed it. Missoula County voters were most in favor (73%) and Gallatin County voters were most opposed (92%). Most northern counties gave above average support for consolidation and most southern counties strongly opposed it.

1914:4 WORKMENS COMPENSATION — Initiative Legislation

Rejected 45.5% — 99.6% voted, 36,979 for and 44,275 against

Developed in Europe in the 1880s, workmens compensation relieved employers of liability for accidents in exchange for their contribution to accident compensation funds. The system came to the American states in the half-decade before World War I. 1909 Montana Laws chapter 67 (S Bill 56) enacted for coal miners was one of the earliest if not the first compulsory state system. The state supreme court held it unconstitutional in 1911 (Cunningham v Northwestern Improvement Co, 44 Mont 180). This 30-page initiative proposed compulsory accident compensation for workers in 47 classes of "extra-hazardous" employment, primarily mining, smeltering and lumbering. It was modeled on a Washington state system and a plan that had failed passage in the 1913 Montana legislature. Opponents including an industry-sponsored Montana Advancement Association told farmers and ranchers they might be included in the proposed system. After its rejection by the voters, 1915 Laws chapter 96 (S Bill 157) founded the modern compensation system on a somewhat less comprehensive basis than the initiative proposed.

Voters in 10 counties, mostly western, favored the compensation initiative with support ranging above 60 percent in Missoula, Mineral and Silver Bow counties. But voters in Deer Lodge and Cascade counties opposed it by more than 60 percent and opposition reached the level of 75 percent in Chouteau, Gallatin and Sweet Grass counties.

1914:5 FARM LOANS — Initiative Legislation

Approved 61.9% — 89.3% voted, 45,162 for and 27,780 against

This initiative directed the board of land commissioners to allocate revenues from state school lands to counties for first mortgage investments in "good improved farm land." The Peoples Power League claimed that $1 million would be available for ten-year 6% mortgages of up to $5,000 and that this "state competition" with private lenders would drive down discriminatory interest charges on farm loans. Similar programs in Idaho, Washington and the Dakotas were said to have accomplished that objective (Text at 1915 Laws p 485). Voters in Yellowstone, Big Horn, Cascade and five northwestern counties supported the loans by a two-to-one margin; only Madison and Gallatin county voters were strongly opposed. There was substantial correlation (Pearson's r = .663) of county votes on the farm loans and workmens compensation measures. But the attorney general declared the measure to be unconstitutional on December 18, 1914 (6 Ops Atty Gen 9) and it seems not to have been implemented.

1914:6 LEGALIZED BOXING — Petition Referendum

Repealed 44.7% — 94.4% voted, 34,440 for and 42,581 against

1913 Laws chapter 97 (H Bill 154) legalized boxing which had been a misdemeanor except "with soft gloves in any gymnasium for exercise." A state athletic commission was established to regulate the sport which was limited to 12-round matches with six-ounce gloves in licensed clubs and arenas. This "Kiley Boxing Bill," named for the Butte Democrat who sponsored it, had a stormy passage in the legislature; most Democrats favored it, most Progressives opposed it and Republicans were divided. The petition referendum to repeal the statute was supported by Progressives, ministerial associations and reform groups, and failure of the referendum to get a majority repealed the Kiley statute. Voters in Helena, Butte, Billings and Mineral County favored retention of legalized boxing but in all other counties they opposed it -- most strongly in Gallatin, Chouteau and Sweet Grass counties.

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

January 4 - March 7, 1915
[3 extra days]

SENATE	COUNTY	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
(D) 16 (R) 19 (Prog) 5 (I) 1		(D) 55 (R) 36 (S) 3 (I) 1	
E O Selway (R)	Beaverhead	Frank Eliel (R)	
Gwen F Burla (D)	Big Horn	C C Guinn (D)	
L B Taylor (Prog)	Blaine	Joseph Ostle (D)	
*Charles S Muffly (D)	Broadwater	Gene McCarthy (D)	
Daniel G O'Shea (D)	Carbon	William J Crismas (D)	Wallace A Bent (D)
		C J Baldwin (R)	
*James M Burlingame (R)	Cascade	George T Booth (R)	Rasmus Jorgensen (D)
		James Burns (D)	R E Stone (D)
		A J Fousek (D)	C E K Vidal (D)
*George H Stevens (R)	Chouteau	L M Fishbaugh (D)	V Russell Henry (R)
		A J Schmidt (R)	J Lee Sedgwick (R)
O C Cato (D)	Custer	J B Collins (R)	W H Kelly (D)
		H R Wells (D)	
*George McCone (R)	Dawson	P J Moe (R)	John A Rainey (D)
		C A Rasmussen (R)	
J M Minor (D)	Deer Lodge	Charles A Lemmon (D)	Barney Hogan (D)
		C E Cariher (R)	
*John Oliver (Prog)	Fallon	C S Einsel (D)	
*J E Lane (D)	Fergus	R J Anderson (D)	E O Hedrick (R)
		Harvey Burnette (D)	Ira J Phillips (D)
*Fred Whiteside (D)	Flathead	C M Mansur (D)	A D McDonald (D)
		F R Marsh (D)	J P Wilde (D)
P M Abbott (D)(d. Feb 15)	Gallatin	J M Graybeal (D)	W H Sales (R)
		W E Harmon (R)	
Allen R Dearborn (D)	Granite	John R Page (D)	
D S MacKenzie (R)	Hill	C F Morris (D)	
*Montgomery H Parker (D)	Jefferson	M J Sullivan (D)	
Owen Byrnes (D)	Lewis & Clark	J L Bompart (D)	George L Ramsey (D)
		E C Day (D)	Park Smith (R)
		Martin Prosser (D)	
C B Roberts (R)	Lincoln	D E Schanck (R)	
*O H Junod (R)	Madison	C A Schott (D)	A C Hall (R)
A C Grande (R)	Meagher	E C Baxter (R)	
*O G Willett (I)	Mineral	Charles A Searles (I)	
*A J Brower (R)	Missoula	Ronald Higgins (R)	D N Mason (D)
		C A Hills (R)	David C Smith (R)
		A K Lusk (R)	
Joseph L Asbridge (D)	Musselshell	August Schrump (R)	
J M Darroch (D)	Park	Daniel Healey (D)	G M Parker (R)
*Harry A Vagg (Prog)	Phillips	C E Taylor (S)	
Charles H Williams (R)	Powell	George Moore (R)	
*W S Haley (R)	Prairie	Frank G Buckley (R)	
*Thomas Kane (Prog)	Ravalli	George C Harper (R)	L O Johnson (D)
*J P Meadors (R)	Richland	R M Lord (D)	
*John E Edwards (R)	Rosebud	L W Carpenter (D)	W J Wallin (R)
*Reuben Dwight (R)	Sanders	James W Gladden (R)	
*F G Fishbeck (R)	Sheridan	Dana Easton (R)	
*Harry A Gallwey (D)	Silver Bow	L A Bechtel (S)	R W Foltz (D)
		Oliver Choinnere (D)	Frank Hayes (D)
		Frank Corr (D)	M F Kiley (D)
		James Doner (D)	James E McNally (D)
		J J Flannigan (D)	Alex Mackel (S)
		J V Dwyer (D)	W J McMahon (D)
*J B Annin (Prog)	Stillwater	J W Corwin (R)	
Robert Brownlee (R)	Sweet Grass	W P Franklin (D)	
*T O Larson (R)	Teton	J W Coburn (R)	C S McDonald (R)
*T L Clark (D)	Toole	J W Cavitt (D)	
*George W Clay (R)	Valley	R P Minnick (D)	John Willis (D)
		S J Rundle (D)	
*J C Kinney (R)	Wibaux	James A Hawks (D)	
*T S Hogan (D)	Yellowstone	William Gallagher (R)	C C Sanderson (R)
		L A Nutting (D)	H F Scott (R)
		F P Rixon (R)	