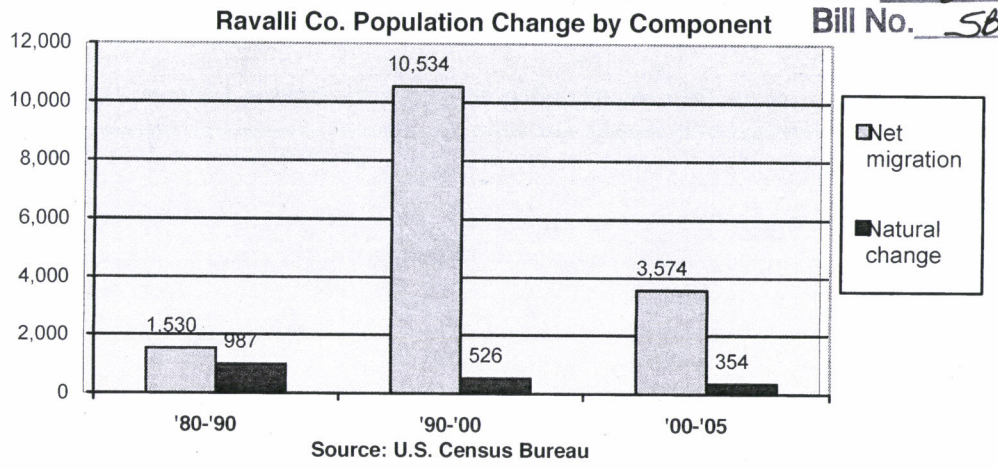
Senate Local Govt. Comm.
Exhibit No. 1
Date 2-4-15
Bill No. SB 226

# Past and Projected Population Change in Ravalli County

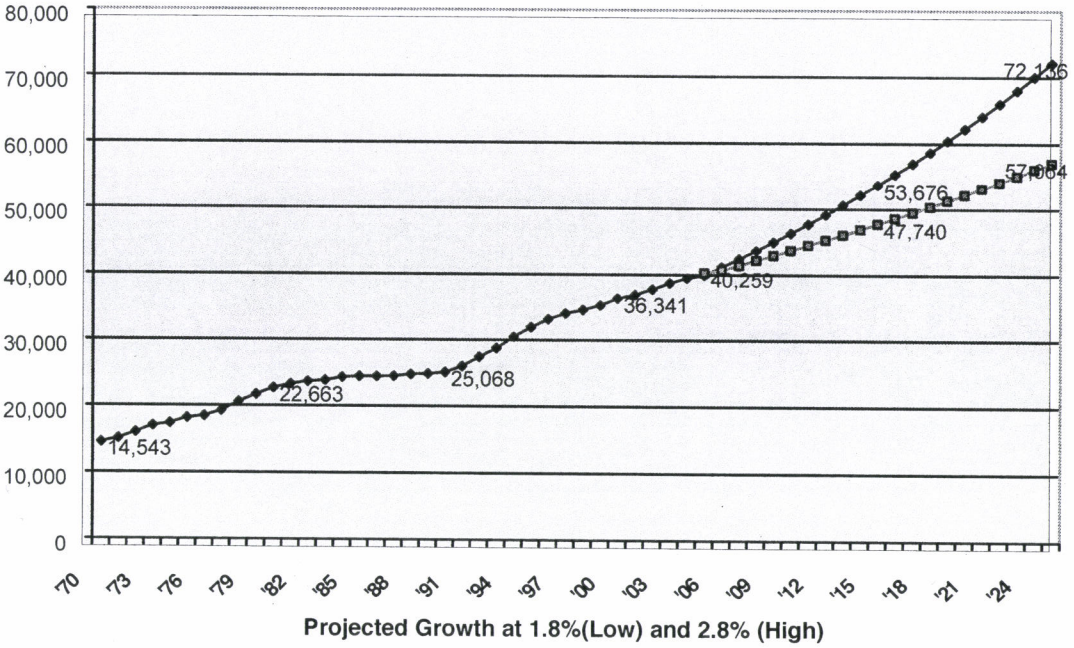
Population growth in the Bitterroot Valley is being largely driven by migration trends. The upper right chart shows population change by major component for three periods: 1980-1990, 1990-2000, and 2000-2005. During the '90s when growth greatly accelerated, 95 percent of this growth was due to increased net migration. Net migration in the '90s averaged about 1,050 annually. Net migration in the five years between 2000 and 2005 is averaging less than 720 annually.

The chart at the lower right shows total population levels for Ravalli County since 1970 when it totaled 14,500, and extending through 2005 when population reached 39,940. High and low projections are then shown extending through 2025. It is possible for future growth to exceed 3% a year or, conversely, fall below 1.5% due to some uncertainty. However, two sets of projections are made - a "low growth" scenario that assumes growth at about 1.8% annually and a "high growth" scenario that assumes growth at 2.8% annually.

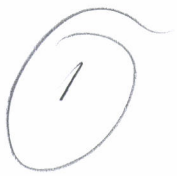
Under the low growth scenario, population in the Bitterroot will approach 48,000 by 2015 and 57,000 by 2025. In the higher growth scenario, the valley's population will rise to 54,500 by 2015 and exceed 72,000 in 2025. Based upon the recent slowdown in growth, the lower growth scenario may be more likely.

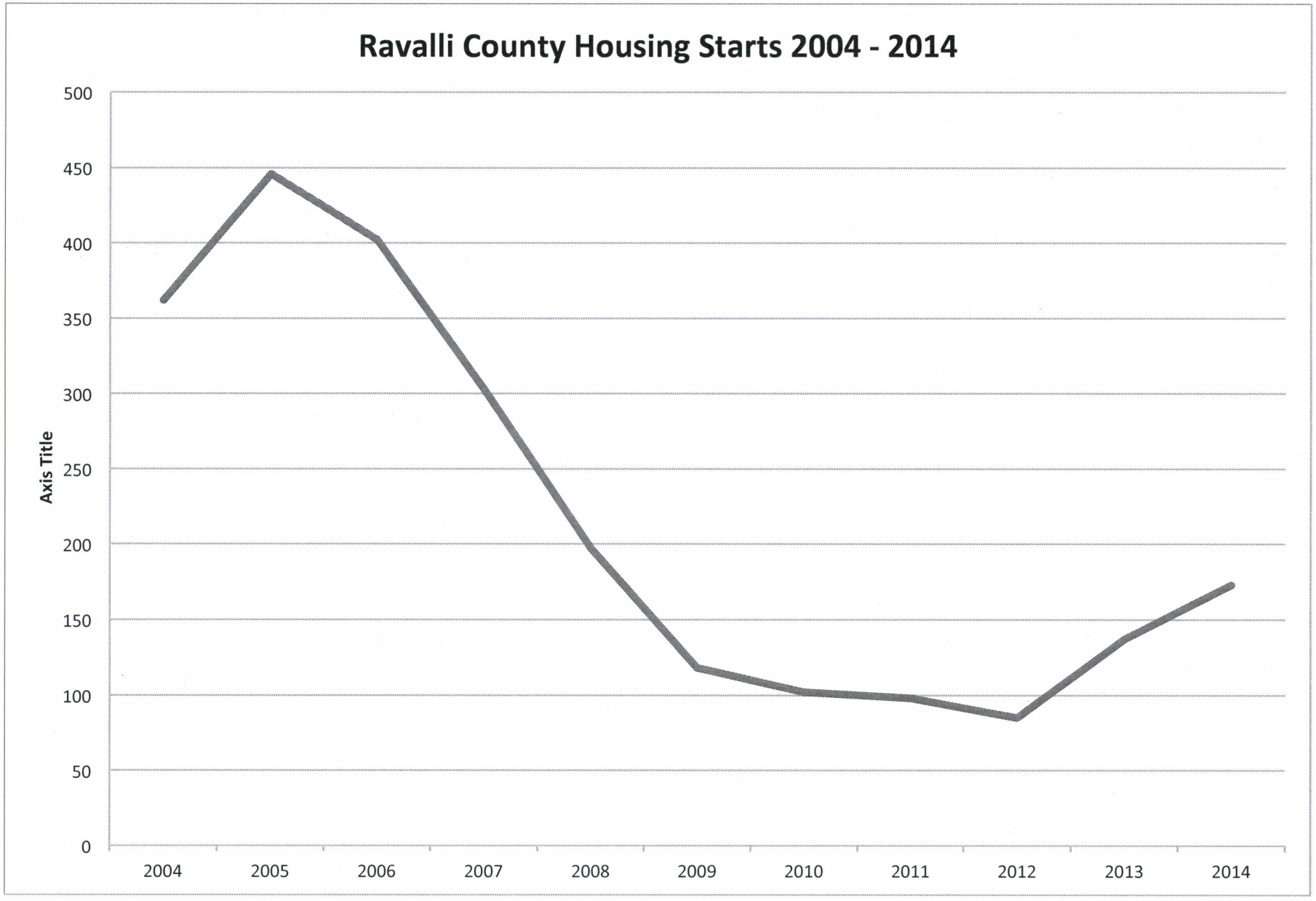


Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Projected Growth at 1.8%(Low) and 2.8% (High)




Ravalli County Housing Starts 2004 - 2014
Axis Title
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014