

**From:** [mary.moe](#)  
**To:** [Henneman, Toni](#); [msheehymoe@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:msheehymoe@greatfallsmt.net); [Greg Doyon](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PD3JJ  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 2:31:40 PM

---

To the Local Government Interim Committee:

I write in strong support of the proposed infusion of funding for the MSU Local Government Center. I write as a sitting commissioner on the Great Falls City Commission.

I took advantage of the course on municipal government offered by the Center shortly after assuming my seat in 2018. I found the information helpful, the delivery convenient, and the responsiveness of the Center impressive. Having this backdrop for what is a deceptively complex level of government was invaluable to me as I started out.

As a commission, we meet with the Director of the Center once a year and/or as needed. He is extremely knowledgeable, particularly on the legal issues city commissioners typically confront, and is a superb facilitator or what can be diverse and sometimes competing interests and personalities.

The Center is, I believe, invaluable to creating and sustaining a framework for local government that otherwise would not exist. It is essential that it continues to be funded, but I would hate to do it on the backs of MSU's students, who are not served by the program. With so many needs to serve in Montana, MSU and local governments need your help in making sure this valuable service continues.

Sincerely,

Mary Sheehy Moe  
Great Falls City Commissioner

**From:** [Bjarko, JoAn](#)  
**To:** [Henneman, Toni](#)  
**Subject:** Funding for the MSU Local Government Center (PD3JJ)  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 3:15:41 PM

---

Dear Local Government Interim Committee Members,

As an elected official in Daniels County, I support additional funding for the MSU Local Government Center. The center does excellent work explaining key aspects and responsibilities of holding public office, whether elected or appointed or begged to volunteer. Many people who choose to serve the public at the local level have no previous government work experience. Instant immersion into Montana laws and administrative rules can be overwhelming, so it is good to learn the LGC has our backs for training and answering questions.

The LGC has presented several times at the annual conventions of Clerks of District Court. Speakers get rave reviews. They also help organize our education conferences. In addition, staff travel to far Eastern Montana for in-person training through community-wide meetings where we can learn what to do as well as what not to do. Open meeting law, public records and code of ethics are among the topics intended to keep us out of trouble, which can save taxpayers serious money. Additional staff at the LGC will help deliver more education throughout Montana and help us better serve our residents. We are very fortunate to have people who care about good government.

Joan Bjarko  
Daniels County  
Clerk of District Court  
County Superintendent of Schools  
406-487-2651  
[jbjarko@mt.gov](mailto:jbjarko@mt.gov)

**From:** [Fladager, Tamara](#)  
**To:** [Henneman, Toni](#)  
**Subject:** PD3JJ  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 3:20:42 PM

---

Toni –

I would like to encourage full support and funding for the Local Government Center in PD3JJ at the original proposed amount of \$200K+.

As an employee in local government, I can relate first-hand accounts of the dire need for Local Government Center direction. We have poorly qualified/unqualified elected officials in multiple counties, there are vastly great differences in procedures, and the need for their support/service/implementation of things like Local Government Review and support, which will be coming soon in 2024.

I cannot stress enough the importance of support for Mr. Dan Clark and his staff. They have been most attentive and forthcoming with their time and attention. The future success of Montana Counties depends upon the support they receive through organizations that are willing to educate, support, and direct (if needed) in multiple areas.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

*Tammi Fladager*

Deputy Clerk of Court - 406-487-2651

Justice Court clerk - 406-487-5432

Daniels County

\*\*\*Be advised that all court employees are forbidden by law from giving you legal advice. Legal advice could be described as, but is not limited to: offering interpretation of rules; recommending a course of action; predicting a judicial officer's decision; and interpreting the meaning or effect of any court order or judgment. \*\*\*

---

**From:** Toni Henneman <toni.henneman@mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Fladager, Tamara <Tammi.Fladager@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** The LGIC seeks public comment on proposed legislation

**You are receiving this email as a subscriber to electronic notifications from the Local Government Interim Committee.**

The Local Government Interim Committee opened a 30 day public comment period on legislative proposals related to the Multifamily Coal Trust Home Loan Program, local fire protection authorities, and the MSU Local Government Center. Please submit your comments