



County Corner

www.co.flathead.mt.us

Flathead County Election Office

The Flathead County Election Office is one of the offices under the direction of the Clerk and Recorder, Paula Robinson. Ms. Robinson, as the Election Administrator, is responsible for the administration of all procedures relating to the registration of electors and the conduct of elections. She also keeps all county records relating to elector registration and elections. Her office is the primary point of contact, for the county, with respect to the statewide voter registration list and she oversees the implementation of any provisions of federal law applicable to, or governing, elections.

The Flathead County Election Department is gearing up for the General Election to be held November 7, 2006. Flathead County is divided into 42 precincts



Front Row, left to right: Diane Kile, Monica Eisenzimer, Paula Robinson - Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator. Back Row, left to right: Nancy Welo, Judy Stack and Tim Martin

Flathead County Clerk & Recorder PAULA ROBINSON



Paula Robinson is serving her fourth year in the elected office of Flathead County Clerk & Recorder/Surveyor/Auditor. Prior to being elected Paula worked 11 years in the Clerk & Recorders Office as a Deputy. She has strong experience in the private sector as well, having worked 6 years in the Title Insurance industry and 10 years in the Information Technology Industry. She is eager to continue the progress her office has made during her tenure and the essential focus of her job is, "PUTTING THE TAXPAYERS FIRST". Paula owns and operates a family antique business. Her husband, Dick, is retired (translates into fishes a lot). She has three remarkable adult children, Steven, Michael and Jeremy.

and currently has 54,397 voters registered compared to 44,878 voters just two years ago. Flathead County was one of the last counties in Montana to replace the outlawed punch-card system which was popular and easy to use. In the past two years, we have introduced paper ballots with ovals, optical scan tabulation and automated ballot marking technology which allows voters with disabilities and other special needs to mark a ballot privately and independently. While the challenge of changing the way thousands of people have been voting for decades may sound daunting, our change was fairly smooth thanks to the efforts of the tremendous people who work and have worked as election judges, some for as many as thirty years. It is well known that in every even-numbered year there is a Primary Election in June and a General Election in November and in every odd year there is a City Election. The surprise for many is that there is a school election yearly. Many fire or special district elections are held yearly as well. The tasks we face in conducting an election are the same for all these elections. Although there have been many changes in how the election process is conducted, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all Montanans how simple and important it is to exercise one of

the greatest rights of democracy, our right to vote.

To vote in Montana, you must: be registered as required by law, be 18 years old or older on or before the next election, be a citizen of the United States, and have lived in Montana and in the county in which you intend to vote for at least 30 days. You cannot vote if: you're a convicted felon serving a sentence in a penal institution and/or you've been judged in a court of law to be of unsound mind. Registering to vote in Montana is easy. You can visit the Flathead County Election Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to complete a registration form. Registration forms are also readily available from a number of civic organizations and government agencies. For a complete list, call (406) 758-5535. There is also a registration form available on the Flathead County web site. Mail or deliver the form to the Flathead County Election Office, 800 South Main, Kalispell.

The Election Department is staffed by Paula Robinson, Monica Eisenzimer, Judy Stack, and Diana Kile. During elections 250 judges and other staff are hired as needed. You may contact the Election Department at 758-5535 or through the web address at HYPERLINK "<http://www.co.flathead.mt.us>" www.co.flathead.mt.us.

"The needs of the future take precedent over the demands of the present."

— County Commissioners: Bob Watne, Gary Hall & Joe Brenneman