

Proposal for Legislative Council to Co-sponsor Teacher Institute on Representative Democracy

Prepared by Gayle Shirley, Legislative Information Officer
For presentation to Legislative Council, Dec. 14, 2009

WHAT

- 2.5-day professional development program for up to 25 Montana social studies, history, government, and civics teachers
- Purpose: to provide interactive learning experience about representative democracy, Montana Legislature and legislative process, and importance of and avenues to civic engagement
- Continuing education credits offered
- Selection criteria to be developed for choosing 25 teachers from among applicants
- Loosely modeled after similar program sponsored by Washington State Legislature, and judicial institute for teachers sponsored by Ninth U.S. District Court in cooperation with MEA-MFT

WHY

- To encourage and enhance teaching in Montana about representative democracy and role of state legislature within a representative democracy
- To help remove barriers between citizens and their government
- To address cynicism and negativity about government

WHO

Legislative Council invited to co-sponsor with:

- **Project Citizen:** curricular program for elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary students, youth organizations, and adult groups that promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. The program helps participants learn how to monitor and influence public policy. In the process, they develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy. The program is sponsored by Center for Civic Education, a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries. Center for Civic Education is a partner with National Conference of State Legislatures in Alliance for Representative Democracy. State coordinator: Sally Broughton, teacher in Bozeman
- **Representative Democracy in America:** national project designed to reinvigorate and educate Americans on the critical relationship between government and the people it serves. The project introduces citizens, particularly young people, to the representatives, institutions, and processes that serve to realize the goal of a government of, by, and for the people. Also sponsored by Center for Civic Education and partner in Alliance for Representative Democracy. State coordinator: Sue Henderson, Billings.
- **Humanities Montana (tentative):** independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the humanities, their insights and values, to the people of Montana, enriching the intellectual, cultural, and civic life of the state. Affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Executive director: Ken Egan, Missoula.
- **Office of Public Instruction (tentative):** hope to work with staff of OPI to ensure institute curriculum correlates with state standards and meets needs of teachers and to help promote institute among educational community.

Planning Committee: Gayle Shirley, Legislative Information Officer; Kevin Hayes, Session Information Desk Supervisor; Sally Broughton, Project Citizen State Coordinator; Sue Henderson, Representative Democracy in America State Coordinator.

WHEN

- June 14-16, 2010

WHERE

- Capitol, Helena

DRAFT BUDGET

Travel:	25 participants, ave. 400 miles round trip, 55 cents/mile	\$5,500
	8 presenters, ave. 400 miles round trip, 55 cents/ mile	\$1,760
Lodging:	30 (participants & presenters, 2 nights, \$81/night)	\$4,860
Meals:	Dinner Day 1 (35 at \$15/ea)	\$525
	Lunch Day 2 (35 at \$8/ea)	\$280
	Lunch Day 3 (35 at \$8/ea)	\$280
Coffee, Snacks:		\$150
Materials		\$150
TOTAL		\$13,505

Anticipated contributions

- Project Citizen: up to \$5,000
- Representative Democracy in America: \$2,500
- Humanities Montana: \$2,500 (grant application pending)
- Legislative Branch: up to \$5,000, all or part from existing Back to School Program budget

TIME LINE

- **Dec. 14:** Presentation to Legislative Council
- **Dec. 18:** Initial “save the date” information released to teachers
- **Feb. 20:** Deadline to apply for Humanities MT grant
- **Feb.-March:** Publicity and promotion
- **April 15:** Deadline for teachers to apply for institute
- **June 14-16:** Teacher Institute on Representative Democracy

DRAFT AGENDA (subject to change)

• **MONDAY, JUNE 14**

- 8:00-Noon: Registration, Capitol tours available
- 1-1:15 p.m.: Welcome activity (Sally)
- 1:15-1:30 When I Say 'Legislature,' You Say... ? (Gayle)
- 1:30-1:45 Role of State Legislatures in Representative Democracy (Alan Rosenthal, professor of public policy at Rutgers University, ADTV video)
- 1:45-2:30 Montana Legislature: Nuts and Bolts (staff)
- 2:30-3:15 Panel discussion (legislators): What Does It Mean to Be a Citizen Legislator?
- 3:15-3:30 Break
- 3:30-4:00 Panel discussion (legislators): How Does a Legislator Represent Constituents?
- 4:00-4:30 Prepare for tomorrow's mock committee hearing (hand out bill, assign roles; staff)
- 4:30-5:30 Presentation on civil discourse (Humanities Montana)
- 5:30-8:00 Dinner (sponsored by Representative Democracy in America)

• **TUESDAY, JUNE 15**

- 8:30-10 a.m. Budgeting (LFD staff)
- 10-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:15 Classroom resources (legislative website, Back to School, page program, TVMT, LAWS; staff), show 'You Rule' video
- 11:15-Noon Having Your Say: A Citizen's Role in the Legislative Process (staff)
- Noon-1 p.m. Lunch with Legislative Leaders (sponsored by Legislative Council?)
- 1:00-2:30 Mock committee hearing (legislators, staff, teachers)
- 2:30-2:45 Reprise: When I Say 'Legislature,' You Say...?
- 2:45-3:00 Break
- 3:00-5:00 Project Citizen

• **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16**

- 8:30-4 p.m.: Project Citizen