

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Chris H <hockman\_cw@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014 10:29 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Cc:** Glenda Wiles; Ron Stoltz; Greg Chilcott; J.R. Iman; Jeff Burrows; Suzy Foss  
**Subject:** Reduce Commissioners to Three Referendum: 2015 Property revaluation and the anticipated 15% property tax revenue decrease

Dear Commissioners,

As you struggle with the Montana Department of Revenue's prediction of a 15% property valuation decrease and the projected \$1,000,000.00 subsequent property tax revenue decrease/county annual budget decrease, please remember that the quickest way to significantly reduce the budget for the next two years is to reduce management staff - specifically the Board of Commissioners.

Members of your board have acknowledged that the upcoming government review will take years to reduce the cost of government through restructuring. You, the Board of Commissioners, can cut this multi-year wait for possible government contraction to a matter of months. By a motion of the Board, you can put a referendum on the ballot this November that could decrease the county's annual budget costs by \$150,000 to \$200,000 if approved by the voters. The voters could directly choose how they want to shrink Ravalli County's costs with such a referendum.

Given the knowledge of the precipitous forthcoming property tax revenue decrease, now is the time for a fiscally responsible Board of Commissioners to use your discretion and place a referendum on the November ballot to contract the Commission from five to three.

Three commissioners are truly all we will be able to afford given the revenue decline you are anticipating following the property valuation reassessment. Let the voters decide this fall with a referendum on the number of commissioners.

Sincerely,  
Chris Hockman  
Hamilton