



Post Office Box 123  
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July 14, 2011

Dear Mayor Kooiker:

Democracy in Action members congratulate you on your election as mayor. We applaud your commitment to open government. We believe, with you, that strong citizen participation is the key to a healthy and vibrant city for all those who live here, who depend on our businesses and services and who come as visitors and guests.

At our mayoral forum and in post-election interviews, we were pleased to hear you affirm support for arts-related institutions like The Journey Museum, The Dahl Arts Center and The Performing Arts Center organizations, as well as other groups supported by Allied Arts. Many of us volunteer with those groups.

We applaud your connections in the Indian community and encourage all that you can do to foster Native justice and racial reconciliation including strong support for the Human Relations Commission.

Our organization has a strong interest in local government, and we would like to open discussions with you on how we can work together to address the following goals:

- \*Ensure that redistricting in Rapid City's wards and precincts offers a fair realignment and reasonable geographic boundaries for candidate selection and voting access.
- \*Work for building of more affordable housing, both private and publicly funded.
- \*Continue cooperation among Community Development, Black Hills Homeless Coalition and nonprofit agencies to alleviate involuntary homelessness.
- \*Sponsor construction of a public shelter and public restrooms along Rapid Creek near East Blvd. and New York Street that might assist community volunteers who feed the hungry and their clients who gather there.
- \*Assertively encourage recycling by businesses and homeowners who already use city solid waste collection and by private haulers who tip at the MRF.
- \*Work with developers and existing businesses to mitigate storm water pollution.
- \*Recruit and appoint more women to committees, advisory boards and task forces.
- \*Encourage participation of education and health professionals, retirees, young adults and women of color.

As you already know, we sponsor public forums, research issues, and provide information on public policy to our membership. We welcome opportunities to participate in city government and look forward to developing a productive working relationship with you.

We hope you will accept our invitation to a Tuesday morning DIA meeting for a conversation about making Rapid City a better place to live and work. One of our current facilitators will be contacting you soon.

Best regards,  
The Women of Democracy in Action