Bob Brown and Dorothy Bradley served in the Montana state legislature before and after the passage of the 1972 Constitution. Constitutional historian Evan Barrett will moderate a panel discussion with Bradley and Brown, as they discuss their memories of how constitutional provisions surrounding the public’s right to know and participate in governmental proceedings transformed Montana politics. Brown and Bradley will also talk about work the legislature engaged in to align Montana law to the new constitutional mandates, including the passage of laws designed to implement the new constitution’s promise of “equal protection,” and the prohibition of discrimination based on “race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.”

About the presenters: Dorothy Bradley was elected to the Montana Legislature in 1971, at the age of twenty-three, as the only woman in the House of Representatives, and served sixteen years. She was the Democratic nominee for governor in 1992. From 1993 to 2000, she worked as director of the University System Water Center at Montana State University. She has been recognized as the Business Woman of the Year by the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce and MSU Alumni Association, and Montana Woman of Achievement by the Montana Business and Professional Women. Bob Brown served twenty-six years in the Montana legislature, elected as a representative in 1970 and ending as president of the Montana Senate in 1997. He was elected Montana Secretary of State serving from 2000 to 2004 and was the Republican nominee for Governor in 2004. He was a member of Montana’s Board of Public Education and member and President of the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees. He is currently a senior fellow at the University of Montana Mansfield Center. Evan Barrett spent his career working in Montana economic development, government, politics, and education. He is an award-winning producer of Montana history videos who continues to write columns and commentaries and occasionally teaches Montana history. He is a historian of the 1972 Constitutional Convention and an executive committee member of the Constitutional Convention Celebration Committee.