

## 51st state issue continues

Written by Darci Tomky

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“Our people have spoken,” said Phillips County Commissioner Joe Kinnie. “We want something done.”

The local commissioner board is moving forward with plans that they hope can give rural communities a voice in Colorado, they reported at their Nov. 27 meeting. Two weeks ago on Monday, Nov. 18, they met with other commissioners from counties that passed the 51st state ballot issue.

Five northeast Colorado counties—Phillips, Yuma, Washington, Kit Carson and Cheyenne—passed referendums allowing their commissioners to pursue the requirements to form a new state.

Phillips County Administrator Randy Schafer said it will “leverage the vote.”

The idea of a “yes” vote on the 51st state issue was to send a message to urban Colorado that the rural citizens are serious about wanting a change.

There is also a consensus of the five counties to pursue the Phillips Proposal, which originated in Phillips County and seeks better representation in the state legislature.

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