

**Justice of the Peace, Term of Office of. Term of Office,
of Justice of the Peace.**

The term of office of a justice of the peace is two years, after which the office becomes vacant unless again filled by election or appointment.

February 28, 1916.

Hon. T. F. Shea,
County Attorney,
Deer Lodge, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter requesting an opinion as to whether or not a justice of the peace is entitled to hold office for a term longer than two years.

Article VIII, Section 20 of the Constitution, fixes the term of a justice of the peace at two years. In *State ex rel Jones v. Foster*, 39 Mont., 583, 588, the Supreme Court held that it was the intention of the framers of the constitution to limit the term of judicial officers, including justices of the peace to the terms specified under the various constitutional provisions relating to judicial officers.

You are, therefore, advised that the term of a justice of the peace is two years, at the end of which time, the term expires by limitation and becomes vacant unless again filled by election or appointment.

Yours very truly,

J. B. POINDEXTER,

Attorney General.