

We, the Study Commission of Moore, Montana, after studying, taking surveys, and meeting with people for public discussion have chosen to offer the voters a modified strong mayor form of government as an alternative.

In Moore, only three people are employed—a Clerk-Secretary, Water Superintendent and Librarian. Because some decisions need prompt attention, we feel that some form of a stronger mayor form would serve us best.

Now, under our present form of government, all decisions are left for the one meeting a month.

One option for the voters to decide concerns whether the councilmen would be elected at large or by precinct. Our present government has two precincts. Due to our small population, it is sometimes difficult to find aldermen willing to serve in a particular area. By electing at large, we feel there is a better chance of finding someone willing to serve on the council.

The term of office shall be determined by the statutes set down in Chapter 5, Title 16, R.C.M. 1947.

The plan we submit to the qualified voters would include self-government powers.

Under the proposals of the Study Commission the executive

May appoint one or more administrative assistants to assist him in the supervision and operation of the local government. Such administrative assistants shall be answerable solely to the executive.

Appoint and remove, with the consent of a majority of the commission, all employees of the local government.

May veto ordinances and resolutions subject to override by a two thirds majority of the commission.

Prepare the budget and present it to the commission for adoption.

The financial officer may, at the discretion of the commission, be selected as provided by ordinance.

The Commission shall be elected at large or by precincts. (option of voters).

Local government elections shall be conducted on a non-partisan basis.

The commission shall have a chairman who shall be elected by the members of the commission from their own number for a term established by ordinance. The presiding officer of the commission shall be the executive who shall decide all the votes of the commission, but shall have no other vote. The chairman of the commission shall preside if the executive is absent.

Commission members shall be elected for overlapping terms of office. Community councils to advise commissioners may be authorized by ordinance

Local Study Commission, Moore, Montana

Gertrude Barta, Chairperson; Grace Janicek

Lawrence Helmer

COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Characteristics	Present Form	Proposed Form	Comments
Form of Government	Mayor-Council	Same	
Powers	GENERAL GOVERNMENT POWERS. State law defines functions and services local governments provide.	Self-government Powers	
Governing Body	Five Council members, 2 elected from each of Two wards.	Five council members. ELECTION by district or at-large to be determined by voters	
Elections	Partisan	Non-Partisan	
Term	4 year overlapping terms		
Presiding Officer	Mayor	Same	
Duties	Policy-making body, also involved in administration.	Same	
Other officials	Treasurer appointed	Treasurer may be selected as provided by ordinance	

Characteristics	Percent Form	Proposed Form	Comments
<p>Functions of Mayor (Some shared with council)</p>	<p>--carries out policy of council --enforces ordinances --votes in case of a tie</p>	<p>Same</p>	
<p>Budget Preparation</p>	<p>--prepares budget in consultation with the council</p>	<p>Mayor prepares budget, presents it to the council for adoption</p>	
<p>Appointment Power</p>	<p>--appoints department heads and boards with consent of council</p>	<p>Council approval required for appointment and removal of department heads</p>	
<p>Veto Power</p>	<p>--may veto ordinances subject to a two-thirds veto override by the council</p>	<p>Mayor has no veto power</p>	
<p>Administration of Departments, Boards</p>	<p>Supervision and administration authorized by ordinance. Responsibility usually shared with council</p>	<p>Mayor has authority to exercise control and supervision of all departments and boards</p>	
<p>Community Councils (Neighborhood Councils)</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Same</p>	

The existing form of government is a weak mayor-council government.

Existing Form	Changes we are proposing
X iii	A ii
B ii	B iv
C iii	C iii
D ii	D i
E ii	E i
F ii	F iv
G ii	G option i or ii
H ii	H ii
I i	I i
J iii	J iii
K ii	K ii
L ii	L ii
M	M
4 A	4 B

The local study commission will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the proposed form which will be voted on during the general election.



SAMPLE BALLOT

Instructions to voters: Place an "X" in the boxes which express your preferences. The full text of the proposed form of government and of the existing form of government are available at you polling place.

BALLOT ON ALTERNATIVE FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

If the proposed form of government fails to receive a majority of the votes cast on the question, the sub-option also fails. If the proposed form is adopted, the sub-option requires only a plurality of votes cast on the sub-option for adoption.

PLEASE VOTE ON BOTH ISSUES

1

Vote for one

For adoption of the strong mayor-council government proposed in the report of the Moore local government study commission.

For the existing form of government.

2

Vote for one

Sub-option to be included in the new form of government, if it is adopted.

The Commission:

Shall be elected at large.

Shall be elected by precincts in which candidates must reside.