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Responding to concerns aired in a survey taken by the study commission, the group tried to provide as much flexibility as possible... especially in the area for greater citizen participation.

Under the charter form, if approved by voters, mayor and council positions will remain the same. The proposed charter form would automatically confer self-governing powers on the local government, giving it the power to exercise any powers not prohibited by the constitution, state law or the local

charter itself.

The elected mayor would still administer the government on a part-time basis under the charter form.

The second option would make city elections nonpartisan, streamlining the election process.

Elected members of the commission include Keith Reeder, chairman; Martin Malesich, secretary; Cindy Smith Eccleston, and John Gutcheck, who was appointed.

# Charter question on ballot Tuesday

By John Barrows

When Dillon residents go to the polls Tuesday, they'll find a separate ballot, just for them.

That ballot will ask Dillon residents to make two decisions.

The first will be whether or not Dillon should adopt a charter, with the commission-executive plan. The second, which becomes effective only if the first is adopted, asks whether or not the government should be run on a partisan or nonpartisan basis.

The ballot is the result of an earlier election, which named the Dillon City Study Commission to study and evaluate the present form of government in the city. The group met on a regular basis and talked to dozens of people and groups, and compared the existing form of city government with alternatives available to Montana cities.

The commission then decided to present the voters with an alternative that could best meet the needs of Dillon.

In explaining the charter form of government, the study commission compares it to a state constitution. Both, it says, explain how the government is to be organized and what powers it can have.

The local government charter becomes the basis source for understanding the formal structure, powers, rights and duties of a city, town or county.

The city charter is subject to both the U.S. and Montana Constitutions, but gives a municipality greater control over its internal affairs and how it deals with community problems.

The charter form, the commission said, gives the city the most flexibility and local involvement of any form of government available for cities in Montana.

In its recommendations, the Dillon City Study Commission suggests the charter form of city government to replace the "traditional form" which has existed in Dillon since 1885.

The charter form of government was first made possible under the 1972 State Constitution.

Under the charter, as recommended by the commission, the council would approve the hiring and dismissal of all department heads, with hiring of other city employees being retained by the mayor. The president of the council will make all council appointments to the standing city committees.

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