

174

HARDIN, MONTANA THE CITY OF HARDIN STUDY COMMISSION REPORT

To the Citizens of Hardin:

The City of Hardin Study Commission, elected by the voters on November 8, 1994, or thereafter appointed, presents this preliminary report to you, the citizens of Hardin.

The purpose of the study commission, as defined in state law, is to study the existing form and powers of a local government and procedures for delivery of local government services and to compare them with other forms available under the laws of the state. After completing these two phases of the study it is the responsibility of the study commission to submit a final report recommending no change, or propose an amendment to the existing form of government or offer an alternative form of government to the qualified electors.

In every phase of this review, this study commission sought advice and information from as many people in the city as possible. Opinions and recommendations were solicited from local government officials, community organizations and citizens. All meetings of the study commission were open to the public. Commission members appeared before various community organizations to explain the work of the commission and also to hear the viewpoints, ideas, and concerns of those present.

Our recommendations reflect the thoughts and opinions of those who participated in public hearings and those who attended our meetings, in addition to the independent efforts of this study commission.

In this report we present our recommendations for an alternative form of government that we feel will provide the government services expected by the people both today and in the future. Our concern has been to provide a form of government that will be responsive to local citizens and provide the opportunity for devising solutions to local problems. We feel the citizens of the City of Hardin can achieve these goals by adopting the Charter form with self-government powers.

The questions of adopting this alternative form of government will be placed on the ballot November 5, 1996. We solicit your support for its adoption.

II. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Hardin Local Government Study Commission having thoroughly studied our present form of city government and the alternative forms of government available to cities under state law, and having studied the future governmental needs of this city, recommends the following:

1. City of Hardin should adopt, effective Jan. 1, 1997, the Charter form of government with self-government powers. A city council or elected legislative body, of six (6) members shall be elected for four (4) year terms of office. Two (2) members shall be elected from districts in which they reside and which are apportioned by population. The mayor shall be elected at large.

2. The question of whether or not elections shall be conducted on a partisan or non-partisan basis shall be submitted to the votes of the city as a sub-option as authorized in 7-4-413 MCA.

3. The question on the form of government and the sub-option shall be submitted to the voters of City of Hardin on November 5, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,
CITY OF HARDIN STUDY COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Lloyd Hopes, Chairman
/s/ Carla Colstad, Chairman /Secretary /Treasurer