

Results
of a
Local Government Survey
Conducted for the
Bozeman City Study Commission on Local Government
July 1975

Acknowledgement: This survey was conducted by thirty-three Montana State University students who were enrolled in the course Political Science 311, (Analysis of Political Behavior). The survey was conducted during Spring Quarter of 1975 under the supervision of Dr. Frank Bryan, Head of the Department of Political Science at Montana State University. The Bozeman Study Commission gratefully acknowledges this assistance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	Page 1
Sectional Map of the City of Bozeman	Page 1a
I. General Biographical & SES Information	Page 2
II. Political Information	Page 5
III. Respondent's Political Participation	Page 6
IV. Assessment of Services	Page 7
V. Local Government Structure	Page 10
VI. Political Efficacy	Page 12
VII. Citizen Duty Scale	Page 13
VIII. General Orientation to Government & Politics	Page 14

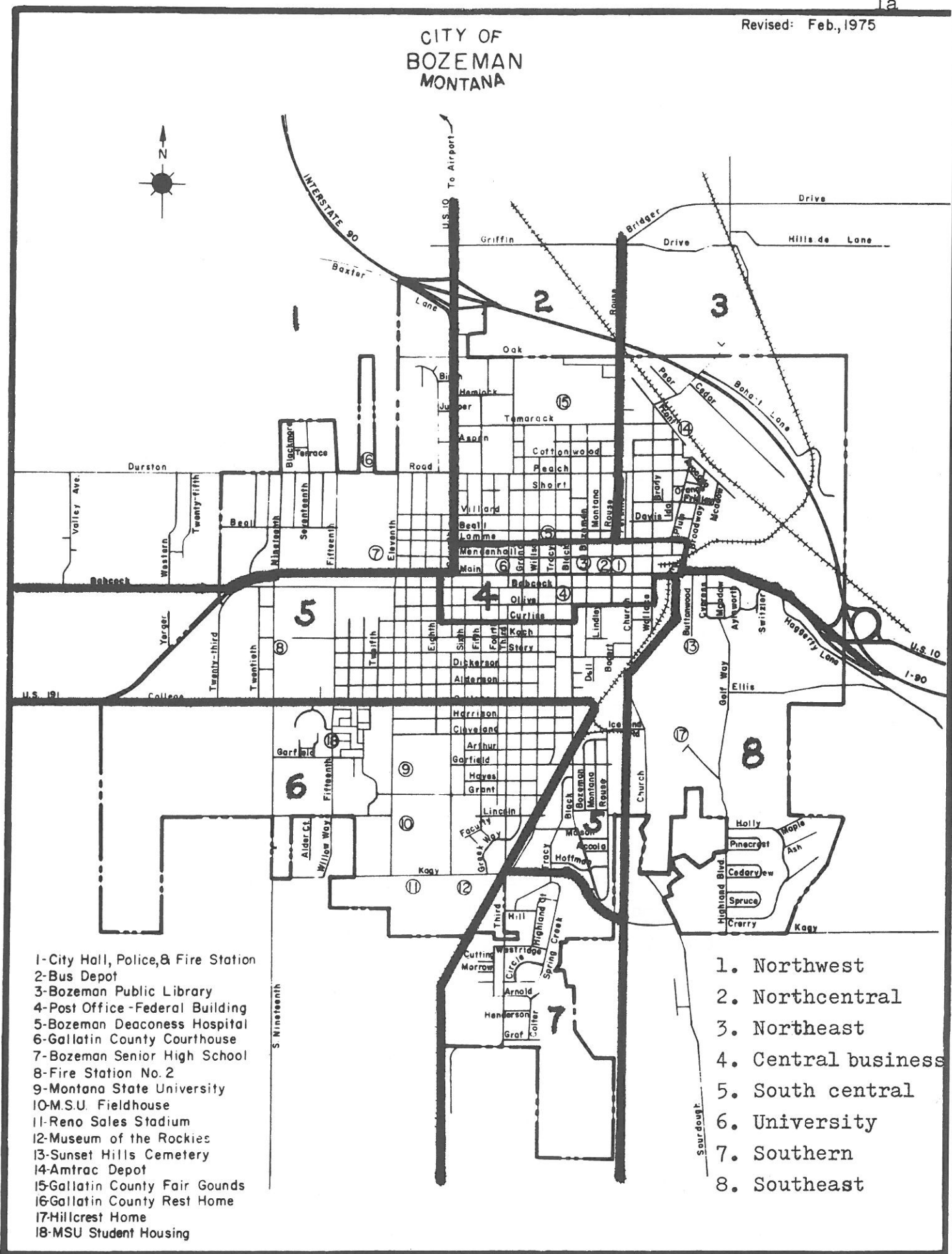
P R E F A C E

Results of the questionnaires were coded and run through the Montana State University computer. Results are listed in three columns. The first column of figures represents the number of people responding to a particular question. There were 411 people responding to the questionnaire. The second column represents the relative frequency or percent of people who responded to the question. The third column represents the adjusted frequency or percent. This percent is calculated by deleting the missing observations. Missing observations are indicated by "NA" (no answer).

The questions are stated as given to interviewees except for a few minor editorial changes.

Respondents for the most part lived in the city of Bozeman. Those few who did not, lived within the 3.5 mile jurisdictional area.

CITY OF
BOZEMAN
MONTANA



- 1-City Hall, Police, & Fire Station
- 2-Bus Depot
- 3-Bozeman Public Library
- 4-Post Office - Federal Building
- 5-Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
- 6-Gallatin County Courthouse
- 7-Bozeman Senior High School
- 8-Fire Station No. 2
- 9-Montana State University
- 10-M.S.U. Fieldhouse
- 11-Reno Sales Stadium
- 12-Museum of the Rockies
- 13-Sunset Hills Cemetery
- 14-Amtrac Depot
- 15-Gallatin County Fair Grounds
- 16-Gallatin County Rest Home
- 17-Hillcrest Home
- 18-MSU Student Housing

- 1. Northwest
- 2. Northcentral
- 3. Northeast
- 4. Central business
- 5. South central
- 6. University
- 7. Southern
- 8. Southeast

I. General Biographical and SES Information

SECTION OF THE CITY	#	%	adj %
Northwest	44	10.7	12.3
Northcentral	41	10.0	11.5
Northeast	24	5.8	6.7
Central Business	26	8.8	10.1
South Central	127	30.9	35.6
University	47	11.4	13.2
Southern	9	2.2	2.5
Southeast	29	7.1	8.1
NA	54	13.1	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

1--First of all, we'd like to know how many years you have lived in Bozeman.

	#	%	adj %
Less than one year	23	5.6	5.7
1 - 3 years	73	17.8	17.9
4 - 9 years	84	20.4	20.6
10 - 20 years	77	18.7	18.9
21 - 30 years	46	11.2	11.3
More than 30 years	46	11.2	11.3
All Life	58	14.1	14.3
NA	4	1.0	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

2--What other communities have you lived in besides Bozeman?

	#	%	adj %
One other in Montana	59	14.4	14.8
Two or more in Montana	74	18.0	18.5
One out of Montana	26	6.3	6.5
Two or more outside Mont.	69	16.8	17.3
1 in Mont., 1 or more out	96	23.4	24.1
Only Bozeman	13	3.2	3.3
2 in Mont. 1 or more out	54	13.1	13.5
2 or more in Mont. 1 out	8	1.9	2.0
NA	12	2.9	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

3-- Do you happen to know the approximate size of the community you lived in when you were growing up?

	#	%	adj %
0 - 500	69	16.8	18.1
501 - 1000	23	5.6	6.0
1001 - 2000	15	3.6	3.9
2001 - 5000	39	9.5	10.2
5001 - 10,000	63	15.3	16.5
10,000 - 50,000	115	28.0	30.2
50,000 - 100,000	20	4.9	5.2
100,000 - over	37	9.0	9.7
NA	30	7.3	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

4--Where were you born?

	#	%	adj %
Northeast	14	3.4	3.4
South	5	1.2	1.2
Canada	4	1.0	1.0
Midwest	72	17.5	17.7
West-Southwest	21	5.1	5.2
Pacific	33	8.0	8.1
adjacent states	253	61.6	62.2
Other Foreign	5	1.2	1.2
NA	4	1.0	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

5--Would you mind telling me which grouping includes the year you were born?

Age	#	%	adj %
Over 75	13	3.2	3.2
55 - 75	91	22.1	22.5
35 - 54	146	35.5	36.0
25 - 34	88	21.4	21.7
18 - 24	67	16.3	16.5
NA	6	1.5	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

6--Are you married?

	#	%	adj %
yes	306	74.5	74.8
no	102	24.8	25.1
NA	3	.7	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

7--Do you have any children?

	#	%	adj %
Yes	285	69.3	71.2
No	114	27.7	28.7
NA	12	2.9	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

8--Are they attending school?

	#	%	adj %
Yes	133	32.4	42.9
No	176	42.8	57.1
NA	102	24.8	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

9--Would you tell me in which educational group you would place yourself?

	#	%	adj %
No schooling	2	.5	.5
1 - 6 grades	1	.2	.2
7 - 8 grades	11	2.7	2.7
Some High School	27	6.6	6.6
High School Graduate	102	24.8	25.1
Some college	138	33.6	33.9
College Graduate	77	18.7	18.9
Post Graduate	49	11.9	12.0
NA	4	1.0	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

10--What is your occupation?

	#	%	adj %
Student	51	12.4	12.6
Blue Collar Worker	53	12.9	13.1
Service Worker	62	15.1	15.3
Farmer - Rancher	1	.2	.2
Unemployed	7	1.7	1.7
White Collar - Professor	120	29.2	29.7
Retired	50	12.2	12.4
Homemaker	60	14.6	14.9
NA	7	1.7	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

11--Do you own or rent your present home?

	#	%	adj %
Own home	259	63.0	63.6
Rent	139	33.8	34.2
Other	8	1.9	2.2
NA	5	1.2	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

12--Tell me the letter which corresponds to your families total income from all sources in 1974 before taxes?

	#	%	adj %
Under \$2000	25	6.0	6.9
\$2000 - \$5000	35	8.5	9.6
\$5000 - \$7500	63	15.3	17.2
\$7500 - \$10000	48	11.7	13.1
\$10000 - \$15000	88	21.4	24.0
\$15000 - \$25000	86	20.9	23.5
Over \$25000	21	5.1	5.7
NA	45	10.9	---
Total	<u>411</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

13--Sex

	#	%	adj %
Male	204	49.4	49.5
Female	207	50.3	50.4
NA	1	.1	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

II. Political Information

Respondents were asked a few questions about public affairs and government in Montana, and some other very general questions.

1--Do you happen to know who the City Manager in Bozeman is?

	#	%	adj %
Correct	280	68.1	93.3
Incorrect	19	4.6	6.9
NA	112	27.2	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

2--Before today, had you ever heard of the Local Government Study Commission?

	#	%	adj %
Yes	264	64.2	65.0
No	138	33.6	34.9
NA	9	2.1	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

3--Could you name any of the members of the Local Government Study Commission?

	#	%	adj %
One	39	9.5	54.2
Two	18	4.4	25.0
Three	7	1.7	9.7
Four	1	.2	1.4
Five	7	1.7	9.7
NA	339	82.5	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

4--Do you happen to know how many city commissioners Bozeman has?

	#	%	adj %
Correct	162	39.4	93.6
Incorrect	11	2.7	6.4
NA	238	57.9	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

5--About how many years does a U.S. Senator serve?

	#	%	adj %
Correct	211	51.3	53.4
Incorrect	184	44.8	46.6
NA	16	3.9	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

6--Who is the Governor of Montana now?

	#	%	adj %
Correct	371	90.3	92.1
Incorrect	30	7.3	7.9
NA	10	2.4	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

III. Respondent's Political Participation

1--One of the things governments are most interested in is voting and participation - yet these are busy times and in talking to people about last fall's election, for instance, we find that a lot of people weren't registered or they were sick or they just were too busy. How about you? Did you get a chance to go to the polls this time?

	#	%	adj %
Yes	300	73.0	76.3
No	93	22.6	23.7
NA	18	4.4	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

2--Generally speaking, when you think back over the last few years how often were you able to make it to the polls?

	#	%	adj %
Always	188	45.7	46.7
Usually	162	39.4	40.2
Not very often	31	7.5	7.7
Never	22	5.4	5.5
NA	8	1.9	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

3--In the past few years have you ever attended a city council meeting or a public hearing?

	#	%	adj %
Yes	131	31.9	32.0
No	278	67.6	68.0
NA	2	.5	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

4--Have you ever been so pleased or perhaps so upset with a particular action of local government that you have contacted a city official to express your opinion?

	#	%	adj %
Yes	136	33.1	33.4
No	271	65.9	66.6
NA	4	1.0	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

5--Do you have any ideas on how the city government might make it easier for you to participate in local government affairs in Bozeman?

Increase publicity - of hearings and city's activities

Public to take interest

Even representation

Specific districts for aldermen

Use a commission system

Younger candidates - elect (student)

Form citizen advisory committee

More polls

Commission listen and heed the public opinion more

Hold commission meetings when working people can attend (evenings)

Make districts for elections

Have full time commission

More meetings

More surveys

Have the commission look ahead in planning and zoning

Letters

Commission exercise more personal contact with public

Open meeting

Monthly statement of city budget

Answer questions directly with less run around

Fire the city manager

City manager is too much like a dictatorship

IV. Assessment of Services

1--Would you please tell me which one or two services the city performs most efficiently and which one or two you are least satisfied with?

	Ambulance			Fire			Garbage		
	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %
Most effective	50	12.2	12.6	150	36.5	37.8	121	29.4	30.5
Neither	323	78.6	81.4	242	58.9	61.0	229	55.7	57.7
Least effective	24	5.8	6.0	5	1.2	1.3	47	11.4	11.8
NA	14	3.4	----	14	3.4	----	14	3.4	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0

	Library			Parks & Recreation			Police		
	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %
Most effective	33	8.0	8.3	85	20.7	21.4	105	25.5	26.4
Neither	307	74.7	77.3	275	66.9	69.3	234	56.9	58.9
Least effective	57	13.9	14.4	37	9.0	9.3	58	14.1	14.6
NA	14	3.4	----	14	3.4	----	14	3.4	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0

	Snow Removal			Street			Sewage		
	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %
Most effective	36	8.8	9.0	9	2.2	2.3	47	11.4	11.9
Neither	216	52.6	54.3	120	29.2	30.2	334	81.3	84.3
Least effective	146	35.5	36.7	268	65.2	67.5	15	3.6	3.8
NA	13	3.2	----	14	3.4	----	15	3.6	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0

	Water		
	#	%	adj %
Most effective	62	15.1	15.7
Neither	320	77.9	80.8
Least effective	14	3.4	3.5
NA	15	3.6	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

2--Here is a list of services performed by Bozeman city government. Assess the job Bozeman does in each service area by placing a check in the appropriate box.

	Ambulance			Fire			Garbage		
	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %
Good	146	35.5	48.6	246	59.9	67.0	190	46.2	47.7
Adequate	112	27.3	37.3	107	26.0	29.2	129	31.4	32.4
Needs improvement	42	10.2	14.0	14	3.4	3.8	79	19.2	19.8
NA	111	27.0	----	44	10.7	----	13	3.2	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0

	Library			Parks & Recreation			Police		
	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %
Good	96	23.4	28.7	178	43.3	47.1	172	41.8	44.1
Adequate	124	30.1	37.2	120	29.2	31.8	131	31.9	33.6
Needs improvement	114	27.7	34.1	80	19.5	21.2	87	21.2	22.3
NA	77	18.7	----	33	8.0	----	21	5.1	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0

	Snow Removal			Street			Sewage		
	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %	#	%	adj %
Good	94	22.9	24.0	27	6.6	6.8	149	36.3	40.4
Adequate	102	24.8	26.1	54	13.1	13.6	189	46.0	51.2
Needs improvement	195	47.4	49.9	317	77.1	79.6	31	7.5	8.4
NA	20	4.9	----	13	3.2	----	42	10.2	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0	411	100.0	100.0

	Water		
	#	%	adj %
Good	182	44.3	46.9
Adequate	174	42.3	44.8
Needs improvement	32	7.8	8.2
NA	23	5.6	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

3--Suppose for a moment that you were in charge of Bozeman's city government and you had the power to take funds from one service area and redirect them to another. From which area would you take them and into which area would you redirect them?

Take From:			
	#	%	adj %
Ambulance	1	.2	1.0
Fire Protection	3	.7	2.9
Garbage Collection	4	1.0	3.9
Library	6	1.5	5.9
Parks & Recreation	38	9.2	37.3
Police Protection	14	3.4	13.7
Snow Removal	11	2.7	10.8
Street Maintenance	6	1.5	5.9
Water	8	1.9	7.8
Sewage	11	2.5	9.8
NA	309	75.4	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

Redirect to:			
	#	%	adj %
Ambulance	6	1.5	3.3
Fire Protection	1	.2	.6
Garbage Collection	2	.5	1.1
Library	13	3.2	7.2
Parks & Recreation	20	4.9	11.1
Police Protection	32	7.8	17.8
Snow Removal	8	1.9	4.4
Street Maintenance	85	20.7	47.2
Water	2	.5	1.1
Sewage	9	2.0	5.2
NA	231	56.8	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

4--One of the responsibilities of local government is to listen to the opinions of the citizens. How would you rate Bozeman's performance in this area?

	#	%	adj %
Good	88	21.4	22.3
Adequate	131	31.9	33.1
Needs Improvement	177	43.1	44.7
NA	15	3.6	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

5--All in all, how would you rate Bozeman's city government in general?

	#	%	adj %
Good	142	34.5	34.9
Adequate	161	39.2	39.7
Needs Improvement	103	25.0	25.3
NA	5	1.2	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

V. Local Government Structure

We realize that you may not feel totally capable of answering the following questions regarding different types of government, but why don't you give them a try anyway?

6--If you had your choice, which kind of government would you prefer in Bozeman?

	#	%	adj %
City manager	202	49.1	58.4
Mayor	74	18.0	21.4
Commission	70	17.0	20.2
NA	65	15.8	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

7--If you had your choice, which kind of government would you prefer in Gallatin County?

	#	%	adj %
County manager	97	23.6	31.0
County executive	26	6.3	8.3
Commission	190	46.2	60.7
NA	98	23.8	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

8--If you had your choice, would you rather see elected city officials such as commissioners chosen at large from the city as a whole or would you prefer them to be elected from specific districts?

	#	%	adj %
At large	174	42.3	45.2
By District	211	51.3	54.8
NA	26	6.3	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

9--If you had your choice, would you like to have local candidates list their political party on the ballot or would you prefer to see party labels left off the ballot so the candidates could not be identified by political party?

	#	%	adj %
List Party Labels	107	26.0	28.8
No Party Labels	265	64.5	71.2
NA	39	9.5	---
Total	411	100.0	100.0

10--If you had your choice would you rather have most city officials other than the commissioners run for office and be elected or be appointed by the city government?

	#	%	adj %
Elected	290	70.6	74.9
Appointed	97	23.6	25.1
NA	24	5.8	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

11--If you had your choice would you rather have elected officials run for reelection every two years or have a longer term in office between elections?

	#	%	adj %
Every two years	256	62.3	65.8
Longer terms	133	32.3	34.2
NA	22	5.4	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

12--If you had your choice would you rather have most county officials other than the commissioners appointed or run for office and be elected?

	#	%	adj %
Elected	300	73.0	76.9
Appointed	41	10.0	10.5
Mixed	49	11.9	12.6
NA	21	5.1	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

13--If you had your choice would you want the chief executive of your city government (for instance a Mayor or a Chairman of a City Council) have the power to veto acts of the Commissioners or do you think that the chief executive should have no power to veto acts of the commissioners?

	#	%	adj %
Veto power	147	35.8	41.5
No Veto power	207	50.3	58.5
NA	57	13.9	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

14--If you had your choice would you create a large group of city commissioners to govern Bozeman, say 12 to 15 members or do you feel the size of the commission should be smaller, say 5 to 7 members?

	#	%	adj %
12 to 15 members	87	21.2	22.9
5 to 7 members	293	71.3	77.1
NA	31	7.5	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

15--If you had your choice would you like to see the city given more authority to deal with local problems or would you like to see the State Government do more on the local level?

	#	%	adj %
City government	330	80.3	86.6
State government	51	12.4	13.4
NA	30	7.3	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

16--How do you react to this statement: "Things would work a lot better for local government if the county and the city consolidated their governments and one single unit was created that would deal with all matters of local government." Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

	#	%	adj %
Agree	135	32.8	33.1
Neutral	78	19.0	19.2
Disagree	194	47.2	47.6
NA	4	1.0	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

VI. Political Efficacy

Respondents were asked to answer with one of the listed responses that best fit how they felt about the question.

1--All in all, I don't think public officials care much about what people like me think.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	70	17.0	17.1
Agree	109	26.5	26.6
Neutral	88	21.4	21.5
Disagree	91	22.1	22.2
Disagree strongly	52	12.7	12.7
NA	1	.2	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

2--The way people vote is the main thing that decides how things are run in this country.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	80	19.5	19.6
Agree	99	24.1	24.2
Neutral	55	13.4	13.4
Disagree	94	22.9	23.0
Disagree strongly	81	19.7	19.8
NA	2	.5	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

3--Generally speaking, people like me don't have a say about what the government does.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	87	21.2	21.2
Agree	98	23.8	23.9
Neutral	65	15.8	15.9
Disagree	108	26.3	26.3
Disagree strongly	52	12.7	12.7
NA	1	.2	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

4--Sometimes politics and government seems so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	131	31.9	32.0
Agree	110	26.8	26.9
Neutral	55	13.4	13.4
Disagree	64	15.6	15.6
Disagree strongly	49	11.9	12.0
NA	2	.5	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

VII. Citizen Duty Scale

1--It isn't so important to vote when you know your party doesn't have a chance to win.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	12	2.9	2.9
Agree	19	4.6	4.7
Neutral	27	6.6	6.6
Disagree	69	16.8	17.0
Disagree strongly	280	68.1	68.8
NA	4	1.9	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

2--A good many local elections aren't important enough to bother with.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	17	4.1	4.2
Agree	29	7.1	7.1
Neutral	33	8.0	8.1
Disagree	75	18.2	18.4
Disagree strongly	254	61.8	62.3
NA	3	.7	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

3--If a person doesn't care how an election comes out, he shouldn't vote in it.

	#	%	adj %
Agree Strongly	89	21.7	21.8
Agree	55	13.4	13.5
Neutral	45	10.9	11.0
Disagree	56	13.6	13.7
Disagree strongly	163	39.7	40.0
NA	3	.7	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

VIII. General Orientation to Government and Politics

1--The Government is getting too powerful for the good of the country and the individual.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	167	40.6	41.0
Agree	92	22.4	22.6
Neutral	68	16.5	16.7
Disagree	54	13.1	13.3
Disagree strongly	26	6.3	6.4
NA	4	1.0	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

2--Generally speaking, the government should probably do more in trying to deal with such problems as unemployment, education, housing, and so on.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	151	36.7	37.2
Agree	99	24.1	24.4
Neutral	62	15.1	15.3
Disagree	44	10.7	10.8
Disagree strongly	50	12.2	12.3
NA	5	1.2	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

3--The problem with local representation in Bozeman is that officials always say they have the good of the city as a whole in mind and they never pay attention to issues in specific locations in the city.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	71	17.3	17.7
Agree	94	22.9	23.4
Neutral	124	30.2	30.9
Disagree	74	18.0	18.5
Disagree strongly	38	9.2	9.5
NA	10	2.4	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

12--It makes more sense to have one local government for Bozeman and Gallatin County rather than the two governments we now have.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	69	16.8	16.9
Agree	56	13.6	13.7
Neutral	83	20.2	20.3
Disagree	94	22.9	23.0
Disagree strongly	106	25.8	26.0
NA	3	.7	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

13--If the local officials would listen to the people's opinion more often we would have a lot better government in Bozeman.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	116	28.2	28.6
Agree	114	27.7	28.1
Neutral	112	27.3	27.6
Disagree	42	10.2	10.3
Disagree strongly	22	5.4	5.4
NA	5	1.2	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

14--The trouble with the city manager system is that the manager has too much control. The commissioners never do anything the manager doesn't like.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	68	16.5	16.8
Agree	59	14.4	14.6
Neutral	115	28.0	28.4
Disagree	105	25.5	25.9
Disagree strongly	58	14.1	14.3
NA	6	1.5	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

15--If government is to get things done efficiently in today's complicated world it is necessary that a lot of power be given to officials who don't have to worry about pleasing the people and can concentrate on getting the job done.

	#	%	adj %
Agree strongly	84	20.4	20.8
Agree	73	17.8	18.1
Neutral	79	19.2	19.6
Disagree	75	18.2	18.6
Disagree strongly	93	22.6	23.0
NA	7	1.7	----
Total	411	100.0	100.0

APPENDIX C