

DILLON TRIBUNE

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A major decision

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Next Tuesday voters across the state are heading for the polls. Major decisions need to be made, from who is to represent us in Helena and Washington and at the County Courthouse, to a myriad of voter-decided issues. Eight separate initiatives and amendments face Montana voters on everything from how higher education is to be operated to what requirements on the clarity of water are going to be mandated.

Dillon voters have yet another decision to make. They are being faced with deciding on whether or not to leave Dillon's form of government the same, or to adopt a charter form of government.

The ballot issue was recommended by the Dillon City Government Study Commission, who spent nearly two years examining the city's problems, and looking at how other cities deal with theirs.

Their decision was to place before the voters a city charter form of government. As drafted, the charter would broaden the city's power, by making it possible for the city to adopt any laws the state does not prohibit. It would also equalize some of the power between the mayor and the city council.

The changes, although relatively minor, give the city for the first time much more freedom in dealing with problems. It provides for even more open government. And if the voters give their okay, would eliminate partisan elections. The latter makes special sense. It's not whether you're Democrat or Republican to make a good councilman. It's whether or not you can get streets fixed.

In all, the charter as proposed by the study commission makes good sense for Dillon. Voters would be well served if they voted for its approval.