

Deer Lodge Study Commission FINAL SUMMARY

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF DEER LODGE:

The Deer Lodge Study Commission elected by the voters on November 6, 1984, or thereafter appointed, present this report to you, the citizens of the City of Deer Lodge.

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 other alternative form of government to the qualified electors.

Study commissioners have attended training seminars, conducted public meetings, studied the local government, made comparisons with other forms and interviewed city officials. We have endeavored to inform the public of the review process and to elicit public participations in all our functions through newspaper articles, advertisements, radio and public forums, open meetings and a telephone opinion poll.

Our findings and recommendations are based on our studies and on information gleaned from the telephone survey. Although

we felt change might be beneficial, public opinion did not concur. Eighty-eight percent of the survey respondents believe that the present government is doing "a good or adequate job." Answers to subsequent survey questions on proposed changes confirm this satisfaction. Therefore, the study commission of necessity recommends no change in form of the existing government.

However, we encountered certain problems within the present form which we feel should be rectified. These amount to "housekeeping" items. Of our three recommendations, which follow, only one requires voter approval. We are placing an amendment on the November 4 ballot which if approved will legalize the traditional practice of non-partisan elections in the city of Deer Lodge and will bring the existing government into compliance with state law.

We trust that you will study these recommendations and will express your desires and opinions at a public meeting to be held on Monday, September 29, in the Council Room of City Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Additional copies of our report will be available at no charge in the City Treasurer's Office at City Hall, the office of the Clerk and Recorder at the Powell County Courthouse, the Kohrs Library, Deer Lodge Bank & Trust, Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan, First Security Bank, and at school libraries located at Granville Stuart School, Junior High School and Powell County High.

Summary Of Recommendations

The Deer Lodge 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. The question of whether or not elections shall be conducted on a partisan or non-partisan basis shall be submitted to the voters of the city as authorized in MCA 7-3-219(2).

2. That the city council institute training programs for any new city employee or elected official not currently covered by such, and that the city council make periodic in-service educational programs available to all city employees.

3. That the present city government avail itself of the opportunity already provided by state law to hire an administrative assistant as authorized in MCA 7-3-212(2).

Respectfully submitted,

Deer Lodge City Study Commission

Susan Masar, Chairman
June Getchell
Harold Ericson