

LWW

A thick, red, hand-painted brushstroke underline that starts under the 'L' and 'W' and extends to the right, ending under the 'W'.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF MISSOULA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

- ▶ LWV Missoula founded in 1952
- ▶ Nonpartisan political organization
- ▶ Informed and active participation in government
- ▶ Understanding of major public policy issues
- ▶ Influences public policy
- ▶ DO NOT support or oppose candidates or parties

Making Democracy Work



PURE DEMOCRACY

CITIZENS DECIDING HOW THEY WILL BE GOVERNED



- What's working ?
- What's *not* working ?
- Is there a better way ?
- Are the People fairly represented ?
- Are services provided efficiently and effectively ?
- Should our local government do more? Or less?
- What is the role of Politics ?



IN OUR CONSTITUTION

EVERY TEN YEARS

Every Montana voter

Every county

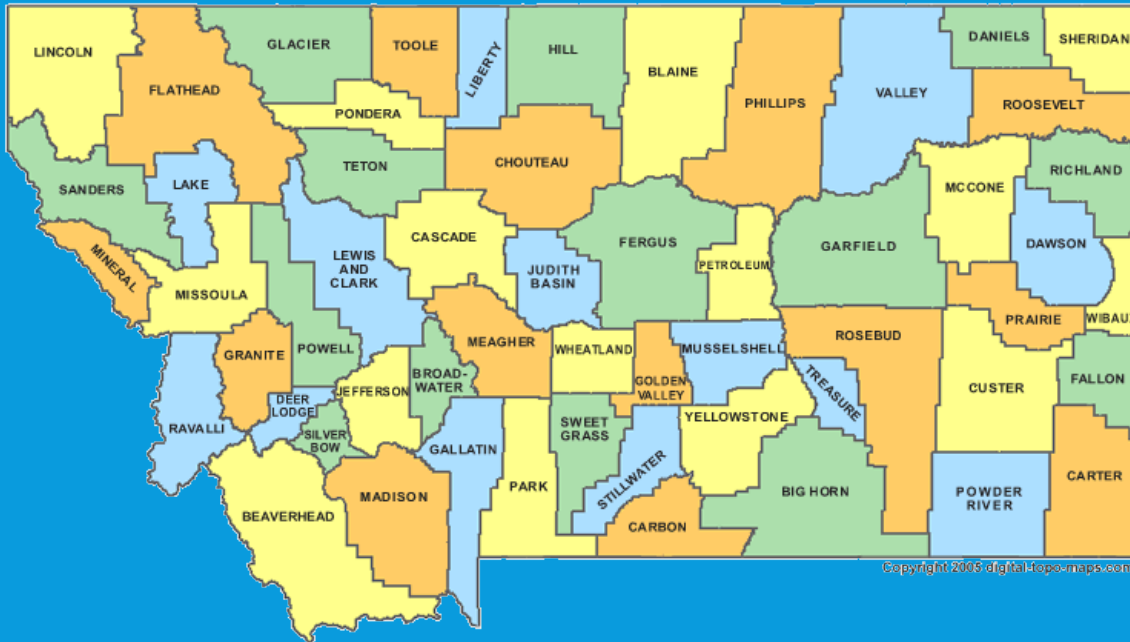
Every incorporated city and town

Voters in incorporated cities and towns vote on county and city

Primary Election in June of 2024

Ballot form and question

- FOR the review of the government
- AGAINST the review of the government





ELECT STUDY COMMISSION

Purpose of study commission:

To study the existing form and powers of a local government

Compare them with other forms available

Commissioners elected in November 2024

Current elected officials cannot serve

This is a fundamental issue of governance, not politics.

SCOPE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES

City/Town

Amend existing plan of government

Recommend alternative plan of government

Draft a charter

Recommend municipal-county consolidation

Recommend disincorporation

Submit no recommendation

May recommend service consolidation* or transfer in cooperation with:

- a county study commission
- a county study commission and one or more municipal study commissions
- one or more municipal study commissions

* Consolidation can only occur if both a county AND a municipality are undergoing review with a separate study commission.

County

Amend existing plan of government

Recommend alternative plan of government

Draft a charter

Recommend municipal-county consolidation

County merger

Submit no recommendation

Service consolidation or cooperation with a study commission of another county or municipalities



FINAL REPORT

- Signed by a majority of the study commission
- Must contain :
 - (a) a petition proposing an alteration of a local government
 - (b) date of the election and the ballot question
 - (c) dates of the first primary and general elections for officers of a new government
- Minority report, if there is one or indicate that changes are not recommended

Voters Decide

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW IN MISSOULA

- **Missoula County:** Never resulted in a change
- **City of Missoula:** twice
- 1994
 - City Charter giving Missoula Self Government Powers
 - Municipal Elections non-partisan
 - Created Neighborhood Councils
- 2004
 - Recommendation were not approved by the voters



QUESTIONS ?

Is there a group you know who would enjoy learning about local government review? Have them contact the Missoula LWV.

- missoulalwv@gmail.com
- <https://my.lwv.org/montana/league-women-voters-missoula>