



Item: Resolution 10051 Calling For a Poll Election on The Question Of Conducting A Local Government Review And Establishing A Study Commission To Do So.

Initiated By: Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

Presented By: Sara Sexe, City Attorney

Action Requested: Adopt Resolution 10051 Calling For a Poll Election on the Question of Conducting a Local Government Review and Establishing a Study Commission To Do So

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (adopt/not adopt) Resolution 10051.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, public comment, and calls the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10051 calling for a poll election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to do so.

Background: The provisions of Article XI, Section 9(2), of the Montana Constitution and §§ 7-3-171 through 7-3-193, MCA, require the local government body to call for an election to be held on June 3, 2014, on the question of conducting a local government review and the establishment of a study commission.

Pursuant to § 7-3-175, MCA, adoption of Resolution 10051 will set forth the ballot question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to the electors as follows:

/ / FOR the review of the government of the City of Great Falls and the establishment and funding, not to exceed \$125,000 which is the equivalent to approximately 1.6 mills, of a local government study commission consisting of five (5) members to examine the government of the City of Falls and submit recommendations on the government.

/ / AGAINST the review of the government of the City of Falls and the establishment and funding, not to exceed \$125,000 which is equivalent to approximately 1.6 mills, of a local government study commission consisting of five (5) members to examine the government of the City of Great Falls and submit recommendations on the government.

The purpose of the study commission is to study the existing form and powers of a local government and procedures for delivery of local government services and compare them with other forms available under the laws of the state. The City of Great Falls operates under the Commission-Manager form of government established by Charter with self-governing powers. The City's legislative body is the City Commission. City Commissioners are elected for four-year terms, and the Mayor is elected to a two-year term. The members of the City Commission are nominated and elected at-large, and the elections are non-partisan. The City Commission appoints a City Manager to direct the day to day operations of the City which carry out the policies of the City Commission.

Should the electors vote for a review of the City of Great Falls' form of government and the establishment and funding of a local government study commission, qualified electors interested in serving on the study commission may begin filing as candidates with the Cascade County Election Office for the election to be held on November 4, 2014.

Each local government under study shall appropriate an amount necessary to fund the study, and the local government may levy mills in excess of all other mill levies authorized by law to fund the appropriation for the support of the study commission.

Should the electors vote against a review of the City of Great Falls' form of government and the establishment and funding of a local government study commission, the opportunity to review the City's form of government will be offered again in 2024.

Fiscal Impact: The amount of \$125,000, which is equivalent to approximately 1.6 mills, will increase the property taxes on a home with a taxable market value of \$100,000 approximately \$3.96 and approximately \$7.92 on a home with a taxable market value of \$200,000.

Attachment: Resolution 10051

RESOLUTION 10051

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREAT FALLS CITY COMMISSION CALLING FOR A POLL ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF CONDUCTING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW AND ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION TO DO SO.

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 9(2), of the Montana Constitution requires that each unit of local government shall conduct an election once every ten years to determine whether the local government will undertake a review procedure; and

WHEREAS, § 7-3-173(2) (a), MCA, requires that the local government governing body shall call for an election, to be held on the primary election date, on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission; and

WHEREAS, the Great Falls City Commission is the governing body of the City of Great Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THAT:

1. The Great Falls City Commission hereby calls for a poll election on the question of conducting a local government review and electing a study commission to be held at the primary election on June 3, 2014.
2. If the voters decide in favor of conducting a local government review, a study commission comprised of five (5) members shall be elected at the general election on November 4, 2014.
3. Section 7-3-175, MCA, requires the question of conducting a local government review shall be submitted to the electors in substantially the following form:

Vote for one:

/ / FOR the review of the government of the City of Great Falls and the establishment and funding, not to exceed \$125,000 which is equivalent to approximately 1.6 mills, of a local government study commission consisting of five (5) members to examine the government of the City of Falls and submit recommendations on the government.

/ / AGAINST the review of the government of the City of Falls and the establishment and funding, not to exceed \$125,000 which is equivalent to approximately 1.6 mills, of a local government study commission consisting of five (5) members to examine the government of the City of Great Falls and submit recommendations on the government.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana,
on this 18th day February, 2014.

Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lucy Hallett, Deputy City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney