

**VOTER REVIEW HISTORY
CASCADE COUNTY
1976**

Cascade County Study Commission

Members

Margaret Tierney, Chairman
Jim Durkin
Leo Walsh
Daniel S. Mortgage
Arlyne W. Reichert

I. The Voter Review Proposal

A charter form of government with self-government powers and an elected executive was proposed. Five commissioners elected by district as well as at large was also proposed. The choice of whether the elections should be non-partisan or partisan was left to the voters.

II. The Study Commission and its Work

Five study commissioners were elected. They met two or more times per month. The study commission's most important objective was to increase governmental power. The study commission was unanimous in its endorsement of the proposed plan. There were no citizen's groups formed to endorse or campaign for the plan.

III. The Voter Review Referendum

The proposed charter was defeated at the November general election by a vote of 9,566 for the charter and 16,364 for the existing county commission form of government.

Great Falls Study Commission

Members

William H. Artz, Chairman
Jack H. Stimpfling
Dr. Henry T. Espelin
George A. Swanson
Patrick L. Paul

I. The Voter Review Proposal

A charter form of government with self government powers with the executive decided by suboptional choice was presented to the voters. Seven commissioners elected from a combination of districts and at-large was proposed. The type of election, partisan or non-partisan was offered as a suboptional choice. A minority report was written by some

member(s) of the study commission.

II. The Study Commission and its Work

Five study commissioners were elected. They met two or more times each month. The study commission stated during their review that their most important objective was greater citizen control over government. More than one study commissioner was in opposition to the final alternative form proposed. One or more members of the study commission campaigned for the proposal. Citizen groups organized to support both the existing form of government as well as the alternative form.

III. The Voter Review Referendum

The proposed charter was rejected at the November, 1976 general election by a vote of 6,512 for the alternative and 12,143 for the existing form of government.

1986

Cascade County Study Commission

Members

Sandra K. Watts - Chair
Larry Strizich
Joan Bennett
R.K. (Bob) Haffner
Barbara Anderson (resigned)
Susan Rice Quinn (appointed)

I. The Voter Review Proposal

A charter form of government with self government powers with an elected executive was proposed to the voters. The proposal included five part-time members nominated by district and elected at-large in partisan elections for four year terms. In addition six separately elected officials were to be selected: Auditor, County Attorney, Sheriff-Coroner, Public Administrator, Clerk of Court and Superintendent of Schools. The other department heads would be appointed.

II. The Study Commission and its Work

The proposal to review county government passed 5,260 to 3,214. Five study commissioners were elected. Two members of the study commission signed a minority report. Though they supported the proposed charter, they also supported an appointed executive and non-partisan elections. Early in the study process (Feb., 1985), members of the 1974-76 study commission met with the county study commission to urge them to look at city-county consolidation. They suggested that the county study commission meet with the city study commission and take a serious look at consolidation of some government services

and offices. In April Don Peoples (Butte-Silver Bow) and Dan Worsdell (Anaconda-Deer Lodge) met with members of city and county study commissions to discuss consolidation. A survey was taken to assess citizen opinion about county government. It was done during the county fair and was intended to be an educational tool, not a randomly done valid survey. This non scientific survey showed that 51% of the people responding thought the city and county should share some services, but only 15% supported city-county consolidation. Four of the five study commissioners voted against the idea of city county consolidation, while one (Haffner) said he was undecided (G.F. Tribune 10/7/85). Four of the five commissioners indicated an interest in city-county sharing of services.

III. The Voter Review Referendum

The proposed charter was defeated at the November, 1986 general election by a vote of 9,040 for the charter and 15,645 for the existing form of government.

Great Falls Study Commission

Members

Owen Robinson - Chair
Jim Durkin
Delmont C. Thurber
Patti Heusel Smith
Turner C. Graybill
Jerry J. McGivern
Paul A. Johnson

I. The Voter Review Proposal

A charter form of government with self-government powers and an appointed city manager as executive was proposed. A directly elected mayor with a two year term of office and a suboptional choice of five or seven commissioners was included, elected at-large for four year terms of office on a non-partisan basis.

II. The Study Commission and its Work

The proposal to review the city government passed 4,005 to 2,385. Seven study commissioners were elected. Jim Durkin was most vocal in his support of city county consolidation. Though the topic was discussed it was not pursued in the final proposals of each study commission.

III. The Voter Review Referendum

The proposed charter was approved at the June 3, 1986 primary election by a vote of 4,625 in favor and 4,571 for the existing city-manager form of government. The sub-option endorsing a five member city commission passed by a vote of 4,880 in favor and 3,629 in favor of a seven member city commission.

1994 - 1996 Voter Review Schedule

Date	Event
June 7, 1994	Primary Election - the following question will appear on the ballot: For the review of the government of the City of Great Falls and the establishment of a local government study commission consisting of (insert number) members to examine the government of Great Falls and submit recommendations thereon.
Nov. 8, 1994	General Election - providing citizens voted yes on primary ballot issue regarding local government review, study commissioners will be elected.
Nov. 1994-96	Term of office for review commissions to study their form of government and to prepare recommendations based on their study.
Nov. 1996	General Election - latest date for submitting an alternative proposed form of government to the voters.