

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW STUDY COMMISSION

CITY OF POLSON, MONTANA

FINAL REPORT

APPROVED JULY 14, 2026

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SUMMARY

The report includes how and why there is a Local Government Review Study Commission. It describes how the commissioners educated themselves about their task, as well as how it went about its business. Specific findings were made as a result of the survey, public hearing, interviews, investigations and observations.

Recommendations for further action are set forth in two categories: (a) Recommendations for amendments to the City Charter which must be approved by the voters, and (b) a supplementary report for action which can be taken by the City Commission exercising its policy making authority.

While the Study Commission recommends keeping the Charter and form of government, it recommends amendments to the Charter to emphasize the authority of the elected officials to be the policy making body for the City. This starts with a change to the Preamble language. Article II changes propose that the mayor have more authority in setting the agenda, and reporting back to the citizens each year. An amendment is suggested to ensure that a majority vote of the entire board is required for the City Commission to act. The Study Commission also recommends that Article III be amended to emphasize that the city manager is continuously responsible to the elected officials, adds additional requirements for the manager to assist the city commissioners, and clarifies that the chief legal officer is employed and/or terminated only by the City Commission. It is also suggested that the charter be changed to allow the City Commission to hire additional legal counsel as it may determine, rather than requiring an exigent circumstance. Minor amendments include correcting text and punctuation as well

as deleting Article VII in its entirety, as there is no transition to a different system contemplated.

The Supplemental Report lists those items which would require action by the City Commission, and not a vote of the electorate. Suggestions include: (a) a review of the Drug Policy, Hiring Policy and budgetary process, (b) amending the City Code to ensure the City Commission receives input from the advisory boards and, (c) improving communication between the City Commission and the Executive.

I

INTRODUCTION

“The Legislature shall require an election in each local government to determine whether a local government will undertake a review procedure “once every ten years. . .”. Article XI, Section 9 of the Montana Constitution. With this statement, the power to examine, scrutinize, assess, and, if necessary, change local government structures is clearly in the hands of the citizens of Montana.

A Study Commission was established for Polson by an affirmative vote to that question at the election held in June 2024. As only five citizens filed to participate as Study Commissioners, there was no requirement that they be submitted to the voters at the election held on November 5, 2024. The city confirmed that Larry Ashcraft, Pete Ridgeway, Mark Hubbard, Dave Rittenhouse and Phil Thelen were the only individuals that filed with the election authority for the five available positions and would comprise the Local Government Review Study Commission. City Commissioner Jake Holley was appointed by the City of Polson to act as the ex-officio member of the Study Commission. The Study Commission elected Larry Ashcraft to be its chairman and that Pete Ridgeway be its vice-chairman. All commissioners serve without pay and freely took the required oath of office.

“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.” MCA 7-3-172.

On December 10, 2024, the Study Commissioners traveled to Whitefish to attend a day-long training session conducted by Ashley Kent of the government center from Montana State University. Additionally, the Study Commission allocated the necessary funding for each Commissioner to participate in the intensive on-line training course offered by MSU.

Over the next year the Study Commission conducted open meetings at least once a month. Interviews were conducted of the City Administrator, the City Attorney, the Mayor and City Commissioners, the Department Heads, as well as former City officials. Study Commissioners met with local citizens, businesses and civic groups. A survey of the public was conducted. Public Hearings were conducted on October 2, 2025, and May 13, 2026. The Study Commission also reviewed charters from other cities in Montana as well as a Model Charter. This report is the result of the Commission’s efforts and sets forth the recommendation of the Commission. See Appendix (a) Local Government Review Commission Public Involvement.

II

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY COMMISSION

Having considered the input received over the course of a year, we find as follows:

1. Our form of government is the Commission-Manager form of government which utilizes the self-governing features of the charter which was adopted twenty years ago. The Study Commission has the authority to make a recommendation to the voters to change the form of government to one of those allowed by the legislature. After study and consideration, it is found that the Commission-Manager form of government remains the best option for a city the size of Polson, with some proposed changes to the charter.
2. There shall still be an elected mayor and commissioners with no change to the qualifications, makeup of the commission, terms and ward system of election.
3. No action shall have been deemed passed or enacted unless there are four (4) votes cast in favor of a proposal. A majority of a quorum of four , i.e.3, should not be a sufficient number to bind the city and authorize the manager to act.

4. The position of Mayor is the only city-wide elected official and should have specific authority to help set the agenda and vision for the future and provide an assessment of the city on an annual basis.
5. There must be a renewed emphasis that the duly elected commissioners of the City of Polson have the sole policy making power for the city. The establishment of policy should be a collaborative process with input from the citizens, commissioners, manager and staff, as well as compliance with the Montana Constitution and state law.
6. All governmental officials need to understand the position to which they have been appointed and become educated and receive formal training regarding the power and authority granted them by the Montana Constitution, statutes and charter. The manager is the city commission's employee who executes its policy, ordinances and code.
7. The charter itself should have some amendments to enhance the democratic process and the policy making authority of the city commission.
8. The Chief Legal Officer should be hired or dismissed by the Commission which may also establish the hiring process. In addition, we find that an exigent circumstance should not be required to seek additional legal advice, but the commission can determine on its own whether external expertise is required.

III

DISCUSSION

The City of Polson's governmental structure is akin to a Constitutional Republic or Representative Democracy, as citizens vote for leaders to represent them in government. These representatives are bound to the people by the charter, which was approved by the citizens. At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government the delegates had created. He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it". This response emphasizes that government is a fragile experiment that requires active participation and vigilance from its citizens to prevent it from failing or turning into a monarchy.

In the Introduction to this report, there was an explanation of how the Study Commission went about its business of learning and gathering opinions, facts and information as to the running and functioning of the local government. As active citizens of Polson themselves, with this task assigned to them, each Study Commissioner may have also participated personally. Observation is a powerful method of data collection that can capture real-time objective behavior in a natural setting. Observation of the behavior of

how the system is working can be as accurate as an interview of the actor who expresses an opinion on how they believe it to be working. Study Commissioners sometimes attended City Commission meetings or watched the live stream of those meetings. The local media has been helpful in its observations of City Commission meetings and its coverage of the issues of the day. One can deduce how issues are presented to the elected officials and how the city functions by this observation.

Because the citizens, by their vote, required this review, the Study Commission sought out information in the form of a survey. This survey could be taken online by using a QR Code, taken on paper and submitted, or taken in person at City Hall.

Survey Results

A total of 180 responses were received; the results are as follows:

Question 1. Did you vote for the local government review? Yes 56.32% No 43.68%

Question 2. Do you feel the current form of government provides the best management for city operations? Yes 27.37% No 39.11% Unsure 33.52%

Question 3. In your view, are the City Councilors and City Manager appropriately operating within their roles as defined in the Commission-Manager form of government? Yes 19.10% No 46.63% Unsure 34.27%

Question 4. Do you think the Commission-Manager form of government ensures efficient and smooth city operations? Yes 27.53% No 43.26% Unsure 29.21%

Question 5. Do you feel the role of the Mayor in the Commission-Manager form of government effectively represents Polson? Yes 31.84% No 40.22% Unsure 27.93%

Question 6. Were you aware that the Local Government Review Study Commission is currently reviewing the form of government? Yes 58.10% No 41.9%

Question 7. Please indicate the appropriate age category: Under 18: 0%, 18-24: 1.11%, 25-34: 3.33%, 35-44: 11.11%, 45-54: 8.33%, 55-64: 22.78%, 65+: 53.33%

Interviews and Public Comment

The Study Commission appreciates the cooperation of the Elected Officials who agreed to meet and be interviewed as well as those members of the public who attended meetings and hearings to express opinions. All Department Head interviews had to be arranged through the Manager. This procedure, along with a somewhat slow response to requests for documents resulted in delays in the Study Commission's progress by months. Perhaps

in the future a master schedule can be adopted by the parties in cooperation with the Executive and that the process can be streamlined.

During discussions with the elected City Commissioners there were several common themes adduced: (a) the Commission and Mayor are isolated from many decisions that are made by the manager and, as a result, they become the first persons to receive the citizen's complaints. There was thought that there are decisions made that are policy-making decisions that should be fully briefed to or approved by the Commission. (b) Members of the City Commission are not sufficiently knowledgeable of their authority, the city charter, state law, and the City Code. (c) City Commission members do not have adequate preparation time for meetings which have a potentially momentous impact, as the packets are available late Thursday for a Monday meeting. (d) the administration should be more active in seeking financial grant opportunities. (e) the quarterly review of the manager and the progress of the city is a critical review of the manager and the meeting of the City's goals and should be continued. (f) the City Commission is not included in the budgetary process, except to approve or disapprove a final product. The budgetary process is where meaningful policy is established. (g) unless individual Commissioners receive constituent complaints, any other adverse information received by the administration is unreported or filtered from City Commission members

Interviews with department heads and staff uniformly supported the existing form of government, with no interest in returning to a mayor-council form of government. Department heads spoke favorably regarding the expertise and management of Mr. Meece.

A public comment during a regular meeting questioned whether the current charter and form of government had transferred too much authority from the mayor to the manager. Although the mayor is the only official elected by all of those who vote, the office is largely ceremonial, having little authority other than to chair meetings and receive a vote.

While many citizens expressed a desire to return to a mayor-council form of government which they felt would be more responsive to the electorate, many others recognize that the individual tasked to execute the policy of the city and administer its many functions is a full-time job requiring professional expertise.

The Study Commission expected more input to the process from the public, however, few, if any, attended a regular meeting or contacted a Study Commissioner through available communication opportunities.

When observing how the city government is administered compared to the requirements of the charter and the city code there are instances of executive over-reach which should be brought to the Commission for an amendment to the Code.

IV

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Study Commission recommends that the citizens of Polson retain the self-rule benefits of a charter with a manager-commission form of government. However, the Study Commission further recommends that there be amendments to the city charter to clarify the power and authority of the branches of government in an effort to make the elected officials and administration more collaborative with each other and with the public who they are to serve. The exact changes and wording to the charter can be reviewed in appendix "A", which is attached. It is proposed that the wording with lines running through it be deleted from the charter and that the red-lettered wording be added to the charter. The following, is a summary of those changes:

THE PREAMBLE

The wording of the preamble is expanded to further describe the reasons for government and the general benefit associated with the proposed form of government.

Article II, Section 2.01: Additional language is proposed to emphasize that the city's authority and powers rest with the City Commission.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Article II, Section 2.11: The existing language regarding the powers and duties of the mayor is deleted and replaced with more expansive language which imposes more duty upon the mayor and requires an annual state of the city message.

Article II, Section 2.12.2: The current language of this section would seem to allow a majority of a quorum to be an official act of the city. As there are 7 voting members, it is believed that an action should require a positive vote of at least 4 and not 3 just because 3 members are absent. Additional language is added to clarify that if Montana state law requires a supermajority vote, i.e., a two-thirds vote, then that number must be met.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Article III: Introductory language has been added to emphasize that the city manager is continuously responsible to the elected representatives of the people, the city commission.

Article III, Section 3.02: Adds two additional duties to the city manager requiring specific assistance to the city commissioners.

Article III, Section 3.04 is deleted to eliminate an inconsistency in the charter with respect to how the manager's compensation is set.

Article III, Section 3.05: Renumbered as 3.04. Additionally, it amends language of the section to make it the authority of the city commission to employ and/or terminate the chief legal officer. It authorizes the city commission to adopt such procedures as it sees fit in the hiring process. The previous language that the manager supervises the chief legal officer is removed. As a department head, the chief legal officer has administrative responsibility to the manager, however, the manager should not supervise the chief legal officer's opinions as the chief legal officer is responsible for independent legal advice to the city commission. There is also an amendment to allow the commission, in its judgment, to seek additional counsel as it may require. The language requiring an "exigent circumstance" to hire additional counsel is removed.

TRANSITION PROVISIONS

Article VII: Because there are proposed amendments to the existing charter which do not impact the existing form of government, the Study Commission does not find that transition provisions need be included, therefore, it is deleted in its entirety.

V

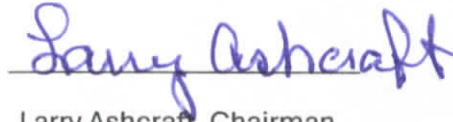
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

The Section IV Recommendations will be presented to the voters at the election of November 2026. This Supplementary Report addresses the concerns expressed to the Study Commission but do not or cannot, in our opinion, be addressed by changes to the form of government or the charter. Many issues can be resolved by exercising the powers and the authority already in place as well as having better lines of communication between the Executive and the Legislature.

The city drug policy for employees predates changes to the Montana law on the subject. The City Commission should determine if this is a stand-alone policy or contained in the personnel manual. During the interview with the City Manager, Mr. Meece agreed that it is within the power and authority of the City Commission to establish this policy.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Polson, do hereby
certify that this is the Final Report of the Polson Local
Government Review Study commission.

Done at Polson, Montana this 14th of July, 2026.



Larry Ashcraft, Chairman



Peter Ridgeway, Vice Chairman



David Rittenhouse



Mark Hubbard



Philip Thelen

EXHIBIT A
CERTIFICATE ESTABLISHING THE EXISTING PLAN OF GOVERNMENT
(All language, including interlineated, in black font), and
CERTIFICATE ESTABLISHING THE PROPOSED PLAN OF GOVERNMENT
(All language in black font not interlineated plus all language in red font)
FOR THE CITY OF POLSON

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF POLSON, MONTANA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF POLSON, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF MONTANA, in accordance with Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Montana, do hereby adopt this self-government Charter **in order to secure the benefits of local self-government and to provide for an honest and accountable council-manager government and confer upon the city the following powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of home rule and affirm the values of representative democracy, professional management, strong leadership, public accountability, transparent decision making, public engagement, and regional cooperation.**

ARTICLE I POWERS OF THE CITY

Section 1.01 Powers of the City of

The City of Polson shall have all powers not prohibited by the Constitution of Montana, the laws of Montana, or this Charter.

Section 1.02 Interpretations of Powers

1. The self-government powers and authority of this city shall be liberally construed. Every reasonable doubt as to the existence of a city power or authority shall be resolved in favor of the existence of that power or authority.

2. As provided by Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Montana, provisions herein establishing executive, legislative and administrative structure and organization are superior to statutory provisions.

Section 1.03 Restrictions

1. The property tax mill levy of the city shall be limited to that of Montana municipal governments with general powers, except with the prior approval of the electors of the city voting on the question in a general or special municipal election.
2. No increase in any city license fee, user fee or utility charge shall be made without conducting a public hearing, as required by law.

ARTICLE II LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 2.01 City Commission

The legislative branch of the city shall be the city commission, which shall be the governing body of the city. The city commission may be referred to as the city Commission. All powers of the city shall be vested in the city commission, except as otherwise provided by law or this charter. The commission shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the city by law.

Section 2.02 Composition

The city commission shall be composed of six (6) commissioners, two elected from each of three (3) wards and a mayor, elected at large.

Section 2.03 Qualifications for Office

Every resident of the City of Polson who is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of Montana and a qualified elector pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Montana Constitution and who has resided within the city limits of the City of Polson for more than one year is eligible to hold the office of commissioner or mayor.

Section 2.04 Terms of Office

1. Members of the commission shall be elected to four years, overlapping terms of office.
2. The mayor shall be elected to a four-year term of office.

Section 2.05 Elections

1. Commission members and the mayor shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis.
2. Commission members shall be elected by district (ward), which is apportioned by population. Candidates for the commission must reside within the ward they seek to represent at the time of their election and during the entire term of office.
3. The mayor shall be elected at large and must reside within the city limits of the City of Polson at the time of election and during the entire term of office.

Section 2.06 Vacancy in Office

The offices of commissioner and mayor become vacant as prescribed by law.

Section 2.07 Removal from Office

A commissioner or the mayor may be removed from office by a finding, adopted by the affirmative vote of four (4) commissioners, that the office has become vacant as prescribed by law or by the recall of the commissioner or the mayor by the electors of Polson, as prescribed by law.

Section 2.08 Filling Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs in the office of commissioner or in the office of mayor, the position shall be considered open and subject to nomination and election at the next general municipal election, except the term of office shall be limited to the unexpired term of the person who originally created the vacancy. Pending such election and qualification, the commission shall appoint within 30 days of the vacancy, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the commission members, a person possessing the qualifications for office required by law and this Charter to hold the office until the successor is elected and qualified.

Section 2.09 Powers and Duties

1. The commission shall be the legislative and policy-making body of the city. All governing powers of the city shall be vested in the city commission except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter and the commission shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed by law or this Charter.
2. All members of boards, other than temporary advisory committees established by the manager, shall be appointed by the commission. The appointment process shall be prescribed by commission resolution.

Section 2.10 Chairman of the Commission

The chairman and presiding officer of the commission shall be the mayor, who shall vote as other members of the commission and shall not have veto authority. In the absence of the mayor, the commission shall select a person from among their own number to serve as acting chairman and presiding officer.

Section 2.11 ~~Other Duties of the Mayor~~ Power and Duties of the Mayor

~~The mayor shall be recognized as the principal officer of city government for ceremonial purposes and shall have no other executive or administrative duties, except as specifically prescribed by resolution.~~ **Powers and Duties: The mayor shall be a voting member of the city commission and shall attend and preside at meetings of the commission, represent the city in intergovernmental relationships, appoint with the advice and consent of the commission the members of city and community advisory boards and commissions, present an annual state of the city message, appoint the members and officers of commission committees, and perform other duties specified by the commission. The mayor shall be recognized as head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for purposes of military law.**

Section 2.12 Legislative Action

1. A quorum of not less than four (4) commission members, one of whom may be the mayor, must be physically present when official actions are taken by the commission.

2. The affirmative vote of a majority of the **total** commission one of whom may be the mayor, (i.e. 4) shall be required for all official actions of the commission. **If Montana law requires more than a majority, then that law shall prevail.**

Section 2.13 Procedure

The commission shall, by resolution, establish its rules of procedure and time and place of meetings.

Section 2.14 Compensation

The compensation of the commission shall be set by ordinance.

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Introduction

In the council-manager form of government, the city manager is responsible to the city commission, the elected representative of the people.

Section 3.01 The City Manager

1. The city manager, who shall be the chief executive and chief administrative officer of the city, shall be appointed by the city commission on the basis of merit only and may be removed only by the affirmative vote of four (4) members of the city commission.
2. The city manager shall be appointed by written contract which shall specify the duties and responsibilities, conditions of employment and compensation of the city manager. Said contract shall not exceed duration of two years unless specifically extended or renewed by majority vote of the city Commission

Section 3.02 Duties of the Manager

The city manager shall:

1. enforce laws, ordinances, resolutions and this Charter.
2. perform the duties required by law, ordinance, resolution or this Charter.
3. administer the affairs of the city government.
4. direct, supervise, and administer all departments, agencies, and offices of the city except as otherwise provided by law, ordinance or this Charter.
5. carry out policies established by the commission.
6. prepare the commission agenda in accordance with the requirements and methods of the city code.
7. recommend measures to the commission.
8. report to the commission on the affairs and financial condition of the city government.
9. execute bonds, notes, contracts, and written obligations of the commission, subject to the approval of the commission.
10. report to the commission as the commission may require.
11. attend commission meetings and may take part in the discussion, but may not vote;
12. prepare and present the budget to the commission for its approval and execute the budget adopted by the commission.
13. appoint, suspend, and remove all employees of the city except as otherwise provided by law, ordinance or this Charter.
14. appointing members of temporary advisory committees established by the city manager.
15. Provide staff support services for the mayor and commission members as authorized by the commission.
16. Assist the commission to develop long term goals for the city and strategies to implement these goals.

Section 3.03 City Manager's Supervisory Authority

Employees appointed by the city manager and his or her subordinates shall be administratively responsible to the city manager. Neither the commission nor any of its members may dictate the appointment or removal of any employee whom the city manager or subordinates are empowered to appoint. Except for the purpose of inquiry or investigation ordered by a majority vote of the

commission, the commission and any of its members shall deal with city employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the city manager solely through the city manager, and neither the commission nor its members may give orders to any such employee, either publicly or privately.

Section 3.04 Compensation

The compensation of the manager shall be set by ordinance.

Section 3.05 Chief Legal Officer

1. There shall be a chief legal officer of the city, who may be called the city attorney, appointed by ~~the city manager with the consent of the~~ **majority vote of the** commission, who shall serve as legal advisor to the city commission, the city manager, and all city departments, offices and agencies. **The appointment process shall be determined by the city commission.**
2. The chief legal officer shall be appointed by written contract which shall specify the duties and responsibilities, conditions of employment and compensation of the chief legal officer. Said contract shall not exceed duration of two years unless specifically extended or renewed by majority vote of the city commission.
3. The chief legal officer shall represent the city in all legal proceedings unless otherwise determined by the commission and shall perform other duties prescribed by ordinance. The commission may engage such additional legal counsel as **it may require.** ~~be required to meet exigent circumstances.~~
4. The chief legal officer ~~shall be supervised by the city manager and~~ shall have the status of a department head, **shall exercise independent legal judgment, and shall not except that he or she may not be removed or suspended by the city manager except by the majority vote of the commission.** ~~without the consent of the commission.~~

ARTICLE IV JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 4.01 City Court

There shall be a city court or municipal court as prescribed by law.

ARTICLE V DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

Section 5.01

The organization of city departments shall be prescribed by ordinance.

ARTICLE VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 6.01 Amendment of Charter

This Charter may be amended only by the electors, as prescribed by law.

Section 6.02 Effective Date

This Amended Charter shall become effective on **January 1, 2027**

Section 6.03 Oath of Office

Before assuming the duties of office, all elected city officials and the city manager shall take and subscribe to the oath of office as prescribed in Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution of Montana.

Section 6.04 Severability

If any provision of this Charter is held invalid, the other provisions of this Charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the Charter, or any part of its provisions, to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the application of the Charter and its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

ARTICLE VII TRANSITION PROVISIONS

Section 7.01 General Transition

Transition to this charter form of government shall be as prescribed by law. The Study Commission shall provide for such transition with an advisory plan consistent with law. This transition article shall not be published as part of the Charter after June 30, 2008.

Section 7.02 Continuation in Office

1. No current city employee shall lose employment solely because of the adoption of this Charter.
2. All members of the city Commission holding office at the time this Charter is adopted may continue in office until their successors are elected, qualified and sworn into office.
3. The person serving as the incumbent mayor in the existing, Commission-mayor form of government may continue in that office until such time as the city manager is sworn into office, at which time the office of mayor in the existing Commission mayor form of government shall be vacated. Pursuant to the provisions of section 2.08 of this Charter, the commission may appoint the incumbent mayor to serve as the mayor of the new government until the expiration of his original term of office.

Section 7.03 Review of Existing Ordinances

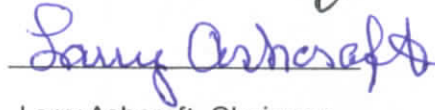
All city ordinances, resolutions and rules of the City of Polson shall remain in effect until reviewed, continued, revised or repealed by the city commission. The city commission shall review and, where necessary, revise or repeal all city ordinances to provide for compliance and consistency with this Charter and state law no later than June 30, 2008.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Polson, do hereby certify that this is the amended self-government Charter proposed for the City of Polson by the Polson Local Government Review Study commission to be submitted to the voters of Polson on November 3, 2026.

In testimony whereof, we set our hands.

SEAL

Done at Polson, Montana this 14th day of July, 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Ashcraft", written over a horizontal line.

Larry Ashcraft, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Ridgeway", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Ridgeway, Vice Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rittenhouse", written over a horizontal line.

David Rittenhouse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hubbard", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Hubbard

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip Thelen", written over a horizontal line.

Philip Thelen

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cora E. Britt", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk

Exhibit B

**CERTIFICATE REGARDING THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED FORM AND PLAN OF
GOVERNMENT**

The proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of Polson, change neither the form nor the plan of government, as the proposals are amendments to certain powers, duties and responsibilities and an exercise of self-governing powers.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Polson do hereby affirm that there is no change proposed to the existing form of government of the City of Polson.

In testimony whereof, we set out hands.

Done at Polson City Hall this 14th day of July, 2026.



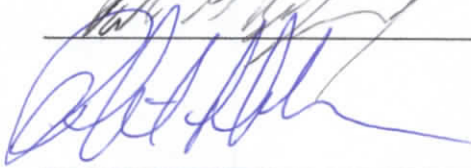
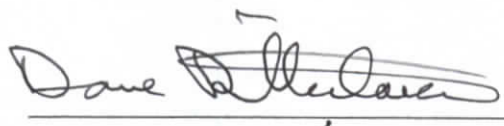
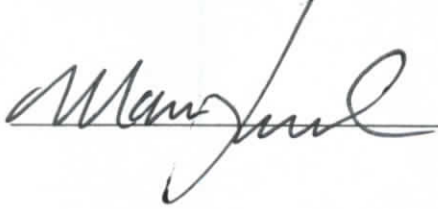




EXHIBIT C.

CERTIFICATE ESTABLISHING THE DATE OF ELECTION
AT WHICH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER
SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE ELECTORS OF
THE CITY OF POLSON

The amendments to the Charter of the City of Polson proposed by the Local Government Review Study Commission shall be submitted to the voters of the City of Polson at the regular election to be held on November 3, 2026.

We, the undersigned Commissioners of the
Local Government Review Study Commission
Certify that this is the date of the election
approved by the Study Commission.

Samy Ashcraft

[Signature]

Dave DeLano

Mary [Signature]

Attested by the City Clerk this 14th day of July, 2026

Cora E. Britt
City Clerk

EXHIBIT D.

CERTIFICATE

ESTABLISHING THE OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR

THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ELECTION

BALLOT ON AMENDING THE POLSON CITY CHARTER

Vote for One.

- ☐ FOR the adoption of the amendments to the City Charter recommended by the Local Government Review Study Commission.
- ☐ FOR the existing City Charter.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Polson do hereby affirm that this is the official ballot approved by the Local Government Review Study Commission of the City of Polson.

In testimony whereof, we set out hands.

Done at Polson City Hall this 14th day of July, 2026.

Samy Ashcraft

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

SEAL

ATTEST:

Cora E. Britt

Polson City Clerk