

Welcome to the Lincoln County Government Study Commission Survey!

The Study Commissions are unique to Montana and enshrined in the Montana State Constitution. Their purpose is to evaluate the local government's Form (i.e. organizational structure), Powers (i.e. what it can and cannot do), and Plan (terms of office, partisan vs. non partisan, etc...) to ensure it is responsive to community needs. In the event of shortcomings, a Study Commission can produce a ballot measure with recommended changes for voters to approve.

Your input is critical in steering the Lincoln County Study Commission towards any needed changes. Results of the survey will be available for public review in the coming months. As an added incentive, you will be entered into a drawing to win one of four \$100 gift cards for participating in the study. The survey should only take 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

Thank you for your time!

1. In the 2024 primary election, did you vote in favor of creating the Lincoln County Government Study Commission?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

2. In the event you voted for the Commission, please share why.

3. Do you find you have access to county decision makers?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

4. How responsive is the county government to public input?

- ☐ Very Responsive
- ☐ Responsive
- ☐ Neither responsive nor non responsive
- ☐ Nonresponsive
- ☐ Very nonresponsive

5. Should the number of county commissioners be changed (currently three)?

- ☐ Yes – Increase to five commissioners
- ☐ No change needed, leave three commissioners
- ☐ Not sure

6. How should the Lincoln County Commissioners be elected (currently at large)?

- ☐ At large (county wide)
- ☐ By district (one commissioner per geographic region)
- ☐ A combination of both
- ☐ Not sure

7. Lincoln County Commissioner elections should be (current form is partisan):

- ☐ Partisan
- ☐ Non partisan
- ☐ Not sure

8. The term of office for county commissioners should be (current term is 6 years):

- ☐ 2 years
- ☐ 4 years
- ☐ 6 years
- ☐ Not sure

9. County commissioner terms should be (currently overlapping):

- ☐ Overlapping (rotating terms)
- ☐ Concurrent (all commissioners elected simultaneously)
- ☐ Not sure

10. The county would benefit if the following positions were appointed rather than elected (check all that apply):

- ☐ Sheriff
- ☐ Coroner
- ☐ School Superintendent
- ☐ District Court Clerk
- ☐ Clerk and Recorder
- ☐ Treasurer
- ☐ County Attorney
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ None of the above

11. Lincoln County would benefit from **hiring** a professional manager to administer daily operations, hire personnel, and prepare budget recommendations.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

12. Lincoln County would benefit from **electing** an executive to manage daily operations, hire personnel, and hold veto power over the commission.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

13. What are the most pressing issues the Lincoln County government faces?

14. What is one thing you would change about the Lincoln County government?

15. Regarding the Lincoln County Government Study Commission's scope (government form, power, and plan), is there anything else you wish to add?

16. Given multiple options, how would you prefer to receive updates from the county (select all that apply)?

- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Text Messages
- ☐ More public meetings
- ☐ Newspapers
- ☐ County website
- ☐ Livestreams or recordings
- ☐ Other (please specify)

17. Residency

- ☐ I live in Lincoln County, Montana
- ☐ I own property in the county, but do not live in Lincoln County
- ☐ I work in Lincoln County, but live elsewhere
- ☐ Other (please specify)

18. What is the zip code of your primary residence?

19. Are you a registered voter in the county?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

20. Would it be ok to contact you in the event we'd like to ask you a follow-up question (please include preferred contact information)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21. Would you like to be entered into the prize drawing with a chance to win 1 of 4 available \$100 gift cards? We'll need your contact information if you win!

Thank you for your time! Your feedback will be incorporated into the Lincoln County Government Study Commission's final report. Your input will help shape recommendations, and if approved, may be put to a county-wide vote next November.

Questions on the following page are optional

To help verify whether this survey is representative of the population of Lincoln County and to enhance the reliability of the survey results, the following three optional demographic questions are being asked. Your responses are confidential and will only be used in summary form.

What is your age?

- ☐ 18 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 or older

What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other (specify)

What is your approximate average household income?

- ☐ \$0-\$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000-\$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000-\$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000-\$124,999
- ☐ \$125,000-\$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000-\$174,999
- ☐ \$175,000-\$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 and over