



LINCOLN COUNTY MONTANA

RESOLUTION 2026-1

**A Resolution of the Lincoln County Local Government Review Study Commission
Recommending a Commission Form of County Government and Submitting the
Recommendation to the Electors Pursuant to Article XI, Section 9, Montana
Constitution, and Title 7, Chapter 3, MCA**

THE LINCOLN COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW STUDY COMMISSION FINDS:

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 9 of the Montana Constitution and Title 7, Chapter 3, Montana Code Annotated authorize the electorate to adopt an alternative form of county government upon recommendation of a local government review study commission; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Local Government Review Study Commission has completed its review of the existing form of county government as required by Montana law; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission has conducted its review, received public input, and evaluated the structure and operation of Lincoln County government; and

WHEREAS, the Study Commission recommends submission to the electors of the Commission Form of county government authorized by Title 7, Chapter 3, Part 4, MCA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 7-3-192, MCA, a recommendation of a local government review study commission must be submitted to the electors at the next general election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. RECOMMENDATION, CERTIFICATION, AND TRANSMITTAL

The Lincoln County Local Government Review Study Commission hereby recommends adoption of the Commission Form of county government authorized by Title 7, Chapter 3, Part 4, MCA.

The Study Commission hereby certifies this recommendation as its final recommendation for submission to the qualified electors of Lincoln County at the 2026 general election.

The Chair and Secretary are authorized to execute and transmit the Final Report, including this certified recommendation, to the Lincoln County Elections Administrator in accordance with Montana law.

SECTION 2. SUBMISSION TO ELECTORS

The following ballot issue shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Lincoln County at the 2026 general election in substantially the following form, subject to formatting changes by election officials:

OFFICIAL BALLOT ISSUE

COUNTY GOVERNMENT REVIEW – LINCOLN COUNTY, MONTANA

Shall Lincoln County adopt the Commission Form of government authorized by Title 7, Chapter 3, Part 4, Montana Code Annotated, in place of its existing form of county government, as recommended by the



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Lincoln County Government Study Commission? Adoption of the Commission Form of government will permit voters to alter Lincoln County's government plan in future elections. Under the current form of county government, alterations to plan cannot be made.

Vote for One:

- ☐ **FOR** adoption of the Commission Form of county government proposed for Lincoln County by the Lincoln County Study Commission.
- ☐ **FOR** retaining the existing Elected County Officials Form of Government.

SECTION 3. STRUCTURAL EFFECT OF ADOPTION

If approved, this measure establishes a Commission Form of county government under which the Board of County Commissioners serves as the county's governing authority and exercises legislative, executive, and administrative powers as authorized by the Montana Constitution and state law.

The current Elected County Officials Form of government is the statutory basis for the Commission Form of government and adoption of the Commission Form does not alter the fundamental governmental structure established under Elected County Officials Form of government.

The Board of County Commissioners shall have authority to establish, organize, supervise, and administer county departments and operations as provided by law.

Elected county offices required by the Montana Constitution or Montana statutes shall continue unless otherwise changed by law or by future voter-approved action authorized by law.

This measure does not expand or reduce the legal powers of Lincoln County. Rather, it changes the form of county government to provide greater flexibility for future study commissions to review, evaluate and recommend updates to governance sub options and administrative provisions as authorized by applicable law, without requiring fundamental change to the form of government.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved by the electors, the adopted form of county government shall take effect on January 1, 2027, or as otherwise provided by law and any transition plan adopted as provided in Title 7, Chapter 3, MCA.

ADOPTED by the Lincoln County Local Government Review Study Commission
this 17 day of June, 2026.

LINCOLN COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW STUDY COMMISSION

Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary