

**FINAL STUDY COMMISSION'S REPORT
FOR THE CITY OF THREE FORKS, MONTANA**

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I. LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF THREE FORKS

To the Citizens of the City of Three Forks:

The City of Three Forks Study Commission elected by the voters on November 2, 2004, or thereafter appointed, present this final report to you, the citizens of the City of Three Forks.

The purpose of the study commission, as defined in state law, is "to study the existing form and powers of local government and procedures for delivery of local government services and to compare them with other forms available under the laws of the state." After completing these two phases of the study it is the responsibility of the study commission to submit a final report recommending no change, or propose an amendment to the existing form of government or offer an alternative form of government to the qualified electors.


In every phase of this review this study commission sought advice and information from as many people in the City as possible. Opinions and recommendations were solicited from local government officials, community organizations and citizens. All meetings of the study commission were advertised and open to the public. Commission members visited with various members of the public to explain the work of the commission and also to hear the viewpoints, ideas, and concerns of community members. Public hearings were held; a survey of citizen attitudes was made.

Our recommendations reflect the thoughts and opinions of those who participated in public hearings, those who attended our regular meetings, and those who responded to a survey, in addition to the independent efforts of this study commission.

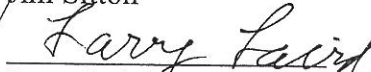
In this tentative report we present our recommendations for an alternative form of government that we feel will provide the governmental services expected by the people both today and in the future. Our concern has been to provide a form of government that will be responsive to local citizens and provide the opportunity for devising solutions to local problems. We feel the citizens of the City of Three Forks can achieve these goals by adopting the Charter form with self-government powers.

The question of adopting this alternative form of government will be placed on the ballot November 8, 2005.


Respectfully submitted,
City of Three Forks Study Commissioners



Jim Sitton



Larry Laird



Pete Valdón

II. REPORT SUMMARY

II. REPORT SUMMARY

The City of Three Forks Study Commission having thoroughly studied our present form of government and the alternative forms of government available to cities under state law, and having studied the future governmental needs of the city, recommends the following:

1. The City of Three Forks should adopt, effective July 1, 2006, the charter form of government with "self-government powers".

A. *Findings of the Study Commission*

After a thorough study of the present form of government of the City of Three Forks, it is the decision of the study commission to recommend a change in the form of government to a Charter form with self-governing powers.

One primary part of this charter, that would change the present form of government, would be a change from the present ward system of electing city council members to at-large voting. The City is presently divided into three wards with two council members elected from each ward. The Study Commission discovered that the ward system has hindered the City's ability to fill council seats that have vacated before a member's term is up. On several occasions the reason for the member's resignation was that they were moving to another ward. They are required to resign when this occurs even though most of these individuals would have preferred to finish out their term. The City then advertises for citizens from such ward to submit a letter applying for this vacant seat. There have been instances when no one applied from that ward and the Mayor and/or Council members had to go begging for someone to apply.

Additionally, there have been occasions when a citizen from a particular ward was interested in serving the community as a Councilperson but chose not to apply to place their name on the ballot because they liked the job the Councilpersons were doing in their ward. In such a case the City is possibly missing out on the services of a dedicated and/or quality candidate. On the other hand on several occasions only one person filed for the ballot for a seat in a given ward and they were automatically elected no matter how many votes they received since they were running unopposed. In some cases it may be an individual not suited for the position or that might have some private agenda they are pursuing and would not be beneficial to the City in other needed areas.

Another issue concerning the ward structure is that the City's expansion will predictably occur to the south and the west. Continued expansion in these areas will cause a continuous need of redistricting to keep the population in each ward close to equivalent as required by State law. This redistricting process can be complicated, time consuming, confusing, and costly to the citizens. At-large voting would alleviate this requirement and provide for a more efficient government.

A concern of some citizens was that at-large voting might create a council comprised of several members from one section of the City that would carry out an agenda for their neighborhoods. Since Three Forks has such a diverse population with no areas of the community with a majority population based on ethnic, religious, or other like categories the fear of this argument becoming a reality seems minimal.

The City of Three Forks' statutory basis for municipal-mayor government has two items that would be clarified by a charter:

1. MCA Section 7-3-217(1) states that the city's financial officer (who may be called the treasurer) shall be elected. The treasurer for the City of Three Forks has always been appointed by the mayor with the consent of the council. Many third class cities in the State, including the City of Three Forks, defer this to MCA Article 7-4-4102 which states that the city treasurer may be appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council. This apparent conflict of State statutes could be clarified by clearly stating, within the proposed charter, that the city treasurer will be appointed by the mayor with the consent of the council.
2. MCA Section 7-3-219(1) states that local government elections shall be conducted on a partisan basis. The State gave cities the opportunity to change this by resolution in 1987. Subsequently, the City of Three Forks passed Resolution #549 on August 10, 1987, declaring that the City would conduct local elections on a nonpartisan basis. This item would be contained in the Charter and result in all items occurring in this one document.

Self-governing powers allow the City any powers not specifically disallowed by the State. Some small cities in the State have found the need for self-governing powers that did not have such and it then took upwards to two years to get this issue on the ballot and approved by the voters. An example of this is the Town of Troy, Montana, which, because of its self-government charter, was able to develop and operate its own electrical energy capability. Although the Study Commission does not recognize a current need for self-governing powers for the City of Three Forks, if the City has such flexibility and the need arises some time in the future, it would provide the City immediate power to act in its best interest.

In an attempt to remedy and/or clarify all the issues presented above, the Study Commission recommends a change to a charter form of government that would encompass all of these items.

B. Key Provisions of the Proposal

1. Self-government Powers

Under the 1972 State Constitution, the potential power and authority of local government has been changed. Traditionally, the power over governmental concerns of the city has been the prerogative of the state legislature. The legislature decided what city government should do and how it should do it.

The new constitution provides that "self-government powers" can be adopted by cities along with an alternative form of government. The adoption of self-government powers would mean greater flexibility in shaping governmental structure, greater power to solve our own problems, and more responsibility to recognize and deal with these problems.

2. Election of council members at-large

Council members are currently elected by districts (wards). Two council members are elected by the registered voters in each of three wards. The proposed change would create at-large voting for all council members by all registered voters in the community

III. A COMPARISON OF THE EXISTING PLAN AND PROPOSED PLAN OF CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THREE FORKS, MONTANA

A. EXISTING FORM

The existing form of government of the City of Three Forks is a typical Mayor-Council form of government with general powers. The City is divided into three wards and two council members are elected from each ward. Elections are non-partisan. City staff, including the financial officer (referred to as the city treasurer), are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council.

B. PROPOSED FORM

The proposed plan of government, if approved, would give the City self-governing powers. Self-governing powers allows a City the power to do anything not specifically prohibited by the State.

The proposed plan also changes the way city council members are elected in Three Forks. Six council members serve the city, two of whom are presently elected from each of three districts (wards) in which they must reside. If the new plan of government is approved, council members may be elected from anywhere in the city. The only residency requirement is that they must reside within the city limits of Three Forks.

C. Comparison of Specific Characteristics of the Existing and the Proposed Forms of Government

The chart on the following page compares characteristics of the existing form of city government with the proposed form of government.

**CITY OF THREE FORKS
COMPARISON OF SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
MAYOR-COUNCIL AND CHARTER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT**

CHARACTERISTICS	PRESENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT	PROPOSED FORM OF GOVERNMENT	COMMENTS
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	MAYOR-COUNCIL Elected council performs policy-making functions. Elected mayor administers government with the advise and consent of the council.	CHARTER Elected council performs policy-making functions. Elected mayor administers government with the advice and consent of council.	Charter provisions establish executive, legislative, and administrative structure and organization and are superior to statutory provisions.
POWERS	General government powers.	Self-government powers.	Self-government powers bring to the city the power to act in its own best interest, and flexibility in shaping government structure.
GOVERNING BODY	Council and mayor responsible for all legislative, executive and administrative functions.	Council and mayor responsible for all legislative, executive and administrative functions.	No change
Size	6 council members elected from wards in nonpartisan elections. Mayor elected at-large.	6 council members elected at-large in nonpartisan elections. Mayor elected at-large.	Would replace ward system with at-large voting for all council members.
Term	Four year overlapping terms.	Four year overlapping terms.	No change
Presiding Officer	Mayor	Mayor	No change
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	The elected mayor administers the government on a part-time basis.	The elected mayor administers the government on a part-time basis.	No change
Powers and Duties	The mayor carries out the policies of the council, advises the council, executes the budget, and enforces laws, ordinances and resolutions.	The mayor carries out the policies of the council, advises the council, executes the budget, and enforces laws, ordinances and resolutions.	No change
Appointment Powers	The mayor appoints department heads and members of boards and commissions with the consent of the council.	The mayor appoints department heads and members of boards and commissions with the consent of the council.	No change
Budget Preparation	Mayor prepares budget in cooperation with department heads. Budget is then modified and approved by the city council.	Mayor prepares budget in cooperation with department heads. Budget is then modified and approved by the city council.	No change

D. Recommendations and reasons


Self-governing powers would allow the city any powers not specifically prohibited by the state. Although the study commission sees no current specific need for such powers, like those utilized by the City of Troy, Montana, to develop and operate its own electrical energy capability, the study commission believes that it would be in the best interest of the community to have those powers in place in case the need arises. This would give our city leaders the flexibility for future needs and add to the efficiency of our government.

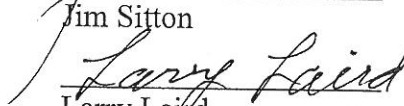
Historically those communities governed by mayor-council forms of government, such as Three Forks, have elected their representatives from wards. This assures representation from each district in the city. Those representatives may have a tendency to think primarily in terms of the needs of their own district. Communities which have distinctive neighborhoods with particular needs may be better represented on the city council if their council members come from their neighborhoods and are elected because they understand the needs of their neighborhoods. This is particularly true in cities having substantial minority populations and neighborhoods significantly differentiated by wealth.

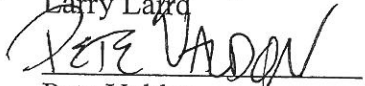
The study commissions believes that at-large elections will better serve the needs of the community and greatly enhance the efficiency of the city government. At-large elections allow qualified electors from the city to run for office without regard to where they live in the city. Representatives who run at-large may tend to think of the needs of their whole community. There is less need for electing representatives by district where the population is relatively homogeneous like that of the City of Three Forks. With at-large elections, candidates for city council may be recruited from the whole city, without regard to where they live in the city. Whenever vacancies occur on the council, the council may appoint replacements without being restricted to candidates from a given district.

Voters currently may vote only for those candidates from their district. If at-large elections are approved, voters may vote on candidates from the whole community. Voters may enjoy the opportunity to express their opinion on all positions open on the ballot.

City of Three Forks Study Commissioners


Jim Sitton


Larry Laird


Pete Valdon

CERTIFICATE
ESTABLISHING THE EXISTING PLAN OF GOVERNMENT
FOR THE
CITY OF THREE FORKS, MONTANA

If retained by the voters, the government of Three Forks shall remain organized under the following provisions of 7-3-113, M.C.A. which authorizes the municipal commission-mayor form of government.

7-3-113. Statutory basis for municipal commission-mayor government.

(1) For the purpose of determining the statutory basis of existing units of local government, each unit of local government organized under the general statutes authorizing the municipal commission-mayor form of government, which does not adopt a new form, shall be governed after May 2, 1977 by the following sections:

- (a) 7-3-201;
- (b) 7-3-202(1);
- (c) 7-3-203;
- (d) 7-3-212(2);
- (e) 7-3-213(3);
- (f) 7-3-214(2);
- (g) 7-3-215(2);
- (h) 7-3-216(2);
- (i) 7-3-217(2); Authorized by 7-4-4102(4)(c)M.C.A.
- (j) 7-3-218(2)
- (k) 7-3-219(2) Authorized by City's Resolution #549 on August 10, 1987.
- (l) 7-3-220(1)
- (m) 7-3-221(3)
- (n) 7-3-222(2)
- (o) 7-3-223(2)

(2) This form has terms of 4 years for all elected officials. The size of the commission shall be six (6) members.

These sections establish the following form of government which shall be called the MUNICIPAL COMMISSION-MAYOR FORM.

7-3-201. Commission-executive form. The commission-executive form (which may be called the commission-executive, the commission-mayor, or the commission-mayor form) consists of an elected commission (which may be referred to as the commission) and one elected executive (who may be referred to as the mayor) who is elected at-large.

7-3-202 (1). Nature of government. The plan of government submitted to the qualified electors shall determine the powers of the local government unit by authorizing general government powers.

7-3-203. Duties of the executive. The executive shall:

- (1) enforce laws, ordinances, and resolution;

- (2) perform duties required of him by law, ordinance, or resolution;
- (3) administer affairs of the local government;
- (4) carry out policies established by the commission;
- (5) recommend measures to the commission;
- (6) report to the commission on the affairs and financial condition of the local government;
- (7) execute bonds, notes, contracts and written obligations of the commission, subject to the approval of the commission;
- (8) report to the commission as the commission may require;
- (9) attend commission meetings and may take part in discussions;
- (10) execute the budget adopted by the commission;
- (11) appoint, with consent of the commission, all members of boards; except the executive may appoint without the consent of the commission temporary advisory committees established by the executive.

7-3-212 (2). Administrative assistants. The executive may appoint one or more administrative assistants to assist him in the supervision and operation of the local government, and such administrative assistants shall be answerable solely to the executive.

7-3-213 (3). Supervision of personnel. The executive may appoint, with consent of the a majority of the commission, all department heads and remove department heads and may appoint and remove all other department employees.

7-3-214 (2). Veto power. The executive may veto ordinances and resolution, subject to override by a two-thirds vote of the commission.

7-3-215 (2). Preparation of budget. The executive may prepare the budget in consultation with the commission and department heads.

7-3-216 (2). Administrative supervision and control. The executive may exercise control and supervision of all departments and boards to the degree authorized by ordinance of the commission.

7-3-217 (2). Financial officer. A financial officer (who may be called the treasurer) shall be appointed by the executive with the consent of the commission.

7-3-218 (2). Selection of commission members. The commission shall be elected by districts in which candidates must reside and which are apportioned by population.

7-3-219 (2). Type of election. Local government elections shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis.

7-3-220 (1). Chairman of commission. The commission shall have a chairman who shall be elected by the members of the commission from their own number for a term established by ordinance.

7-3-221 (3). Presiding officer of the commission. The presiding officer of the commission shall be the executive, who shall decide all tie votes of the commission but shall have no other vote (the chairman of the commission shall preside if the executive is absent).

7-3-222 (2). **Terms of commission members.** Commission members shall be elected for overlapping terms of office.

7-3-223 (2). **Size of commission and community councils.** The size of the commission shall be six (6), and community councils to advise commissioners may be authorized by ordinance.

7-3-224. **Terms of elected officials.** The term of office of elected officials shall be four (4) years.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Three Forks do hereby certify that this is the existing Plan of Government as established by Section 7-3-111 MCA.

In testimony whereof, we set our hands.

Done at Three Forks, Montana this 15th day of June, 2005.

SEAL

ATTEST: Sharon G. Smith
Sharon G. Smith, Clerk, City of Three Forks

Jim Sitton
Jim Sitton

Larry Laird
Larry Laird

Pete Valdon
Pete Valdon

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSIONERS

**CERTIFICATE OF THE PROPOSED PLAN OF GOVERNMENT
FOR THE
CITY OF THREE FORKS, MONTANA
PREAMBLE**

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF THREE FORKS, COUNTY OF GALLATIN, STATE OF MONTANA, in accordance with Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Montana, do hereby adopt this Charter.

**ARTICLE I
POWERS OF THE CITY**

Section 1.01 Powers of the City of Three Forks

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

Section 1.02 Interpretation of Powers

The powers and authority of this self-government 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.

Section 1.03 Restrictions

The mill levy shall be limited to that of Montana municipal governments with general government powers, except with the prior approval of a majority of the electors voting on the question in a general or special municipal election.

Section 1.04 Charter Supremacy

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.

**ARTICLE II
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

Section 2.01 Legislative Branch

The legislative branch shall consist of the city council, which shall be the governing body of the city.

Section 2.02 Qualifications for Office

Every resident of the City of Three Forks 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 is eligible to hold the office of council member.

Section 2.03 Composition

The City of Three Forks shall have a city council of six (6) members.

Section 2.04 Term of Office

Members of the city council shall be elected for four (4) year, overlapping terms of office.

Section 2.05 Election

Local government elections shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis. Three council members shall be elected at-large every two years.

Section 2.06 Chairman of the Council

The council shall have a chairman who shall be elected by the members of the council from among their own number for a term established by resolution. The chairman of the council shall preside at council meetings when the mayor is absent, and shall vote as other members of the council.

Section 2.07 Vacancy in Office

The office of council member becomes vacant as prescribed by law.

Section 2.08 Removal from Office

A council member may be removed from office by a finding, adopted by the affirmative vote of four (4) council members that the office has become vacant as prescribed by law, or by recall of a council member by the electors of Three Forks, as prescribed by law.

Section 2.09 Filling Vacancy on Council

When a vacancy occurs in the office of council member, 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 council shall appoint, by the affirmative vote of four (4) council members, a person possessing the qualifications for office required by law and this Charter, within 30 days of the vacancy to hold the office until the successor is elected and qualified.

Section 2.10 Powers and Duties

1. The city council shall be the legislative and policy determining body of the city. All powers of the city shall be vested in the city council except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, and the council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed by law or this Charter.

2. The council may override the mayor's veto by the affirmative vote of four (4) members of the council.

Section 2.11 Legislative Action

Unless otherwise required by law or this Charter, the affirmative vote of a majority of the council members present at a lawful meeting of the council shall be required for all official actions of the council. A minimum of four (4) council members must be present to convene a lawful meeting of the council.

Section 2.12 Procedure

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

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 3.01 The Mayor

The mayor shall be the chief executive and chief administrative officer of the city.

Section 3.02 Qualifications for Office

Every resident of the City of Four Forks 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 is eligible to hold the office of mayor.

Section 3.03 Term of Office

The mayor shall be elected for a four (4) year term of office.

Section 3.04 Election

The mayor shall be nominated and elected at-large on a nonpartisan basis.

Section 3.05 Vacancy in Office

The office of mayor becomes vacant as prescribed by law.

Section 3.06 Removal from Office

The mayor may be removed from office by a finding, adopted by the affirmative vote of four (4) council members that the office has become vacant as prescribed by law, or by recall of the mayor by the electors of the City of Three Forks, as prescribed by law.

Section 3.07 Filling Vacancy in the Office of Mayor

When a vacancy occurs 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 originally creating the vacancy. Pending such election and qualification the council shall appoint, by the affirmative vote of four (4) council members, a person possessing the qualifications for office required by law and this Charter within 30 days of the vacancy to hold the office until the successor is elected and qualified.

Section 3.08 Powers and Duties

The mayor shall:

1. enforce laws, Charter, ordinances, and resolutions;
2. perform the duties required by law, Charter, ordinance or resolution;
3. administer the affairs of the city government;
4. carry out policies established by the council;
5. recommend measures to the council;
6. report to the council on the affairs and financial condition of the city government;
7. execute bonds, notes, contracts, and written obligations of the council, subject to the approval of the council;
8. report to the council as the council may require;
9. prepare the council agenda, preside at council meetings and may take part in council discussions;
10. execute the budget adopted by the council;
11. appoint, with the consent of the council, all members of boards, except the mayor may appoint without the consent of the council temporary advisory committees established by the mayor.

Section 3.09 Administrative Duties

The mayor may:

1. appoint one or more administrative assistants to assist in the supervision and operation of the city government, and such administrative assistants shall be answerable solely to the mayor;
2. appoint, with the consent of a majority of the council, all department heads including either a clerk, treasurer or clerk-treasurer; remove department heads; and may appoint and remove all other employees;
3. prepare the budget in consultation with the council and department heads;
4. exercise control and supervision of all departments and boards.

Section 3.10 Legislative Authority

The mayor shall decide all tie votes of the council, but shall have no other vote. The mayor may veto ordinances and resolutions, subject to override by the affirmative vote of four (4) members of the council.

Section 3.11 Compensation

The compensation of the mayor shall be set by resolution of the city council.

ARTICLE IV JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 4.01 City Court

There shall be a city court as provided by law.

ARTICLE V DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

Section 5.01 Organization of Departments

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 as prescribed by law.

Section 6.02 Effective Date

This Charter shall become effective on July 1, 2006.

Section 6.03 Oath of Office

Before entering upon the duties of office, all elected city officials 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. The provisions of this transition article shall not be published as part of the Charter after July 1, 2008.

Section 7.02 Continuation in Office

No city employee or elected official holding a city office will lose employment or elected position solely because of the adoption of this Charter. Elected officials holding office on the date this Charter is adopted may continue in office until the end of the term for which they were elected.

Section 7.03 Review of Existing Ordinances

All city ordinances, resolutions and rules of the City of Three Forks shall remain in effect until reviewed, revised or repealed by the city council. The city council 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 Three Forks, do hereby certify that this is the proposed Plan of Government approved by the Study Commissioners of the City of Three Forks.

In testimony whereof, we set our hands.

Done at Three Forks, Montana this 13th day of June, 2005.

SEAL

ATTEST: Sharon G. Smith
Sharon G. Smith, Clerk, City of Three Forks

Jim Sitton
Jim Sitton

Larry Laird
Larry Laird

Pete Valdón
Pete Valdón

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSIONERS

CERTIFICATE
ESTABLISHING THE DATE OF THE ELECTION
AT WHICH THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT
SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE ELECTORS OF THE
CITY OF THREE FORKS

The alternative form of government proposed by the Local Government Study Commission shall be submitted to the voters of Three Forks at a special election to be held with the general election on November 8, 2005.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Three Forks do hereby certify that this is the date of the special election approved by the Study Commissioners of the City of Three Forks.

In testimony whereof, we set our hands.

Done at Three Forks, Montana this 13th day
of June, 2005.

SEAL

ATTEST:

Sharon G. Smith
Sharon G. Smith, Clerk, City of Three Forks

Jim Sitton
Jim Sitton

Larry Laird
Larry Laird

Pete Valdon
Pete Valdon

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSIONERS

**CERTIFICATE
ESTABLISHING THE OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR
THE NOVEMBER 8, 2005 GENERAL ELECTION**

Instruction to voter: Place an "X" in the boxes which express your preferences.

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
BALLOT ON THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Vote for One.

- For adoption of the self-government charter proposed for the City of Three Forks by the report of the City of Three Forks Local Government Study Commission.
- For the existing form of government.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Three Forks, do hereby certify that this is the official ballot approved by the Study Commissioners of the City of Three Forks.

In testimony whereof, we set our hands.

Done at Three Forks, Montana this 13th day of June, 2005.

SEAL

ATTEST: Sharon G. Smith
Sharon G. Smith, Clerk, City of Three Forks

Jim Sitton
Jim Sitton

Larry Laird
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSIONERS