

CITY OF WHITEFISH STUDY COMMISSION

FINAL REPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION

To the Citizens of the City of Whitefish

The Whitefish Local Government Study Commission (Study Commission) elected by the voters on November 5, 2024, present this report to you, the citizens of this city.

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 report recommending one of three options; 1) no change, 2) propose an amendment to the existing form of government, or 3) offer an alternative form of government to the qualified electors.

This Study Commission sought advice and information from members in the community. Commissioners solicited opinions and recommendations from local government officials, community organizations, and citizens. All Study Commission meetings were open to the public. Commission members appeared before various community organizations to explain the work of the commission and to hear the viewpoints, ideas, and concerns of those present. The Study Commission held an open house and conducted a survey of the citizens’ attitudes to determine community opinion that elicited responses.

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 the survey, in addition to the independent efforts of the Study Commission.

II. REPORT SUMMARY

Findings of the Study Commission:

After a study of the city government including one collective interview session where the Mayor and a majority of Council members were present, followed by a collective session where the City Manager and many department directors, were present, discussion with numerous citizens, an open house, and receiving results of the community survey before, during and after a public hearing, the Whitefish Local Government Study Commission recommends making no changes to the Whitefish City Charter. This recommendation was made by majority of the Study Commission but it was not unanimous as found in Appendix C: Minority Report.

Final results of the community survey are provided below:

Q1 Are you satisfied with the current form of local government?

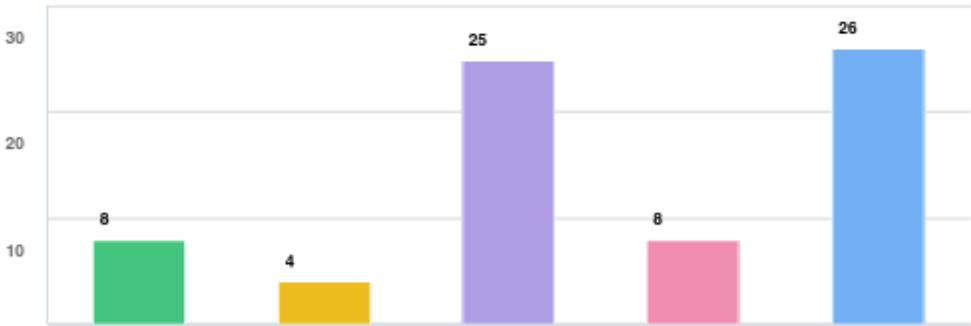


Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (286 response(s), 13 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 If you answered 'No' above, what form do you suggest: (If you answered 'Yes' above, skip to #4)



Question options

- Commission
- Commission-Chairman
- Commission-Executive (Mayor)
- Commission-Manager (no Charter)
- Town Meeting

Optional question (71 response(s), 228 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

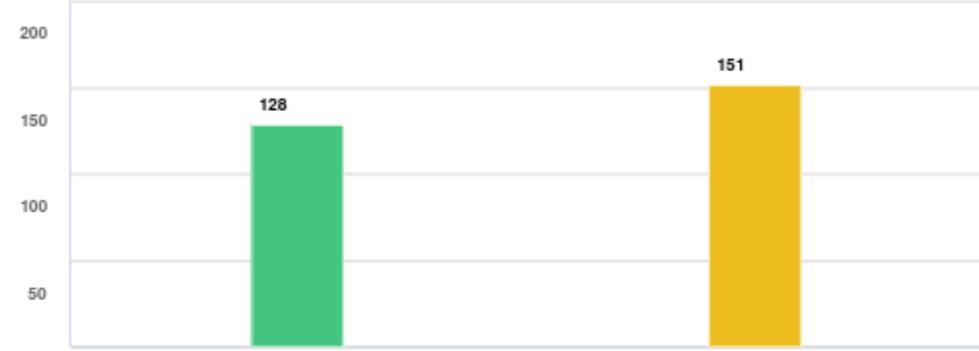
Q6 Should the elected officials of your city government run for office on a partisan (with political party label) or on a nonp...



Question options
● Partisan ● Nonpartisan

*Optional question (283 response(s), 16 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

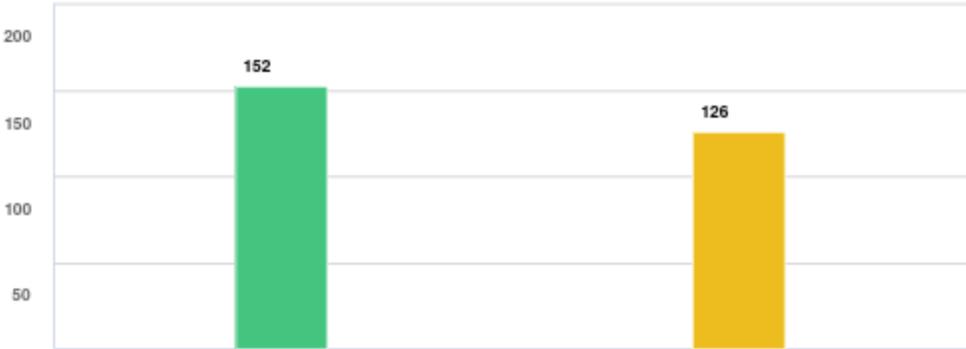
Q7 Should the elected officials of your city government run for office in districted (ward based) or at-large elections?



Question options
● Wards ● At-large

*Optional question (279 response(s), 20 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q8 According to the current charter, the Zoning Administrator is hired by and reports to the City Manager. Would you prefer th...

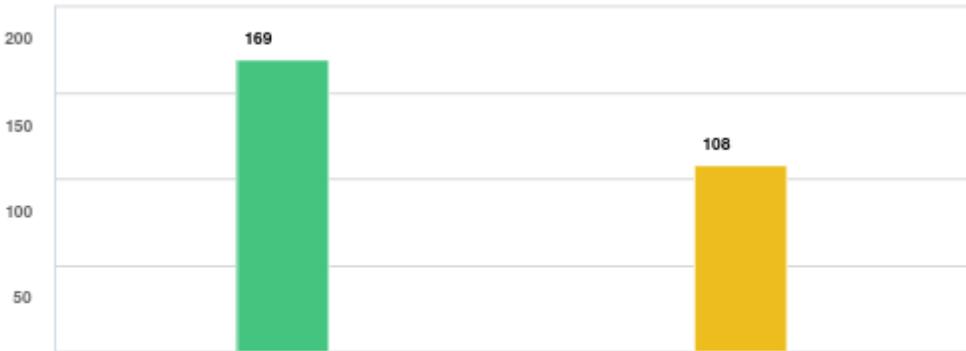


Question options

Yes No

*Optional question (278 response(s), 21 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q10 In providing essential services, does your local government make reasonably good use of the taxes and fees it collects?

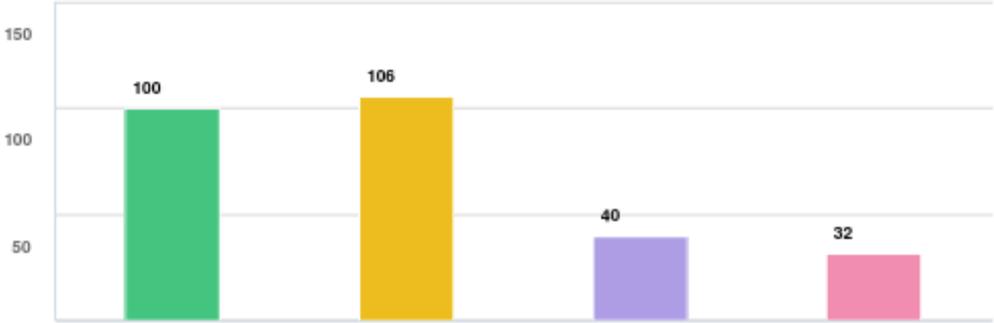


Question options

Yes No

*Optional question (277 response(s), 22 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q11 | If I had to vote tomorrow, I would vote to:



Question options

- Keep town government the same as it is now
- Make a few changes in the Town government
- Make major changes in the Town government
- Completely change the form and powers of the Town government

Optional question (278 response(s), 21 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

III. COMPARISON OF THE EXISTING PLAN OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PROPOSED PLAN OF GOVERNMENT

A. Existing Form – Whitefish City Charter

The Study Commission proposes no changes to the City Charter described in Appendix A.

B. Recommendations and Reasons

The Study Commission proposes the recommendations to the Whitefish City Council set forth in Appendix B.

C. Minority Report

D. Community Survey

APPENDIX A:
Certificate Establishing the Existing Form of Government
for the City of Whitefish

The government of the City of Whitefish shall remain organized under the following provisions of 7-3-701, MCA et. Seq., which authorizes the Charter form of government:

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the city of Whitefish, Montana, in accordance with article XI, section 5 of the Montana Constitution, and in accordance with title 7, chapter 3, part 7 Montana Code Annotated 1979, in order to modernize our form of local government, increase its efficiency and to provide for local self-determination, do hereby adopt this charter.

Article I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.01: Powers Of the City: The city of Whitefish shall possess self-government powers and have all powers not prohibited by the constitution of Montana, the laws of Montana or this charger.

Section 1.02: Interpretation Of Powers: The powers and authority of the city of Whitefish shall be liberally construed. Every reasonable doubt as to the existence of a power or authority shall be resolved in favor of the existence of that power or authority.

Section 1.03: Charter Supremacy: As provided in article XI, section 5 of the constitution of Montana, and title 7, chapter 3, part 701(2), Montana Code Annotated 1979, provisions herein establishing an executive, legislative and administrative structure and organization are superior to statutory provisions.

Section 1.04: Intergovernmental Cooperation: As provided by article XI, section 7 of the constitution of Montana, unless prohibited by law or this charter, the city of Whitefish may:

1. Delegate any of its power to;
2. Delegate any of its functions to; or
3. Cooperate in the financing of any services with any one or more local government units, school districts, the state or the United States/

Section 1.05: Oath Of Office: Before entering upon the duties of office, all elected city officials shall take and subscribe the oath of office as prescribed in article III, section 3 of the constitution of Montana. (January 5, 1981)

Article II

CITY COUNCIL

Section 2.01: Composition, Election, Qualifications, Compensation, Removal, Filling Of Vacancies:

1. There shall be a city council of six (6) members, three (3) of whom shall be elected every two (2) years. (January 5, 1981)
2. All Council members shall be elected at large and be a qualified voter of the city of Whitefish and that the three (3) candidates for council receiving the most votes at each biannual election shall be elected to the office of city council. (Amended November 1985)
3. Members of the council shall be elected for terms of four (4) years on a nonpartisan basis.
4. Members of the City Council may receive compensation, such as a salary, stipend, City-paid health insurance, per diem, or mileage allowance, all as set by resolution after a public hearing.
5. a. The office of a council member shall become vacant upon his death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law or forfeiture of his office;
b. A council member shall forfeit his office if he:
 - i. Loses his eligibility for election to his council seat;
 - ii. Violates any express prohibition of this charter;
 - iii. Is convicted of a felony;
 - iv. Without council approval, fails to attend three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled council meetings.

Section 2.02 Powers And Duties Of The Council:

1. The city council shall be the legislative and policy determining body of the city of Whitefish. Except as prohibited by the constitution of the state of Montana, the laws of the state of Montana or this charter, the council shall provide for the exercise of all powers of the city and for performance of all duties and obligations of the city.
2. The council shall appoint or remove the city administrator with the concurrence of four (4) of its members.
3. The council shall adopt an annual budget by ordinance.
4. The council shall provide for an independent annual audit of all city accounts and may provide for such more frequent audits as it deems necessary. If the state makes such an audit, the council may accept it as satisfying the requirements of this section.
5. The council shall adopt by ordinance and maintain an administrative code and a personnel system as provided in article IV of this charter.

6. The council may make investigations into the affairs of the city and the conduct of any city department, office or agency and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence.
7. In the event of vacancy, the council shall, within thirty (30) days, by majority vote of the remaining members, appoint a person, eligible to hold such council seat, to fill the vacancy until the next regular city election at which time the remainder of the terms shall be filled as provided by law.
8. The council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members and of the grounds of forfeiture of their office and for that purpose shall have power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of evidence. A member charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of his office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand, and notice of such hearing shall be published in a manner consistent with state law. (Effective 1-5-1981)
9. A mayor shall be elected every four (4) years, at large on a nonpartisan basis. The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council, shall be recognized as the head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes (or may delegate this duty) and by the governor for the purposes of military law. The mayor shall have no administrative duties. The mayor shall vote in the case of tie votes on the council. (Effective 1-5-1981; amd. Approved by voters 11-7-2006, eff. 1-2-2007)
10. The council shall elect from among its members a deputy mayor who shall act as mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor and, if a vacancy occurs in the office of the mayor, shall become mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term. (Effective 1-5-1981)
11. The council shall appoint a citizen's standing committee or board of three (3) to five (5) members who shall serve at the will of the council for the purpose whereby citizens or other interested parties may first submit or present their proposals for action of the city council for study, review and recommendations by the committee or board to the council as a whole. This provision shall not prohibit the appointment of ad hoc committees by the mayor or council.
12. The council shall create and establish a board of park commissioners pursuant to and subject to all the provisions of MCA sections 7-16-4201 through 7-16-4226. (Amended by voters 11-1985, eff. 1-1-1986)

Section 2.03: Restrictions On The Council:

1. Except where authorized by law, no council person shall hold any other city office or city employment for compensation
2. Neither the council nor any of its member shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any city administrative offices or employees whom the administrator or any of his subordination are empowered to appoint, but the council may express its

views and fully and freely discuss with the administrator anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees.

3. Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under article II, section 2.02 of this charter, the council or its members shall deal with officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the administrator solely through the administrator, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

Section 2.04: Council Procedure, Public Participation:

1. Council procedures shall be as prescribed by state law.
2. The council shall meet at least once per month in regular session.
3. The council shall determine its own rules and order a business and shall provide for the keeping of minutes of its proceedings.
4. All meetings shall be open to the public except in such circumstances as are prescribed by state law.
5. All documents and records of the council shall be public records and shall be made available for examining or copying. (January 5, 1981)

Article III

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Section 3.01 : Appointment And Removal, Qualifications, Compensation

1. The city administrator shall be appointed by the council for an indefinite term on the basis of merit only. The council shall fix his compensation.
2. The city administrator need not be a resident of the city at the time of his appointment but may reside outside the city while employed only with the approval of the council.
3. The council may remove the city administrator from office at any regularly scheduled or special meeting.

Section 3.02: Acting City Administrator: By letter filed with the mayor, the administrator shall designate, subject to approval of the council, a qualified city administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of administrator during his temporary absence or disability. During such absence or disability, the council may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the city to serve until the administrator shall return or his disability shall cease.

Section 3.03: Duties Of The City Administrator

1. The city administrator shall be the chief administrative officer of the city. He shall be responsible to the council for the administration of all city affairs.
2. The city administrator shall:

- a. Direct, supervise and administer all departments, agencies and offices of the local government until except as otherwise provided by this charter, law or ordinance;
 - b. Carry out policies established by the council;
 - c. Prepare the council agenda
 - d. Report to the council and recommend measures on the affairs and financial condition of the local government as the council may require;
 - e. Execute bonds, notes, contracts and written obligations of the council, subject to the approval of the council;
 - f. Attend council meetings and may take part in the discussion, but may not vote;
 - g. Prepare and present the budget to the council for its approval and execute the budget adopted by the council; (January 5, 1981)
 - h. Except for city attorney and municipal court judge, appoint, suspend and removal all employees of the city unless otherwise provided by law or ordinance; provided, however, that in the case of the appointment of chief of police for the city, the police commission of the city shall review all applicants for the position and make its recommendations to the city administrator; (Amended November 1985; effective January 1, 1986; amd. Approved by voters 11-3-2009)
 - i. (Rep. by voters 11-3-2015)
 - j. Submit recommended changes in the administrative code or the personnel system to the council. (January 5, 1981)
3. The city administrator shall not delete any of the duties and responsibilities in this section without consent of the council except as otherwise provided by this charter, law or ordinance. (January 5, 1981; amd. Approved by voters 11-3-2015)

Article IV

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS

Section 4.01 : General :

1. The council may establish city departments, offices or agencies in addition to those created by this charter, and may prescribe the functions of all departments, offices and agencies.
2. All departments, officers and agencies under the direction and supervision of the administrator shall be administered by an officer appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the administrator. With the consent of the council, the administrator may serve as the head of one or more such departments, offices or agencies or may appoint one person as the head of two (2) or more of them.

Section 4.02: Legal Officer: There shall be a legal officer of the city, appointed by the city council, who shall serve as chief legal advisor to the council, the administrator and all city

departments, offices and agencies, shall represent the city in all legal proceedings and shall perform any other duties prescribed by ordinance.

Section 4.03: Administrative Code: The administrative code shall provide the complete plan of organization and structure of the city government and shall include:

1. The department organization of the government, the nature and scope of each department and all required rules and procedures for department operation.
2. Comprehensive budget procedures for the government.
3. Procedures regarding boards, commissions or any other government activities.

Section 4.04: Personnel System : The city personnel system shall include a salary schedule, provisions for vacations, sick leaves, insurance and other benefits for all persons in accordance with the provisions of this charter; procedures for employees to have an opportunity to be heard upon their request pending discharge, suspension or any designated disciplinary action and shall provide for such other procedures as necessary for an efficient personnel system. (January 5, 1981)

Article V

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 5.01: Elected Offices: The procedure for the election of all elected city officials shall be as prescribed by law for nonpartisan elections. The procedure for recall of all elected city officials shall be as provided by law.

Section 5.02: Initiative And Referendum: The procedure for initiative and referendum shall be as provided by law. (January 5, 1981)

Section 5.03: Reapportionment Of Wards: (Repealed November 1985; effective January 1, 1986)

Section 5.04: Redistricting: (Repealed November 1985; effective January 1, 1986)

Article VI

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 6.01: Amendment Of Charter: This charter may be amended only as provided by state law.

Section 6.02: Effective Date: This charter shall become effective on January 5, 1981.

Section 6.03: Separability: 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. (January 5, 1981)

APPENDIX B:

Although the Study Commission is not recommending changes to the City Charter itself, it offers the following five recommendations to the City Council for consideration as administrative or policy-level improvements:

1. **Committee Membership Criteria:** Subject to all applicable laws, rules and regulations, for those Committees that do not already have them, the Study Commission recommends that City Council establish qualifications for a majority of committee appointments that include relevant experience or expertise in the subject matter of the committee. [Commissioner Whitman – unanimous concurrence)
2. **Recording Requirements:** Subject to all applicable laws, rules and regulations, for those Committees that do not already do so, require that all board and committee meetings be recorded with audio and/or video, and that recordings be made accessible to the public and retained as required law. It is further recommended that the City Council make an actual contemporaneous recording of the official record of such board and committee meetings, which recordings would prevail over summary written minutes if and when questions about the proceedings arise. (Commissioner Whitman – unanimous concurrence with additions.)
3. **Residency Flexibility:** Subject to all applicable laws rules and regulations, amend city policy by appropriate means to permit qualified board and committee members who reside within School District #44, but have relevant expertise or community ties to serve. (Commissioner Whitman – unanimous concurrence)
4. **Implement or Repeal Section 2.02(11):** Recommend that City Council either implement or repeal. Section 2.02(11) which currently reads:

11. The council shall appoint a citizen’s standing committee or board of three (3) to five (5) members who shall serve at the will of the council for the purpose whereby citizens or other interested parties may first submit or present their proposals for action of the city council for study, review and recommendations by the committee or board to the council as a whole. This provision shall not prohibit the appointment of ad hoc committees by the mayor and council.

The Study Commission recommends that City Council either implement or repeal article II, Section 2.02, 11 because this mandatorily worded provision is not currently adhered to by the City Council. (The origin of this with some alteration may or may not reside in Section 7-3-317 MCA which discusses a 3-member Community Councils that are either elected or authorized by ordinance.)

The current provision requires City Council to create a “citizen’s standing committee or board of three (3) to five (5) members who shall serve at the will of the council for the purpose whereby citizens or other interested parties may first submit or present their proposals for actions of the city council for study, review and recommendations by the committee or board to the council as a whole.”

The Study Commission recommends that the City Council bring itself into compliance with the City Charter by either implementing or repealing this Charter provision. (Commissioner Alessi – unanimous concurrence)

5. Correct article VI, Section 6.03: It is recommended that the title “Separability” be changed to “Severability” reflecting the clause’s nature as a standard severability provision. (Commissioner Alessi – unanimous concurrence)

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Whitefish do hereby certify these recommendations to the City Council.

In testimony whereof, we set our hands.

Done at Whitefish City Hall this 6th day of August, 2025.

/s/Kevin McDowell

/s/Saundra Alessi

/s/Scott Wurster

/s/Dakota Whitman

ATTEST: */s/Michelle Howke*

Whitefish City Clerk

Whitefish Study Commission

APPENDIX C

Whitefish Study Commission

Minority Report

We, the undersigned members of the Whitefish Study Commission, met to study the existing form and powers of the city government and the procedures for the delivery of local government services and compared them with other forms available under the laws of the state of Montana. Though a majority of the Study Commission agreed that no changes should be made, we believe that public feedback obtained through the Study Commission's survey of community members indicated a preference that the Study Commission discuss, research, and consider placing the following questions on the ballot:

- 1) Term limits for the Mayor and/or City Council.
- 2) At-large versus districted (ward-based) elections for City Council.

Additionally, we believe that the extensive narrative answers provided by community members on the survey should be summarized in the Study Commission's report, in order to provide a report that is complete and reflective of the Study Commission's entire body of work. Since there was minority support for such recommendations, we submit these opinions in the form of this minority report.

Regarding the question of term limits, some background information is necessary to explain the sentiment held by some community members. The City of Whitefish was able to compile records of Mayors and City Councils from 1976 to the present day with election results from 1985 to the present day, excluding 2005. These election records reveal that 30 incumbent City Councilors have run for re-election since 1985 with 22 of those winning re-election and retaining their seat. Of the incumbent candidates who lost re-election, 7 of them were beaten in an election and 1 of them tied with another candidate and lost his seat via Mayoral appointment to break the tie. 5 of the 8 incumbent candidates who were beaten lost their elections between the years of 2001 and 2009. No incumbent City Councilor has been beaten in an election since 2009. It is possible that some of these numbers would change if 2005 election data were available. Mayoral elections were not reviewed for this report.

Prior to 2019 (and dating back to 1985), only one candidate had attempted to run for a 3rd consecutive term on the Whitefish City Council. This candidate ultimately lost this bid for re-

election to a 3rd consecutive term. In 2019, a candidate ran for and won re-election to a 3rd consecutive term on the Whitefish City Council. This candidate subsequently ran for and won re-election to a 4th consecutive term on the Whitefish City Council in 2023. Candidate filing for the 2025 election has now closed, and one incumbent candidate is running for a 4th consecutive term on the Whitefish City Council, having been re-elected to a 3rd consecutive term in 2021.

Since 1985, an average of 1.5 incumbent candidates have run for re-election during each election cycle. During the most recent and upcoming election cycles, in 2023 and 2025, all 3 incumbent candidates have run for re-election in each election. Since 1986, the Whitefish City Council has been made up of members serving their 1st or 2nd consecutive term in office. In June 2025, the Whitefish City Council is composed of members serving in their following terms:

- 1) 1st term in office, running for re-election
- 2) 1st elected term in office (previously appointed to complete a term), running for re-election
- 3) 2nd consecutive term in office
- 4) 2nd consecutive term in office
- 5) 3rd consecutive term in office, running for re-election
- 6) 4th consecutive term in office

Given this lack of turnover on the Whitefish City Council in recent years compared to the historical average, it is perhaps not surprising that the issue of term limits was raised repeatedly in survey responses to the Study Commission despite not being directly prompted. Public support for term limits was most prevalent in the answers to survey question #5, which read:

“Would a change in the number of council members or a change in their term of office improve effective representation of neighborhoods and communities?”

In the responses from the public for this question, the phrase “term limits” appeared at least 63 times (out of 223 total responses). This phrase also appeared in the narrative answers to other survey questions, though some of these were provided by the same respondents. In addition to this, ~45% of survey respondents answered generally “yes” to this question (indicating a belief that a change in the number of council members or their terms of office would improve representation), ~42% of survey respondents answered generally “no” to this question, and ~12% of survey respondents answered generally “unsure” to this question. We, the minority members of the Study Commission, believe that this distribution of responses rises to the level of a

recommendation to voters where the entire electorate can weigh in on term limits for the City Council and/or Mayor in the November 2025 election. At a minimum, this question should have been considered and studied by the Study Commission prior to recommending no changes to Whitefish's Local Government.

Survey question #7 asked, "*should the elected officials of your city government run for office in districted (ward-based) or at-large elections?*" Of 279 responses received, 45.9% indicated a preference for ward-based elections and 54.1% indicated a preference to maintain the current at-large (citywide) election system. We, the minority members of the Study Commission, believe that this distribution of responses warrants additional study on the merits of both ward-based and at-large elections. This may also rise to the level of a recommendation to voters where the entire electorate can weigh in on ward-based versus at-large elections in the November 2025 election, however, at the very least, the Whitefish City Council should make an effort to study this issue and report findings by December 2026.

Finally, we, the minority members of the Study Commission, believe that narrative survey responses received from community members should be summarized.

First, though 73.4% of survey respondents indicated in question #1 that they are satisfied with the current form of Whitefish's local government (Charter Form, further organized as a commission-city manager plan under the city's charter), this does not indicate a preference for no changes within the structure of Whitefish's local government. When asked directly in question #11, only 36% of respondents indicated a preference to "keep town government the same as it is now," while 64% of respondents indicated a preference for few changes to completely changing the form and powers of government.

Lastly, narrative answers provided by survey respondents can be informative to gauge public perception of Whitefish's local government, and can be used by the City Council to inform the body's decision-making in the future. Some common themes emerged, and these are summarized below:

- 1) There were respondents who indicated dissatisfaction with the current city manager system, as well as with perceptions of high taxes and unfair calculations of fees, particularly impact fees. Based on the Study Commission's interview session with city department directors, the city is well-aware of these complaints from this group of residents, which have been ongoing for some time. The city has taken steps to mitigate these concerns.
- 2) Some respondents indicated a preference for a Town Meeting Form of local government. Though this may be the preference of some in the community, it should be noted that this option is only available to incorporated cities and towns in Montana with a population of fewer than 2,000 residents, making Whitefish ineligible to adopt this form of local governance (7-3-601, MCA).
- 3) Some respondents expressed concern with high housing costs and a lack of affordable housing as well as perceptions of poor infrastructure maintenance.
- 4) When contemplating whether Whitefish's local government is representative of the whole community, survey respondents indicated:
 - a) Mixed opinions, with some respondents indicating that the local government is representative and others indicating a perception that the local government caters to specific groups, such as wealthy residents, developers, or tourists.
 - b) Inadequate representation of working class residents, renters, or long-term locals.
 - c) Perceptions of political bias toward a specific ideology.
 - d) Concerns about barriers to public participation, such as a lack of childcare during meetings, inconvenient meeting times, and inadequate outreach by the city to underserved communities and constituents.
 - e) Concerns about the volunteer nature of the City Council and Mayor leading to less representative candidates for city council seats. It should be noted that the Whitefish City Council did adopt a compensation package for the City Council and Mayor during its June 16, 2025 regular meeting.
- 5) Many respondents indicated a preference for term limits for local government elected officials and for ward-based representation rather than the current at-large system. Concerns were also expressed by other respondents about finding candidates to run for office if term limits were imposed or if elections were conducted by wards.
- 6) Some respondents opposed changing the size of the City Council, while other respondents indicated a preference for adding an additional 1-2 council members to improve overall representation.
- 7) Some respondents indicated a desire to change the length of terms, with some of these indicating a preference for shorter terms and others indicating a preference for longer terms. Many respondents felt that the current 4-year term length was sufficient.
- 8) Some respondents feel that residents of areas adjacent to the city but outside of the city limits should have greater representation.

- 9) Some respondents suggested simplifying the city’s charter, addressing substance abuse issues, improving the city’s zoning policies, reducing law enforcement budgets, and ensuring that councilmembers are long-term residents of Whitefish.

We recommend that the City Council consider and address these issues and themes that emerged through the Local Government Study process. Though not all of these suggestions and comments are actionable or should be acted upon, we find that it is important to listen to and comment on these various issues raised by citizens through public outreach conducted by the Study Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Nathan Dugan

Whitefish Study Commissioners