

MONTANA'S 6TH LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – TIMELINE

Montana Code Annotated Title 7, Chapter 3, Part 1 (MCA 7-3-171 – 7-3-193)

February 2024

Adopt resolution to place on the ballot the question of establishing a study commission that includes number of commissioners and amount of funding not to exceed \$X,XXX (MCA 7-3-173 & 7-3-175).

June 2024

Local Government Review election on the question of establishing a study commission (MCA 7-14-173). Ballot measure passes with a majority of those voting on the question.

July-August 2024

Citizens file with county election administrator to be a study commission candidates (MCA 7-3-174). MSU Local Government Center connects with mayor/manager or chair of county commission in jurisdictions that elect to conduct a Local Government Review to provide training and support.

November 2024

Election or appointment of Study Commissioners (MCA 7-3-174 & 7-3-176). Study Commissioners take office the day the election is declared or certified (MCA 7-3-178) Ex-officio member is appointed by the governing body, must be a current elected official or employee of the local government (MCA 7-3-177).

November/December 2024

Within 10 days after taking office the Study Commission meets to organize. Date set by the presiding officer (mayor/manager or chair of board of county commission), swear in, elect temporary presiding officer until a permanent presiding officer is selected. Discuss when, where, how to meet, develop budget, decide whether to cooperate with another jurisdiction and consider consolidation or collaboration of services (MCA 7-3-179 & 7-3-180).

December 2024

MSU Local Government Center hosts study commissioner training.

December 2024 to November 2026

MSU Local Government Center, Montana Association of Counties, Montana League of Cities and Towns, etc. supports study commission with technical assistance, training and community engagement.

Study Commission reviews power, form, and plan of government. Either chooses “no change” or makes recommendation to voters by November election in 2026 (MCA 7-3-192 and 7-3-149). Within 60 days of adoption of the Local Government Review report, submits reports to appropriate agencies and publishes findings (MCA 7-3-187 through 191).