

Mayor Kelly Elser  
Town Hall  
P.O. Box 78  
Sheridan, MT. 59749

June 23, 1989

Dear Mayor Elser,

As you requested, enclosed is the petition package for altering the form of government of the Town of Sheridan.

Section 7-3-142 MCA requires the following:

1. A certificate containing the "plan of government" of the existing form of local government;
2. A certificate containing the "plan of government" of the proposed new form of local government;
3. A comparison of the existing plan and proposed plan of local government, including, if desired, a statement of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing and proposed plans of local government, information that supports the adoption of the proposed plan, and information that supports retention of the present plan.

There is also a requirement for including a "plan of apportionment if electoral districts are contained in the "plan of government". Since you have chosen to have at large elections this is not required. You will notice under #3 that some of the information required is permissive. We have included only the comparison chart which will meet the basic requirement of the law since your proposed amendment involves little change.

The Madison County Clerk and Recorder informed us that you had 370 registered voters in Sheridan at the November, 1988 general election. The petition requires fifteen percent (15%) of that figure, which is 56 registered voters but you should obtain more than that number to ensure having enough valid signatures. We recommend that you acquire at least 75 signatures to assure the minimum number of currently registered voters.

We advise you to have the Madison County Clerk and Recorder examine the petition before you circulate it to satisfy any questions that she may have. We also urge your committee to review the petition package carefully. The petition actually includes all of the documentation that we are sending to you. Attach the certificates and comparison chart to the document labeled "Petition".

The mayor and clerk should sign the "certificate of the existing plan of government". The charter committee should sign the "certificate of the proposed plan of government". This assumes that they are satisfied with it. ✓

You must add the date in the blank indicated on the petition when you begin getting signatures. The end date is 90 days from then, however, the dates that will guide your efforts most are those having to do with calling the special election. The earliest date which your town council can act to place the item on the November ballot is July 11; **the latest is August 23**. This assumes that you can get the required signatures verified by the Clerk and Recorder within that time frame.

Do not hesitate to call if you or the committee have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth L. Weaver  
Director