

RESOLUTION NO. 25-\_\_

A RESOLUTION REFERRING ORDINANCE NO. 25-\_\_\_\_, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS PROVIDING THAT THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS BE AMENDED TO REDUCE CITY COUNCIL'S NUMBER, **PROVIDING FOR FIVE COUNCILMEMBERS TO BE ELECTED FROM WARDS AND ONE COUNCILMEMBER TO BE ELECTED AT LARGE**, AND SUBMITTING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

**WHEREAS**, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 25-\_\_\_\_ amending the Charter of the City of Billings reducing the number of City Councilmembers from ten (10) to six (6); and,

**WHEREAS**, **[add reasons/policy statement]**; and

**WHEREAS**, by law the ordinance must be submitted to a vote of the people; and,

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the electors voting on this question must approve the ordinance to amend the Charter of the City of Billings; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ordinance should be referred to a vote of the people at an election to be held on November 4, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA:**

1. **REFERENCE:** Ordinance Number 25-\_\_\_\_, being an Ordinance amending the Charter of the City of Billings to reduce the number of City Councilmembers from ten (10) to six (6) **with five (5) of the six (6) Councilmembers to be elected from each ward and one (1) Councilmember to be elected at large**. A full copy of Ordinance Number 25-\_\_\_\_ is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "A", and by this reference is made a part hereof.

2. **FORM OF BALLOT:** The form of the ballot shall be as provided by law and as follows:

**Summary:** Billings City Charter, originally adopted September 14, 1976, and made effective on May 2, 1977, currently provides for ten (10) Councilmembers to be elected from five (5) wards. Two (2) Councilmembers are elected from each ward. This ballot measure asks voters to approve or disapprove the reduction of the number of Councilmembers from ten (10) to six (6), **resulting in five (5) Councilmembers to be elected from wards and one (1) Councilmember to be elected at large**. An election of new Councilmembers will be conducted during the next Municipal election cycle in 2027. This ballot measure does not change the term of office or any other qualification of City Councilmembers.

**Proposal:** On \_\_\_\_, 2025, the Billings City Council adopted Ordinance 25-\_\_\_\_ referring this ballot to the voters. If approved, this ballot measure would amend City Charter Sections 3.02 and 3.03 to read:

**Section 3.02. - City Council: Composition and Powers.**

- A. There shall be a City Council of the City of Billings composed of six (6) Councilmembers.
- B. Reserved.

**Section 3.03. – City Council: Election, Terms and Qualifications.**

- A. One (1) Councilmember shall be elected from each ward **and one (1) Councilmember shall be elected at large.** Three (3) Councilmembers shall be elected every two (2) years.
- B. Councilmembers shall serve for terms of four (4) years and shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms.
- C. **Except for the Councilmember to be elected at large,** Councilmembers shall reside within the ward from which they are elected and all Councilmembers shall be qualified voters of the City of Billings.

**Shall the City be authorized to amend the City Charter Sections 3.02 and 3.03 to reduce the total number of City Councilmembers from ten (10) to six (6)?**

- FOR** amending Sections 3.02 and 3.03 to reduce the total number of City Councilmembers from ten (10) to six (6) as provided in Ordinance 25-\_\_\_\_.
- AGAINST** amending Sections 3.02 and 3.03 to reduce the total number of City Councilmembers from ten (10) to six (6) as provided in Ordinance 25-\_\_\_\_.

3. **CERTIFICATION:** The City Clerk shall certify this resolution and Ordinance Number 25-\_\_\_\_ to the Yellowstone County Election Official as provided by law.

4. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND PASSED by the Billings City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

CITY OF BILLINGS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
William A. Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

Denise Bohlman, City Clerk

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