



ROOM A | 130 6TH STREET WEST
COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912

PHONE (406) 892-4391
FAX (406) 892-4413

**COLUMBIA FALLS STUDY COMMISSION
AGENDA
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL**

WORKSHOP - 1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

1. Montana State University Local Government Center Director Dan Clark will discuss Self Governing Powers.
- [2.](#) Information provided by Connie K.

ADJOURN

COLUMBIA FALLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

I have put together some information on cities/towns that have Self-Government Powers that was taken from information provided by the State of Montana on line. Attached is a list of all cities/towns in the state of Montana along with notations of which cities/towns have Self Government Powers and of those with Self Government Powers that have charters and commission/manager forms of government.

Of the 129 Cities listed

83 are without Self Government Powers

46 have Self Government Powers

of those (46) 33 have Charters and only 9 with Commission-Manager Form of Government

So, my question for the commission is, of those 9 cities/towns that have Self Government Powers and the Commission-Manager Form of Government, what can those entities do that Columbia Falls is currently not able to do.

Prepared by: Connie Konopatzke
Local Government Study Commission
April 17, 2025

S = Self Govt Powers C = CHARTER CM = COMM - MGR with S

Name	Type ^[2]	County ^[2]	Population (2020) ^[7]	Population (2010) ^[2]	Change	Land area (2010) ^[2]		Pop density
						sq mi	km ²	
<u>Alberton</u>	Town	<u>Mineral</u>	452	420	+7.6%	0.57	1.5	793.0/sq mi (306.2/km ²)
<u>Anaconda†</u>	Consolidated city-county	<u>Deer Lodge</u>	S 9,421 C	9,298	+1.3%	736.53	1,907.6	12.8/sq mi (4.9/km ²)
<u>Bainville</u>	Town	<u>Roosevelt</u>	271	208	+30.3%	1.02	2.6	265.7/sq mi (102.6/km ²)
<u>Baker†</u>	City	<u>Fallon</u>	1,802	1,741	+3.5%	0.97	2.5	1,857.7/sq mi (717.3/km ²)
<u>Bearcreek</u>	Town	<u>Carbon</u>	91	79	+15.2%	0.12	0.31	758.3/sq mi (292.8/km ²)
<u>Belgrade</u>	City	<u>Gallatin</u>	S 10,460 C CM	7,389	+41.6%	3.25	8.4	3,218.5/sq mi (1,242.7/km ²)
<u>Belt</u>	Town	<u>Cascade</u>	510	597	-14.6%	0.35	0.91	1,457.1/sq mi (562.6/km ²)
<u>Big Sandy</u>	Town	<u>Chouteau</u>	605	598	+1.2%	0.44	1.1	1,375.0/sq mi (530.9/km ²)
<u>Big Timber†</u>	City	<u>Sweet Grass</u>	1,650	1,641	+0.5%	0.92	2.4	1,793.5/sq mi (692.5/km ²)
<u>Billings†</u>	City	<u>Yellowstone</u>	S 117,116 C CM	104,170	+12.4%	43.41	112.4	2,697.9/sq mi (1,041.7/km ²)
<u>Boulder†</u>	Town	<u>Jefferson</u>	1,201	1,183	+1.5%	1.13	2.9	1,062.8/sq mi (410.4/km ²)
<u>Bozeman†</u>	City	<u>Gallatin</u>	S 53,293 C CM	37,280	+43.0%	19.12	49.5	2,787.3/sq mi (1,076.2/km ²)
<u>Bridger</u>	Town	<u>Carbon</u>	S 662 C	708	-6.5%	0.80	2.1	827.5/sq mi (319.5/km ²)
<u>Broadus†</u>	Town	<u>Powder River</u>	456	468	-2.6%	0.34	0.88	1,341.2/sq mi (517.8/km ²)
<u>Broadview</u>	Town	<u>Yellowstone</u>	S 139	192	-27.6%	0.26	0.67	534.6/sq mi (206.4/km ²)
<u>Browning</u>	Town	<u>Glacier</u>	1,018	1,016	+0.2%	0.27	0.70	3,770.4/sq mi (1,455.7/km ²)
<u>Butte†</u>	Consolidated city-county	<u>Silver Bow</u>	S 34,494 C	33,525	+2.9%	716.25	1,855.1	48.2/sq mi (18.6/km ²)
<u>Cascade</u>	Town	<u>Cascade</u>	600	685	-12.4%	0.52	1.3	1,153.8/sq mi (445.5/km ²)
<u>Chester†</u>	Town	<u>Liberty</u>	847	847	0.0%	0.48	1.2	1,764.6/sq mi (681.3/km ²)
<u>Chinook†</u>	City	<u>Blaine</u>	1,185	1,203	-1.5%	0.51	1.3	2,323.5/sq mi (897.1/km ²)
<u>Choteau†</u>	City	<u>Teton</u>	S 1,721 C	1,684	+2.2%	1.83	4.7	940.4/sq mi (363.1/km ²)
<u>Circle†</u>	Town	<u>McCone</u>	S 591 C	615	-3.9%	0.78	2.0	757.7/sq mi (292.5/km ²)

Item No.2.

Name	Type ^[2]	County ^[2]	Population (2020) ^[7]	Population (2010) ^[2]	Change	Land area (2010) ^[2]		Pop density
						sq mi	km ²	
<u>Clyde Park</u>	Town	<u>Park</u>	S 332 -	288	+15.3%	0.32	0.83	1,037.5/sq mi (400.6/km ²)
<u>Colstrip</u>	City	<u>Rosebud</u>	S 2,096 C	2,214	-5.3%	4.47	11.6	468.9/sq mi (181.0/km ²)
<u>Columbia Falls</u>	City	<u>Flathead</u>	5,308	4,688	+13.2%	2.05	5.3	2,589.3/sq mi (999.7/km ²)
<u>Columbus†</u>	Town	<u>Stillwater</u>	1,857	1,893	-1.9%	1.32	3.4	1,406.8/sq mi (543.2/km ²)
<u>Conrad†</u>	City	<u>Pondera</u>	S 2,318 C	2,570	-9.8%	1.25	3.2	1,854.4/sq mi (716.0/km ²)
<u>Culbertson</u>	Town	<u>Roosevelt</u>	753	714	+5.5%	0.60	1.6	1,255.0/sq mi (484.6/km ²)
<u>Cut Bank†</u>	City	<u>Glacier</u>	S 3,056 C	2,869	+6.5%	0.99	2.6	3,086.9/sq mi (1,191.8/km ²)
<u>Darby</u>	Town	<u>Ravalli</u>	S 783 C	720	+8.7%	0.58	1.5	1,350.0/sq mi (521.2/km ²)
<u>Deer Lodge†</u>	City	<u>Powell</u>	2,938	3,111	-5.6%	1.44	3.7	2,040.3/sq mi (787.8/km ²)
<u>Denton</u>	Town	<u>Fergus</u>	205	255	-19.6%	0.76	2.0	269.7/sq mi (104.1/km ²)
<u>Dillon†</u>	City	<u>Beaverhead</u>	S 3,880 C	4,134	-6.1%	1.76	4.6	2,204.5/sq mi (851.2/km ²)
<u>Dodson</u>	Town	<u>Phillips</u>	125	124	+0.8%	0.19	0.49	657.9/sq mi (254.0/km ²)
<u>Drummond</u>	Town	<u>Granite</u>	272	309	-12.0%	0.53	1.4	513.2/sq mi (198.2/km ²)
<u>Dutton</u>	Town	<u>Teton</u>	303	316	-4.1%	0.31	0.80	977.4/sq mi (377.4/km ²)
<u>East Helena</u>	City	<u>Lewis and Clark</u>	1,944	1,984	-2.0%	1.73	4.5	1,123.7/sq mi (433.9/km ²)
<u>Ekalaka†</u>	Town	<u>Carter</u>	399	332	+20.2%	1.04	2.7	383.7/sq mi (148.1/km ²)
<u>Ennis</u>	Town	<u>Madison</u>	S 917 C	838	+9.4%	0.77	2.0	1,190.9/sq mi (459.8/km ²)
<u>Eureka</u>	Town	<u>Lincoln</u>	1,380	1,037	+33.1%	1.01	2.6	1,366.3/sq mi (527.5/km ²)
<u>Fairfield</u>	Town	<u>Teton</u>	759	708	+7.2%	0.31	0.80	2,448.4/sq mi (945.3/km ²)
<u>Fairview</u>	Town	<u>Richland</u>	896	840	+6.7%	0.97	2.5	923.7/sq mi (356.6/km ²)
<u>Flaxville</u>	Town	<u>Daniels</u>	63	71	-11.3%	0.10	0.26	630.0/sq mi (243.2/km ²)
<u>Forsyth†</u>	City	<u>Rosebud</u>	S 1,647 C	1,777	-7.3%	0.99	2.6	1,663.6/sq mi (642.3/km ²)

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<u>Fort Benton</u> †	City	<u>Chouteau</u>	S 1,449 -	1,464	-1.0%	2.07	5.4	700.0/sq mi (270.3/km ²)
<u>Fort Peck</u>	Town	<u>Valley</u>	S 239 -	233	+2.6%	0.86	2.2	277.9/sq mi (107.3/km ²)
<u>Froid</u>	Town	<u>Roosevelt</u>		185	+5.4%	0.28	0.73	696.4/sq mi (268.9/km ²)
<u>Fromberg</u>	Town	<u>Carbon</u>	S 392 =	438	-10.5%	0.48	1.2	816.7/sq mi (315.3/km ²)
<u>Geraldine</u>	Town	<u>Chouteau</u>		261	-20.7%	0.52	1.3	398.1/sq mi (153.7/km ²)
<u>Glasgow</u> †	City	<u>Valley</u>	S 3,202 -	3,250	-1.5%	1.43	3.7	2,239.2/sq mi (864.5/km ²)
<u>Glendive</u> †	City	<u>Dawson</u>		4,935	-1.3%	3.32	8.6	1,467.8/sq mi (566.7/km ²)
<u>Grass Range</u>	Town	<u>Fergus</u>		110	0.0%	0.15	0.39	733.3/sq mi (283.1/km ²)
<u>Great Falls</u> †	City	<u>Cascade</u>	S 60,442 C CM	58,505	+3.3%	21.79	56.4	2,773.8/sq mi (1,071.0/km ²)
<u>Hamilton</u> †	City	<u>Ravalli</u>		4,348	+7.2%	2.53	6.6	1,841.5/sq mi (711.0/km ²)
<u>Hardin</u> †	City	<u>Big Horn</u>		3,505	+8.9%	2.57	6.7	1,485.6/sq mi (573.6/km ²)
<u>Harlem</u>	City	<u>Blaine</u>		808	-4.8%	0.43	1.1	1,788.4/sq mi (690.5/km ²)
<u>Harlowton</u> †	City	<u>Wheatland</u>		997	-4.2%	0.58	1.5	1,646.6/sq mi (635.7/km ²)
<u>Havre</u> †	City	<u>Hill</u>	S 9,362 ?	9,310	+0.6%	3.28	8.5	2,854.3/sq mi (1,102.0/km ²)
<u>Helena</u> ‡	City	<u>Lewis and Clark</u>	S 32,091 C CM	28,190	+13.8%	16.35	42.3	1,962.8/sq mi (757.8/km ²)
<u>Hingham</u>	Town	<u>Hill</u>	S 131 -	118	+11.0%	0.17	0.44	770.6/sq mi (297.5/km ²)
<u>Hobson</u>	City	<u>Judith Basin</u>		215	-16.7%	0.24	0.62	745.8/sq mi (288.0/km ²)
<u>Hot Springs</u>	Town	<u>Sanders</u>		544	+2.4%	0.38	0.98	1,465.8/sq mi (565.9/km ²)
<u>Hysham</u> †	Town	<u>Treasure</u>		312	-11.5%	0.21	0.54	1,314.3/sq mi (507.4/km ²)
<u>Ismay</u>	Town	<u>Custer</u>		19	-10.5%	0.42	1.1	40.5/sq mi (15.6/km ²)
<u>Joliet</u>	Town	<u>Carbon</u>		595	-3.0%	0.30	0.78	1,923.3/sq mi (742.6/km ²)
<u>Jordan</u> †	Town	<u>Garfield</u>		343	+3.8%	0.34	0.88	1,047.1/sq mi (404.3/km ²)

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<u>Judith Gap</u>	City	<u>Wheatland</u>	110	126	-12.7%	0.38	0.98	289.5/sq mi (111.8/km ²)
<u>Kalispell†</u>	City	<u>Flathead</u>	24,558	19,927	+23.2%	11.64	30.1	1,711.9/sq mi (661.0/km ²)
<u>Kevin</u>	Town	<u>Toole</u>	154	154	0.0%	0.34	0.88	452.9/sq mi (174.9/km ²)
<u>Laurel</u>	City	<u>Yellowstone</u>	S 7,222 C	6,718	+7.5%	2.14	5.5	3,374.8/sq mi (1,303.0/km ²)
<u>Lavina</u>	Town	<u>Golden Valley</u>	136	187	-27.3%	1.00	2.6	136.0/sq mi (52.5/km ²)
<u>Lewistown†</u>	City	<u>Fergus</u>	S 5,952 C CM	5,901	+0.9%	5.32	13.8	1,118.8/sq mi (432.0/km ²)
<u>Libby†</u>	City	<u>Lincoln</u>	S 2,775 C	2,628	+5.6%	1.91	4.9	1,452.9/sq mi (561.0/km ²)
<u>Lima</u>	Town	<u>Beaverhead</u>	S 212 C	221	-4.1%	0.53	1.4	400.0/sq mi (154.4/km ²)
<u>Livingston†</u>	City	<u>Park</u>	8,040	7,044	+14.1%	6.02	15.6	1,335.5/sq mi (515.7/km ²)
<u>Lodge Grass</u>	Town	<u>Big Horn</u>	441	428	+3.0%	0.24	0.62	1,837.5/sq mi (709.5/km ²)
<u>Malta†</u>	City	<u>Phillips</u>	1,860	1,997	-6.9%	1.06	2.7	1,754.7/sq mi (677.5/km ²)
<u>Manhattan</u>	Town	<u>Gallatin</u>	S 2,086 C	1,520	+37.2%	1.93	5.0	1,080.8/sq mi (417.3/km ²)
<u>Medicine Lake</u>	Town	<u>Sheridan</u>	244	225	+8.4%	0.40	1.0	610.0/sq mi (235.5/km ²)
<u>Melstone</u>	Town	<u>Musselshell</u>	126	96	+31.3%	0.69	1.8	182.6/sq mi (70.5/km ²)
<u>Miles City†</u>	City	<u>Custer</u>	8,354	8,410	-0.7%	3.34	8.7	2,501.2/sq mi (965.7/km ²)
<u>Missoula†</u>	City	<u>Missoula</u>	S 73,489 C	66,788	+10.0%	27.51	71.3	2,671.4/sq mi (1,031.4/km ²)
<u>Moore</u>	Town	<u>Fergus</u>	194	193	+0.5%	0.24	0.62	808.3/sq mi (312.1/km ²)
<u>Nashua</u>	Town	<u>Valley</u>	301	290	+3.8%	0.66	1.7	456.1/sq mi (176.1/km ²)
<u>Neihart</u>	Town	<u>Cascade</u>	S 43 -	51	-15.7%	1.99	5.2	21.6/sq mi (8.3/km ²)
<u>Opheim</u>	Town	<u>Valley</u>	75	85	-11.8%	0.21	0.54	357.1/sq mi (137.9/km ²)
<u>Outlook</u>	Town	<u>Sheridan</u>	84	47	+78.7%	1.30	3.4	64.6/sq mi (24.9/km ²)
<u>Philipsburg†</u>	Town	<u>Granite</u>	841	820	+2.6%	0.80	2.1	1,051.3/sq mi (405.9/km ²)

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<u>Pinesdale</u>	Town	<u>Ravalli</u>	S 805 C	917	-12.2%	1.29	3.3	624.0/sq mi (240.9/km ²)
<u>Plains</u>	Town	<u>Sanders</u>	1,106	1,048	+5.5%	0.59	1.5	1,874.6/sq mi (723.8/km ²)
<u>Plentywood†</u>	City	<u>Sheridan</u>	1,669	1,734	-3.7%	1.17	3.0	1,426.5/sq mi (550.8/km ²)
<u>Plevna</u>	Town	<u>Fallon</u>	179	162	+10.5%	0.59	1.5	303.4/sq mi (117.1/km ²)
<u>Polson†</u>	City	<u>Lake</u>	S 5,148 C CM	4,488	+14.7%	4.14	10.7	1,243.5/sq mi (480.1/km ²)
<u>Poplar</u>	City	<u>Roosevelt</u>	758	810	-6.4%	0.28	0.73	2,707.1/sq mi (1,045.2/km ²)
<u>Red Lodge†</u>	City	<u>Carbon</u>	S 2,257 C	2,125	+6.2%	2.80	7.3	806.1/sq mi (311.2/km ²)
<u>Rexford</u>	Town	<u>Lincoln</u>	78	105	-25.7%	0.10	0.26	780.0/sq mi (301.2/km ²)
<u>Richey</u>	Town	<u>Dawson</u>	164	177	-7.3%	0.24	0.62	683.3/sq mi (263.8/km ²)
<u>Ronan</u>	City	<u>Lake</u>	1,955	1,871	+4.5%	1.19	3.1	1,642.9/sq mi (634.3/km ²)
<u>Roundup†</u>	City	<u>Musselshell</u>	1,742	1,788	-2.6%	1.34	3.5	1,300.0/sq mi (501.9/km ²)
<u>Ryegate†</u>	Town	<u>Golden Valley</u>	223	245	-9.0%	0.69	1.8	323.2/sq mi (124.8/km ²)
<u>Saco</u>	Town	<u>Phillips</u>	S 159 C	197	-19.3%	0.33	0.85	481.8/sq mi (186.0/km ²)
<u>Scobey†</u>	City	<u>Daniels</u>	999	1,017	-1.8%	0.76	2.0	1,314.5/sq mi (507.5/km ²)
<u>Shelby†</u>	City	<u>Toole</u>	3,169	3,376	-6.1%	6.03	15.6	525.5/sq mi (202.9/km ²)
<u>Sheridan</u>	Town	<u>Madison</u>	694	642	+8.1%	1.02	2.6	680.4/sq mi (262.7/km ²)
<u>Sidney†</u>	City	<u>Richland</u>	6,346	5,191	+22.3%	2.66	6.9	2,385.7/sq mi (921.1/km ²)
<u>St. Ignatius</u>	Town	<u>Lake</u>	768	842	-8.8%	0.56	1.5	1,371.4/sq mi (529.5/km ²)
<u>Stanford†</u>	Town	<u>Judith Basin</u>	403	401	+0.5%	0.44	1.1	915.9/sq mi (353.6/km ²)
<u>Stevensville</u>	Town	<u>Ravalli</u>	2,002	1,809	+10.7%	0.98	2.5	2,042.9/sq mi (788.8/km ²)
<u>Sunburst</u>	Town	<u>Toole</u>	S 333 C	375	-11.2%	0.24	0.62	1,387.5/sq mi (535.7/km ²)
<u>Superior†</u>	Town	<u>Mineral</u>	S 830 C	812	+2.2%	1.04	2.7	798.1/sq mi (308.1/km ²)

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Terry†	Town	Prairie	562	605	-7.1%	0.71	1.8	791.5/sq mi (305.6/km ²)
Thompson Falls†	City	Sanders	1,336	1,313	+1.8%	1.73	4.5	772.3/sq mi (298.2/km ²)
Three Forks	City	Gallatin	S 1,989 C	1,869	+6.4%	1.44	3.7	1,381.3/sq mi (533.3/km ²)
Townsend†	City	Broadwater	1,787	1,878	-4.8%	1.58	4.1	1,131.0/sq mi (436.7/km ²)
Troy	City	Lincoln	S 797 C	938	-15.0%	0.76	2.0	1,048.7/sq mi (404.9/km ²)
Twin Bridges	Town	Madison	330	375	-12.0%	0.96	2.5	343.8/sq mi (132.7/km ²)
Valier	Town	Pondera	530	509	+4.1%	0.92	2.4	576.1/sq mi (222.4/km ²)
Virginia City†	Town	Madison	S 219 -	190	+15.3%	0.95	2.5	230.5/sq mi (89.0/km ²)
Walkerville	Town	Silver Bow	639	675	-5.3%	2.23	5.8	286.5/sq mi (110.6/km ²)
West Yellowstone	Town	Gallatin	S 1,272 C CM	1,271	+0.1%	0.80	2.1	1,590.0/sq mi (613.9/km ²)
Westby	Town	Sheridan	167	168	-0.6%	0.54	1.4	309.3/sq mi (119.4/km ²)
White Sulphur Springs†	City	Meagher	955	939	+1.7%	1.01	2.6	945.5/sq mi (365.1/km ²)
Whitefish	City	Flathead	S 7,751 C CM	6,357	+21.9%	6.43	16.7	1,205.4/sq mi (465.4/km ²)
Whitehall	Town	Jefferson	1,006	1,038	-3.1%	0.67	1.7	1,501.5/sq mi (579.7/km ²)
Wibaux†	Town	Wibaux	462	589	-21.6%	1.08	2.8	427.8/sq mi (165.2/km ²)
Winifred	Town	Fergus	172	208	-17.3%	0.50	1.3	344.0/sq mi (132.8/km ²)
Winnett†	Town	Petroleum	188	182	+3.3%	0.98	2.5	191.8/sq mi (74.1/km ²)
Wolf Point†	City	Roosevelt	S 2,517 -	2,621	-4.0%	0.87	2.3	2,893.1/sq mi (1,117.0/km ²)
Total towns	76	—	38,130	37,333	+2.1%	49.01	126.9	778.0/sq mi (300.4/km²)
Total cities	53	—	549,663	494,659	+11.1%	1,685.57	4,365.6	326.1/sq mi (125.9/km²)
Total	129	—	587,793	531,992	+10.5%	1,734.58	4,492.5	338.9/sq mi (130.8/km²)

Item No.2.