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County government study commission asks for citizen input

By Carrie McCléary

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HARDIN— The Big Horn County Local Government Study Commission will mail a questionnaire Aug. 2 to all registered county voters. The purpose of the survey is to determine county voter preferences on a number of issues.

The survey will gather demographic information, including the area of the county in which those surveyed live, the age of participants, as well as questions based on area issues such as:

- How responsive is Big Horn County government?
- How well does the law enforcement perform its duties?
- How well are county roads maintained?
- Should the county hire a professional county administrator?
- Should county elections be non-partisan, and
- Should changes be made in county government.

Chairman of the government study commission, David Seder, said the commission compiled the questions based on citizen response and advice from a specialist at MSU-Bozeman.

"We would have to have a response of at least 75 percent before some of the items would be placed on the ballot," said Seder.

"Some of the questions were determined by feedback at the meetings we held in the outlying areas," said Mark Humphrey, study commission member.

The commission is gathering the information in order to determine if the public would like to propose changes in the county that can be placed on the Nov. 1996 general election ballot.

Seder said that the need for a survey was mostly due to a lack of community involvement at the public hearings.

The commission began its work in January of last year, and will complete its term after the Nov. 1996 general election or earlier if no recommendations are brought to that ballot.

Seder said the commission plans to

present its findings at public meetings throughout Big Horn County.

The questionnaire can be mailed

in the included self addressed, stamped envelope or dropped off at the Big Horn County Clerk of District Court office, Room 221 in the courthouse.