

Options for Local Government

October 7, 2010

Consensus Positions

(Adopted 1978, reviewed 2000, amended 2010)

The League favors a county government which:

- Has a legislative body which is representative economically, geographically, and allows for subcommittees.
- Separates powers with administration the responsibility of an appointed or elected executive.
- Has a centralized personnel system.
- Has open discussion of policy issues and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.
- Is adequately financed.

Thurston County should take advantage of the Home Rule Amendment to the State Constitution which gives the county the authority to design a governmental structure tailored to our unique county needs and provide the flexibility for future change.

In our county a legislative body larger than three would better represent our diverse citizens and allow for meaningful subcommittee work. An elected executive would be possible under Home Rule, whereas our appointed executive is the only possibility under the present system. A modification of the number of elected officials would also be possible.

Opportunities to improve operational efficiencies and financial sustainability among cities and the county by consolidating services should also be examined by freeholders when preparing a Home Rule Charter. The Charter should be reviewed periodically.