

Feb. 1974 - info
Decatur Voter

COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CONSENSUS

Changes in local government in Illinois are possible under the 1970 Illinois constitution. Under the previous constitution, no local government could exercise any power that was not specifically granted to it by the General Assembly. The 1970 constitution still defines the powers of counties and municipalities other than home rule units, but now a unit with home rule has power unless that power is specifically denied by the General Assembly.

Other provisions of the new constitution have changed county government. Townships are separate units of local government. Under the State reapportionment statute implementing the one-person, one-vote principle, counties containing townships now directly elect their boards rather than having the county board be made up of township supervisors and assistant supervisors.

Counties now have the power to eliminate any county office by referendum and to change the terms and manner of selection of any office, except that the offices of sheriff, county clerk, and treasurer must be elected, not appointed, unless abolished.

Counties may now cooperate intergovernmentally with governmental units at any level, without specific authorization of the General Assembly unless prohibited by state law.

Differential taxation is allowed, which may reduce the need for special districts to provide special services.

The effect of these various provisions is to free counties from rigid forms of government and to permit all counties to have equal access by referendum to different forms of government.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS - to be answered at units on March 26, 1974.

1. Would the people of Macon County benefit by changing the form of Macon County government?
2. If so, how?

Barb Ohlsen
Chairman, County Govt. Committee

If anyone wishes to propose these items for study at the Annual Meeting, a majority vote is required to consider them, and they must be adopted by a two-thirds vote.

COMMITTEE NOTES

Our update on City Government has been completed. Our County-Township Government study will be completed in March. March 26th is the date for consensus meetings. Barbara Ohlsen and her committee will present the program.

Land Use meetings will be coming up in April. Pat McVay has no committee and she will be presenting the program herself - she wades through piles of E.Q. information.

The School Finance consensus meetings have been postponed until February, 1975 because working papers will be arriving too late for Spring meetings. The working papers will include a bibliography, a new glossary, "Illinois School Districts" and "Recommendations of Major Finance Commissions". A chairman for this study is needed. Think about it!

Members are still circulating petitions for single member district referendum. Turn yours in to Dee Meyerson if completed.

Our local League Annual Reports have gone in to the National office.

Milli Protzman
Program Chairman

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT FORUM

The YWCA has agreed to act as co-sponsor for a forum on the Equal Rights Amendment at the YWCA on March 21st at 7:00 p.m. The Coordinating Committee now includes representatives from our League, the American Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women, Allied Industrial Workers, National Organization of Women, Church Women United, and other groups are still being contacted. It is hoped that a speaker from each organization supporting the Equal Rights Amendment will be a part of the forum. The Moderator will be B. A. Aiken, who believes that the amendment applies to men as well as women! Please do come and bring guests.

Logo file - Olsen

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CONSENSUS
March 26, 1974

The League of Women Voters of Decatur would like to see the government of Macon County achieve Home Rule status. Such a change would enable the county government to take the initiative in efficiently meeting the needs of the people of the county without waiting for state legislative permission.

The 1970 Illinois Constitution requires an elected executive for county government in order to become a Home Rule unit. The League believes that such an executive would benefit Macon County by separating the legislative and administrative functions of the government. The County Board would become wholly legislative and policy making.

Until such time as an executive can be elected, the League encourages the County Board to appoint an administrator. Such a position would relieve county board committees of administrative tasks.

Another area of reform needed at the county level is to eliminate as an elective office any county office which doesn't set policy. Such offices as the Recorder of Deeds, Auditor and Coroner should be filled by an appointed person or consolidated with other offices. The League urges county government to continually seek to cooperate with other levels of local government to eliminate costly duplication of services.

WORKING FOR 1974-75 PROGRAM ITEMS

Township government - Support for elimination of townships in Macon County with their functions transferred to general purpose governments, such as the county or municipalities.

Macon County Government - Support for Home Rule status for the county with establishment of an elected county executive.

If necessary, an administrator appointed by the County Board until an executive can be elected.

Elimination as elective offices those at the county level which do not set policy, such as Auditor, Recorder of Deeds, and Coroner.