

Troy, Daniel

From: Troy, Daniel
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 5:13 PM
To: alopez@co.lucas.oh.us
Cc: Downing, Timothy
Subject: FW: Bullet Points of what should be in final report

Anita, Tim sent these to me a few days back and asked me to forward them on to you also. Was out of the office for a few days and forgot, so here they are. - Daniel

-----Original Message-----

From: Downing, Timothy [mailto:tdowning@ulmer.com]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 6:13 PM
To: Troy, Daniel
Subject: RE: Bullet Points of what should be in final report

Proposed Recommendations/Areas to Discuss in Report

1. Amend the Revised Code to limit use of tax abatements to employers/companies located outside of the State of Ohio and/or to prevent employers/companies from leaving the State completely. Doing this would remove incentives that currently exist which allow employers/companies located within Ohio or even within the same county in Ohio to go "tax abatement shopping" by saying to City or County A in which the employer/company currently operates that City or County B has offered to not charge us property taxes for x number of years and if you don't match that, we're moving to the other City/County. This happened last year in Cuyahoga County when Eaton Corporation announced that it was moving its headquarters from a high rise in downtown Cleveland to the City of Beachwood because Beachwood's tax abatement offer was better. Such a move flies in the face of the reason for the creation of the tax abatement law, which was in part to provide cities a tool to attract companies to move to the State, not to allow jobs to simply move from one jurisdiction to another within the State or a County.
2. Amend the Revised Code to provide incentives (and/or penalties for those that choose to opt out) to all governmental entities, be they townships, villages, cities, school boards, sewer/water districts, library boards, health departments/districts or even groups of counties, to form centralized administrative agencies which are tasked with handling the purchase of equipment and supplies, payroll and employee benefits (similar to the regional income tax agencies that currently exist in some areas of the state).
3. Amend the Revised Code allowing the creation of joint districts to provide any services regardless of the type of service being provided or government entity involved.
4. Amend the Revised Code in a manner which repeals those provisions which mandate the election of auditors, recorders, clerks of courts and other offices that perform professional or administrative functions and instead have people selected to fill those offices at the state level by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (or some other non-partisan office to be created, such as one similar to the federal General Services Administration) or the local/county level by the professional, non-elected chief administrative officer of the county, city, village or township (titles vary by community) based on qualifications and credentials as opposed to party or political connections.

5. Amend the Revised Code stating that townships located in counties with a population of more than 100,000 people cease to exist and become either a free standing village or city or become part of the village or city surrounding the township when: (a) the geographic area of the township is surrounded by the geographic area of a village or City; and (b) the population of the township surrounded by the village or City exceeds 5000 people. This is similar to what happens when villages exceed a population of 5000 under current law (they automatically become defined as cities).

6. Similar to No. 2 above but specifically related to school districts, amend the Revised Code to mandate the creation of county-wide purchasing and administrative authorities for all school districts located within a County, which would be charged with purchasing equipment and supplies and administering payroll and benefits. Creating such an authority would create economies of scale for purchasing purposes and eliminate duplication of administrative services, thus saving taxpayer money (again, this model is based on the regional income tax agencies that currently exist in some places in the state). Note that creation of county-wide purchasing authorities would in no way alter or take away the powers of school boards to collectively bargain with, hire and/or fire teachers or any other current authority they have under the Revised Code and/or otherwise eliminate school districts and their local identities/loyalties (i.e. sports teams).

7. This recommendation may seem to some to be outside the jurisdiction of our committee but think it falls squarely within our mandate given the impact road building has on the decision making of local governments. The recommendation is this: suggest that the General Assembly place a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot which would change the Ohio Constitution and allow for federal transportation funds to be used to fund urban, suburban and rural public transportation/economic development projects and not just road projects. Doing so would have a similar effect as eliminating tax abatement eligibility to Ohio-based employers - namely, it would eventually eliminate the competition between communities in the same region for federal transportation dollars to build new roads and interchanges in remote, exurban areas. Road and interchange building in these areas usually results in the out-migration of people from the communities where they work to agricultural areas of the state which have traditionally been used to support Ohio's farm economy and food production but which do not have the infrastructure to support a large influx of people and cars. By contrast, the communities where people work have an infrastructure - including police, fire, EMS, road maintenance, public transportation, etc. - paid for by those living in those communities, to support such infrastructure but which, as people move further and further away, are losing population and thus taxpayers to support such infrastructure, even though it must be maintained for the sake of keeping the work center vibrant. This is unsustainable for local communities that are also work centers. Limiting use of federal transportation funds to road projects also usually results in big-box retail development and ex-urban sprawl and the reduction or complete elimination of retail shopping opportunities in Ohio's cities, both large and small (e.g. there are no major department stores, let alone a critical mass of locally owned specialty retail stores, in downtown Columbus and downtown Cleveland or in many of Ohio's other urban centers - Toledo, Akron, Dayton, Canton and Youngstown, let alone it's small towns and villages located near an interchange where big box stores have been built).

From: Downing, Timothy
Sent: Mon 4/19/2010 8:09 AM
To: 'Troy, Daniel'; ALopez@co.lucas.oh.us
Subject: Bullet Points of what should be in final report

Hi Dan and Anita. I am still working on my bullet points of my recommendations for what should be included in the commission's final report. While I wanted to get these to you