

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Legislative Program Issues Evaluation Form

Issue ID: 17G01-Modify the Dillon Rule

Date Submitted to Legislative Committee: October 18, 2016

Issue: Dillon Rule limits Commonwealth Counties' authority to make legislative decisions regarding growth management, transportation, education, environmental, elections, financing and public safety issues. Any policy changes require an act of the General Assembly.

Background: Dillon Rule allows state legislature to make local grassroots-level decisions for local jurisdictions. Commonwealth Counties are unable to enact a respective ordinance unless it is clearly granted by the General Assembly.

Existing Conditions/Impacts: Commonwealth Counties are unable to respond to their residents' goals and demands in a timely manner. This restriction impedes the County from diversifying their tax base to relieve pressure on the real property tax, adhere to sensible school rules and regulations, implement community-based growth management tools to name a few.

Preferred Position: All Commonwealth Counties should be granted the opportunity to identify the most appropriate form of Home-Rule government that would be the most effective in conducting day-to-day and long-term operations and to fulfill important local functions. At a minimum, the following issues should be addressed: Impact Fees, Education (start time and programs), local revenue authority, state income tax revenues, local and regional growth management tools such as planning, and zoning, short-term rental, transportation, public facilities, taxing authority and real estate transfer tax rate.

Benefits: No one is more equipped than local governments to determine the needs and prioritization of available resources than local governments. Increasing authority would allow for a more robust and diverse tax base, more sensible school start times for students and parents, stronger ability to control rampant growth and improve economic vitality.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):
All residents of Fairfax County; all Commonwealth counties.

Lead Federation Committee: Legislative Committee

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