

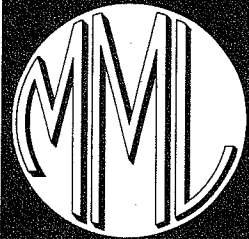
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# Memorandum

TO: Mayors and City Administrators in Jefferson County

FROM: Gary Markenson, MML Executive Director

SUBJECT: County Charter

DATE: October 3, 2007

From newspaper articles, I understand that Jefferson County is considering a home rule charter. I wanted to alert you to several possible concerns with a charter:

1) You may lose the road and bridge tax revenue under Section 137.556 RSMo that guarantees cities in first class counties 25 percent of the county road and bridge tax revenues collected within the city limits. However, you could attempt to replace the revenue through a charter provision that distributes county revenue to the cities, and

2) The annexation issue is more complex because the charter cannot conflict with state law. Section 71.015 RSMo seems to have special provisions for charter counties. The language is complex and should be referred to your city attorney for a legal opinion. However, it seems to me that paragraph 3 requires all contested annexations in charter counties over 200,000 population to be approved by separate majorities in the city and in the area to be annexed. In other words, you would lose the option of a second election in which you combine the votes.

You should ask your staff and city attorney to research these concerns to determine if they are correct.

Please let me know if you have any questions.