

Blended Reorganization Proposal

Consolidation

Consolidate the City of Muncie into a new charter county (name to be determined)

Governing Body

Fifteen members total:

- elected County Executive, who chairs the governing body and can break ties but has no veto power; elected at large
- seven members elected from districts; districts to be drawn to so that all or all but one district fall either inside the boundaries of the current City of Muncie or outside the boundaries of it; one may overlap; depending on the results of the 2010 census, it appears that would result in having four elected from districts falling in the current city and three from areas outside the city
- six other members elected at large
- terms would be staggered, with half elected every two years; at first election, all offices would be open and those receiving the lowest vote totals in each group would serve two-year terms

Elections

Elections would be on municipal election cycle, every two years

Non-partisan?

Effect on Elected Offices

The following offices would be replaced by the new county governing body and elected executive:

- Mayor
- City Council (but see below)
- County Commissioners
- County Council

General Administration

The elected county executive would be the chief executive officer

There would be an appointed chief administrative officer, with qualifications determined by ordinance; whether this person is selected by the county executive or the governing body remains open to discussion

Taxing Districts

There would be at least three separate taxing districts:

- A countywide taxing district that would fund all county-wide services not funded from other sources

- An urban services district that would fund urban services in the former City of Muncie and not funded from other sources
- A rural services district that would fund services provided only outside the former City of Muncie and outside the other municipalities.

If the fire territory concept is included, there would be separate urban and rural taxing districts for fire protection

Consolidation of Functions

All general government functions of the County would become part of the new government structure

General government functions of the City of Muncie EXCEPT street lighting, police department, community development, and possibly fire protection would be consolidated under the new government operations

Urban Services

Urban police, street lighting, community development and possibly fire services would fall under the jurisdiction of a committee of the governing body consisting of all members of the governing body from districts that fall wholly or partly within the area of the former City of Muncie

These five (or possibly four) committee members would elect a chair from among their members

The committee would hire a professional manager to operate the remaining urban service functions

County Line Offices

The directly elected County line offices would not be affected by this, except as follows:

- Duties of the surveyor would be consolidated with duties of the engineer
- Tax billing and collecting function of the auditor would be transferred to the treasurer, allowing the auditor to become the chief financial officer for the consolidated government

Courts

State court system would be unaffected

The charter would include a municipal court to serve the entire consolidated county, dealing with the kinds of minor matters that are now heard in municipal court

Effects on Other Units

Under this proposal:

The Convention and Visitors Bureau would remain as a separate entity, with its members appointed by the governing body

The Civic Center Authority would remain as a separate entity, with its members appointed by the governing body

The Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals would continue to exist in their current structure, with members appointed by the governing body (and with two representatives of the governing body serving on each)

State operated functions that are nominally part of County government would be unaffected

Buildings and Offices

The consolidated county would take over all buildings and real estate of both the City and County but would continue to provide office space to other units of government, including the urban services functions, the county line offices that remain, the courts, and units that provide state functions, such as community corrections and welfare

DRAFT