

concern; and (7) authority to establish area-wide or *regional* governments, to be composed of directly elected officials and empowered to conduct specified area-wide functions.

With respect to its recommendation that residents of metropolitan areas be authorized to establish area-wide or *regional* governments, the Commission believes that such governments are needed today to make effective decisions in such matters as regional transportation, land use, air and water contamination, and area-wide recreational and open-space needs. This recommendation is made because the Commission believes that the failure to establish such governments will lead to a greater loss of self-determination in local affairs through the continuous transfer of responsibility to the state and federal governments. Such units of government will be necessary if there is to be local participation in determining the priorities and plans for multicounty areas, and in developing integrated programs and financial support for area-wide transportation, land use, water supply, control of pollution, and other functions. To be fully

responsible units of local government, such units should have sufficient jurisdiction and authority to see problems as a whole, to formulate policy issues for voters, to arrive at real decisions, and to act through program performance, regulation, and taxation. They should be directly responsible to the voters for all of their actions.

After much deliberation, the Commission recommends that alternative procedures for the creation of area-wide governments be prescribed in the constitution. The Commission does not recommend that such units actually be created by the constitution itself; however, it does strongly recommend that specific provisions for their creation be included in any new constitution. In draft Section 7.03, the Commission proposes several alternative methods for the creation of directly elected multicounty or regional governmental units. In draft Section 7.06, it also provides for the creation of area-wide or intergovernmental authorities, in keeping with its belief that maximum flexibility should be permitted local government in solving urban service problems.