

**DUKES COUNTY CHARTER STUDY COMMISSION  
WORKGROUP ON ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**OUTLINE OF POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS – PART II**

**Should DCCSC recommend mechanisms to improve the accountability of county government to the voters (*in addition to term lengths*)? If so, what should they be? – YES 12**

Options/Potential Recommendations:

- Building on the recommendations concerning the use of various bodies in an advisory capacity, including the All-Island Selectmen and the Town Administrators:
  - Conduct annual County-wide public meeting(s) to discuss county programs and the budget, prior to formal approval by the County Commission - RECOMMENDED
  - Create the expectation that individual County Commissioners will hold periodic meetings with individual Town Boards of Selectmen. - RECOMMENDED
  - Create the expectation that individual County Commissioners and/or the County Treasurer will participate actively in the meetings of the All-Island FinComs. - RECOMMENDED
  - Participate in Annual Town Meetings to report on County Programs and the budget. – NOT RECOMMENDED
  - Create the expectation that the County Administrator will participate actively in the regularly held meetings of the Town Administrators. - RECOMMENDED
  - Hold County Commission meetings in each town on rotating basis. – RECOMMENDED

**Should DCCSC make recommendations to enhance county revenues? If so, what should those recommendations be? – YES 12**

Options/Potential Recommendations:

- Recommendations made by Group II and others include the following, with the expectation that each will have clearly documented net community benefits:
  - Fee-based services provided by County Departments or by the County Treasurer, e.g. accounting services for the Land Bank, including the creation of services associated with implementation of the MVC Island Plan - RECOMMENDED
  - Increased State funding of Courthouse maintenance and capital improvements - RECOMMENDED
  - Increased pursuit of Federal, State and private grants (Identify specifics). - RECOMMENDED
  - Fees for use of county properties - RECOMMENDED
  - Sale or lease of county assets – RECOMMENDED
  - Creation of a Island-wide Power Utility, e.g. Hampshire County Model - RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION
  - Additional potential sources of revenue: (Would require special legislation.)
    - County rooms tax - RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION
    - Nominal surcharge, e.g. \$0.50 to SSA ticket fees [*More discussion needed.*]
    - 1% added to real estate transfer tax – NOT RECOMMENDED
    - Reconsider existing assessment structure – NOT RECOMMENDED

- Revised calculation of County overhead allocation (Would require FAA approval.)

*Note: Also consider requesting a formal legal opinion and FAA approval for the lease payments to the County for use of Airport property and the Business Park [More discussion needed.]*

**Should DCCSC make recommendations that might expand/improve the process for encouraging a broader range of candidates for DCC? If so, what might those be? – YES 12**

Options/Potential Recommendations:

- Publicize as early as April, 2008 the State requirements, schedule and deadlines for seeking election as a Dukes County Commissioner: - RECOMMENDED
  - Include:
    - Announcements on the County website with links to the corresponding State websites
    - Press releases and advertisements in both newspapers
    - Community announcements on MVTV
    - Interview(s) on MVTV explaining the duties of County Commissioners and the requirements associated with running for election
    - Community Forums to explain the process of seeking public office
  - Secure appropriate sponsorship:
    - Sponsor directly.
    - Alternatively, seek co-sponsorship with the League of Women Voters

*[More discussion needed.]*
  - Seek funding from the following potential sources:
    - The County Budget
    - The Charter Study Commission
    - The Permanent Endowment

*[More discussion needed.]*
- Make clearly available at the County Administrative Office and the offices of the Town Clerks all of the forms that must be completed by potential candidates, clearly differentiating those required from candidates with political party affiliations and those who are unenrolled. – RECOMMENDED