**Electing Members of the Government Study Commission**

At the same election where the question of having a government study commission is on the ballot, voters are also

asked to elect the designated number of members for the commission. Even voters opposing having a government

study commission are to vote for members of the commission.

The Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law establishes a detailed procedure for simultaneously presenting to

the electors **two related questions** – the first, whether a home rule study should be undertaken and secondly, the

election of members to a study commission if the vote is favorable to such a study.

**Eligibility.** The only eligibility requirement for candidates for the office of study commissioner is that they be

registered voters of the municipality. Current officeholders, including local, school, county and state officials are

eligible to serve as members of government study commissions. As the office is nonpartisan, persons covered by

local or state civil service regulations are also eligible to serve.

**Nomination Papers.** Candidates are nominated by filing nomination papers. The nomination papers must include

the name and address of the candidate, identify the person as a candidate for the office of government study

commissioner, and state the signers are legally qualified to vote for the candidate. The nomination papers may not

carry any political party designation or slogan.

Nomination papers may be circulated and signed within a time period **between the thirteenth and the tenth**

**Tuesday before the election (i.e. between August 9 and August 30)**. Candidates must obtain signatures of registered voters equal to at least two percent

of the number of votes cast for governor in the last gubernatorial general election within the municipality, or two

hundred registered voters whichever is less. Each voter signing a nominating paper must list their residence,

including street number and post office address. Each voter may sign nominating papers for as many candidates as

the number of members proposed for the government study commission.

Each nomination paper must be accompanied by an affidavit of one or more of the signers, affirming the paper

was signed by each signer in their proper handwriting, that to the best of the signer's knowledge all signers are

registered voters of the municipality, and that the purpose of the paper is to endorse the candidate named for the

office of government study commissioner.

**Filing Nomination Papers.** Nomination papers must be filed no later than the **tenth Tuesday (August 30) prior to the date of the election.** Each nomination paper must have attached an affidavit signed by the candidate, consenting to stand as a candidate at the election, and promising to take office and serve, if elected. Candidates filing nomination papers for government study commissioner do not have to pay a filing fee since they serve without compensation.

**Ethics Law Disclosure Statement.** The State Ethics Commission has ruled candidates for government study

commission must file ethics law disclosure statements. Forms are available from the county board of elections.

**Campaign Finance Reports.** Candidates for government study commissioner are subject to campaign finance

reporting requirements. Most candidates for government study commission will have minimal, if any, campaign

receipts or expenditures. Candidates spending less than $250 are required only to file a notarized statement

attesting that fact with the county board of elections. When candidates file their nomination papers, they will be

given the appropriate form by the board of elections.