



County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES
AUDITOR

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
138 EAST COURT STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Bill Brayshaw, County Engineer
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Rob Goering, County Treasurer
Simon Leis, County Sheriff
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The Hamilton County Government Reform Task Force has concluded its deliberations by proposing the so-called alternative form of county government as a pathway to a County Charter. It should be noted that not a single county in Ohio has ever adopted the alternative form in the over half a century in which it has been possible.

It is unfortunate that a group of volunteer citizens has been led to a conclusion which would promote an unwarranted assault on directly accountable county government and the right of the people to choose their officials.

In fact, the alternative form would institutionalize redundancy with the potential for even more unelected and highly paid bureaucrats. It is nothing more than a power grab by the County Commissioners at taxpayers' expense which would destroy the checks and balances presently in place.

Rather than furthering collaboration it would breed confrontation and "turf wars" by allowing the Commissioners to establish their own, controlled departments with their appointees while the independent, elected officials who already perform those functions would continue to serve. The highly paid consultant to the task force even suggested electing officials who would agree *not* to serve!

The County Commission's appointment of this Task Force and its resulting recommendations have done more to create ill will among what one Commissioner likes to call "the county family" than anything else in years.

We have been working for years to help solve the County's serious fiscal problems by reducing our staffs and cutting costs instead of wasting time and resources attempting to expand County government at a time when people want less government rather than more.

Accordingly we join on a bipartisan basis to oppose this recommendation and call on the County Commission to reject it.

September 9, 2010