

Government Study Commission Survey
Hourglass Foundation

Survey findings are based on 159 responses from Hourglass Panel members throughout Lancaster County. The online survey was conducted during the first two weeks of October, 2006. While not a balanced sample, we feel the findings provide interesting insights into people's attitudes and perceptions on this important issue.

"Shall a government study commission of eleven members be elected to study the existing form of government of Lancaster County; to consider the advisability of the adoption of an optional form of government or a home rule charter; to recommend the adoption of an optional form of government, or to draft and recommend a home rule charter".

1. How knowledgeable do you feel you are on the ballot question of creating a government study commission?

- 61% I'm sufficiently knowledgeable
- 23% I could use some additional information
- 16% I could use much additional information

2. Do you plan to vote on this question?

- 81% Yes, I plan to vote on this question
- 13% Maybe, I need more information
- 3% No, I don't plan to vote on this question
- 3% Don't know

3. Which one of the following statements best expresses your opinion about creating a government study commission? (select one)

- 45% It can't hurt to study and evaluate our form of government, and recommend changes if needed
- 31% We need to modernize and improve our form of county government
- 14% Electing qualified officials is more important than changing the structure of government
- 6% I need more information to have an opinion

4% Our current form of county government has worked for two hundred years. If it's not broken, don't fix it

4. At this point in time, would you say you support or oppose the creation of a government study commission?

54% Strongly support

19% Somewhat support

9% Strongly oppose

7% Somewhat oppose

9% Don't Know

5. Even if you vote in opposition to the proposed government study commission you will be asked on the ballot to select the eleven members of the commission who will spend approximately 1-1/2 years to complete the study.

Which of the following criteria are you likely to use to choose the eleven commission members from the 36 names on the ballot? (select as many as you like)

49% People who will be impartial when studying

38% Only those few people whose names I recognize and respect

17% Currently, I have no criteria for making selections

18% People recommended by the Chamber of Commerce*

8% People recommended by the Democratic party

5% People recommended by the Republican party

3% People who will not want to make any changes

2% People recommended by the local newspaper

8% Other

*Lancaster County Citizen's for Government Study coalition