

Senator Dibble Proposal

Twin Cities Metropolitan Council

Bodies

- Metropolitan Regional Civic Council
- Metropolitan Regional Local Government Council

Regional Civic Council

Membership and selection:

- 19 members: 16 elected to represent districts, 3 at large, appointed by the Governor
- All districts to be equal in size. Districting consistent with laws allowing for creation of minority opportunity districts
- Staggered terms
- Gubernatorial appointees serve a set term
- Chair elected by the body from their own
- Non-partisan elections, funded by with a public election finance system similar to Minnesota Legislature's public finance system
- Full time. Salary is the average of metro area county commissioners

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Taxing authority, bonding, all discretionary policy decisions, budgeting and appropriations, delivery of public services (transit, sewers, etc.)
- Planning responsibility and authority to be *shared equally* with the Civic Council (10 Year Long Range, Transportation, Water Resources, Regional Parks, Housing Policy Plans, etc.). Designated as the MPO

Other:

- Includes a dedicated and fiscal research and analysis staff, accountable only to the Civic Council (including staff dedicated to supporting work and office of individual members)
- Members are encouraged and incented to avail themselves of national and international educational opportunities on issues of regional governance, planning and services

Local Government Council

Membership and selection:

- Locally elected officials
- Two types of districts: County Districts and Municipal (cities and townships) Districts, apportioned proportionally according to population
- County appointees selected by a caucus of counties
- Municipal appointees selected by a like caucus of cities and townships (which can then further be categorized by community type [central, developed and developing communities, for example])
- Number of members to be at least as large as Regional Civic Council, with sufficient number to ensure proportionality, and allowing for greater County representation
- Each County must have at least one seat
- County districts would not cross county boundaries
- Staggered terms
- Appointees serve a set term
- Chair elected by the body from their own

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Shall be consulted by Regional Civic Council on all major policy decisions
- Planning authority to be shared equally with the Civic Council
- Responsible for evaluation of services provided (effectiveness, efficiency, consistency with laws and policies, etc.)

- Shall have the power by majority vote to require the Regional Civic Council to reconsider any major policy decisions
- Shall have the power, via two-thirds vote to veto major actions of the Regional Civic Council (paired with the ability for the Regional Civic Council to override via two-thirds vote)
- Must ratify any new major policy power or expansion of scope, authority and duties of the Regional Civic Council (except those mandated and directed by the Legislature)
- Hold an equal number of voting seats on Committees of the Regional Civic Council

Other:

- Includes a dedicated and fiscal research and analysis staff, accountable only to the Local Government Council
- Members paid for additional time and responsibilities (within bounds of state law and state constitution)
- Members are encouraged and incited to avail themselves of national and international educational opportunities on issues of regional governance, planning and services