

PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL FORUM

**Proposed Comprehensive Plan for
the Merger of City and County
Government**

CHARTER COMMISSION

- KRS 67.825, 67.830 & 67.875 allows formation of new county-wide gov't under specific definitions
- 20 member commission plus Chairman
 - Judge Newberry is Chairman
- Members are proportionate to population in city and county:
 - 12 county (Population approx 40,000)
 - 8 city (Population approx 25,000)
- Original meeting was mid-2009

Objectives of Merged Government

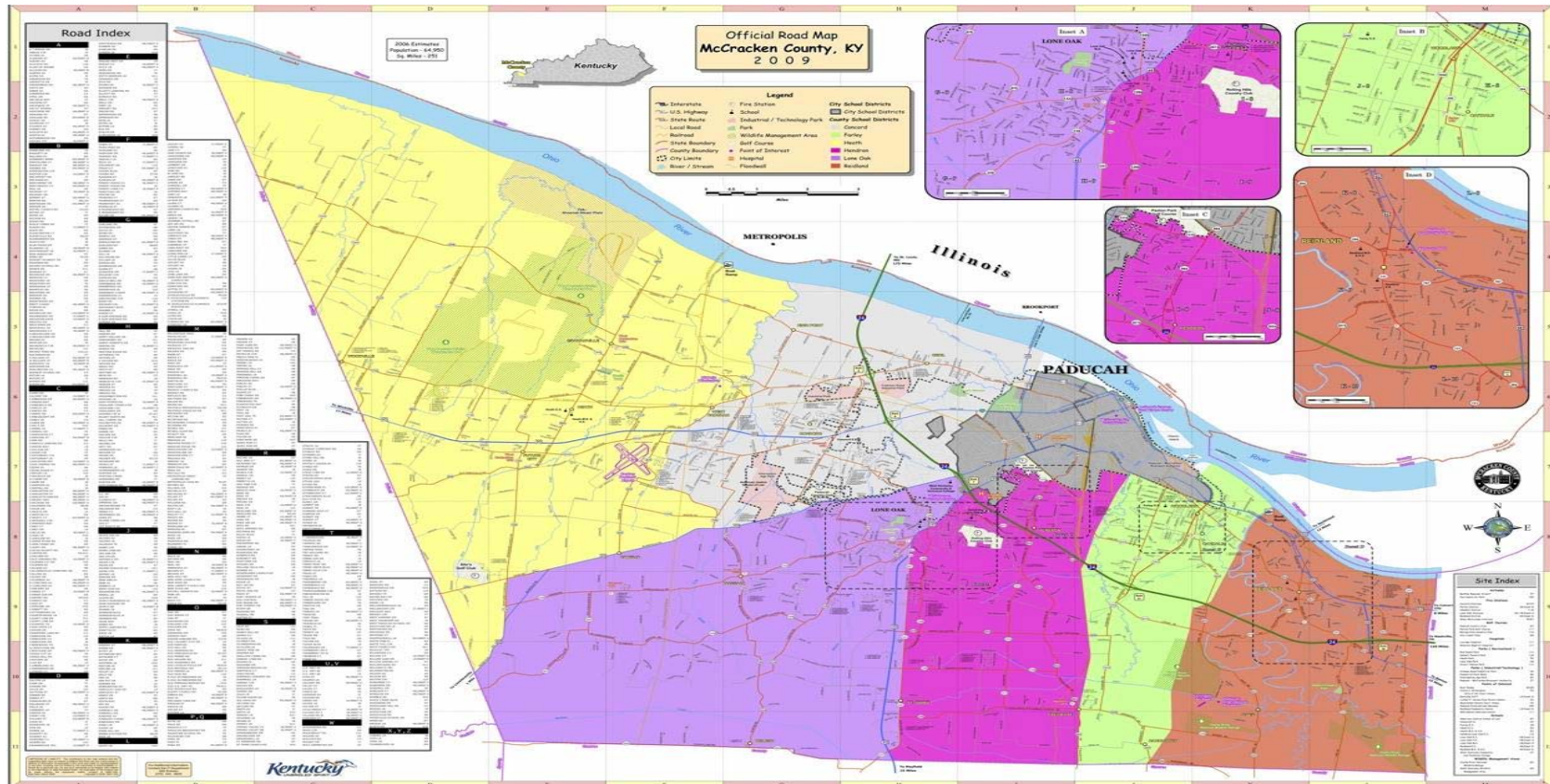
- Promote job creation
 - Increase visibility of area as Metropolitan center in nationwide databases
- Promote more efficient government
 - Capture synergies of consolidated gov't
- Make area better place to live
 - More attractions
 - Retention of youth

Does proposed draft Succeed?

- Citizens and Voters will decide!
- Our objective now is **NOT to SELL** Merger!
- Our objective now is simply to EDUCATE voters:
 - What are the *provisions of the proposed draft?*
 - What is the *potential impact of merged gov't* on voters and citizen's lives both *near-term and long-term?*
 - What is the *process* over the next 12 months?
- The current draft is **NOT** final!
- It is subject to revision depending upon the input we get over the next few months
- Intent is to place it on the ballot for consideration by the voters in the General Election in 2012

Details – Provisions for Proposed Charter County Government

- The entire county (including the city) would be divided into 9 approximately equal Council Districts.
- Each District will consist of approximately 7, 000 people



Details – Provisions for Proposed Charter County Government

- Each of the 9 districts will elect a District Councilman who must reside in and be elected by citizens in that district.
- In addition, 3 At-Large Councilmen will be elected who must live in their respective At-Large Districts
- A Charter County Executive becomes Chairman of the Charter Council replacing both the Mayor and the County Judge Executive

Details – Provisions for Proposed Charter County Government – Cont'd

- Term limits of three terms max are established
- Minimum age, citizenship and residency requirements for elected office are defined
- Taxing and Service Districts are established:
 - “Full Service District” – comparable to City
 - “General Service District” – comparable to County
 - “Partial Service District” – newly created for districts wanting less than old city but more than old county
- Allows for different tax levels corresponding to different service levels

Details – Provisions for Proposed Charter County Government – Cont'd

- Law enforcement in Full Services Districts (City) will continue to be provided by a County Police Dept (former City Police)
- Law enforcement in General Services Districts (County) will continue to be provided by the Sheriff
- Fire protection in Full Services Districts will be provided by the former City Fire Dept
- Fire protection in General Services Districts will be provided by existing Volunteer Fire Depts.

Details – Provisions for Proposed Charter County Government – Cont'd

- Tax increases are forbidden for a minimum of five years
- Rules for adopting annual budgets, administration of fees, levies, assessments and other financial matters are defined
- All employees of both the City and the County are protected from job loss directly as a result of the merger.
(This does not include elected officials, constitutional officials, the City Mgr. and the Deputy County Judge Executive)
- Existing labor contracts and organizations are recognized
- Elections of county officials are to be non-partisan
- Provision is made for future modifications of the Charter by the voters and/or by the Council.

Details – Potential Impact of Proposed Charter County Government

- One governing body of 13 county-wide officials (9+3+1) will replace the two separate and independent bodies of 9 officials (Paducah: 4+1) and (County: 3+1).
- Consolidation and efficiencies in the size of government will come as a result of retirements and attrition
- All City, County or joint City-County boards, commissions, and authorities in existence on the date of the merger will continue in effect, but are subject to review and may be revised, modified and/or dissolved by the Charter Council
- Existing liabilities, contracts and financial obligations of the City *and* the County will be assumed by the Charter Gov't

Details – Potential Impact of Proposed Charter County Government – Cont'd

- Existing ordinances and resolutions of the City and the County which are not replaced by this document remain in effect, but must be re-enacted, repealed, modified or amended by the Charter Council within five years or they expire
- Requires the Council to establish a Board of Ethics and a Code of Ethics for it to follow in governing all aspects of employment and administration of the new government
- The Charter Council may establish a merit system for employees

Transition if Merger Approved

- If voters approve the merger in Nov. 2012, a “Transition Committee” will be appointed.
- The “Transition Committee” will consist of 20 citizens appointed by the City Mayor and the County Judge Executive in same proportion as Charter Commission
- Will have until *12/1/2013* to develop and recommend a Transition Plan for orderly transition to Charter Government.
- Election of new Councilmen and a Charter Executive will take place with election on 11/5/2013
- Newly elected officers will take office on 1/1/2014