

Citizens League  
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APPROVED  
November 1, 1967  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Citizens League Board of Directors

FROM: Legislation Action Committee, Greer Lockhart, Chairman

SUBJECT: Creation of additional special districts in the metropolitan area

### Introduction

The Citizens League report of February 9, 1967 on the creation of a metropolitan council for the Twin Cities area recommended an "operating" council, which would have taken over the areawide functions now handled by most of the existing special districts, and which would have taken on directly the responsibility for most new areawide functions. The 1967 Legislature created, however, a "coordinating" council. This not only left in being the existing areawide special districts, but also left the way entirely open for the creation of additional single-purpose operating agencies at the metropolitan level.

### Findings and Conclusions

Some general guidelines need to be set for the creation of additional single-purpose districts . . . particularly for the creation of those agencies formed voluntarily under the Joint Powers Act.

1. These guidelines are needed for the Citizens League itself. The League research committee currently reviewing the need for parks and open space in the metropolitan area will soon be faced with the question of the governmental structure most adequate to handle any such program.
2. The guidelines are needed also for the public agencies that will be involved in the creation, or the consequences, of additional joint powers agencies. Since the end of the 1967 session new proposals have been advanced for the establishment of new areawide districts for pollution control and refuse disposal, for library services. New federal law, in addition, requires the establishment of an area-wide agency for the planning of health care facilities.
3. The following questions need to be answered:
  - \* Is a solution to some areawide problems so urgent that new special districts ought to be established prior to the time the 1969 Legislature will be able to review the whole pattern of metropolitan area governmental organization?
  - \* If so, how should these new districts be brought into existence? And by what process?
  - \* What system of representation should be used in any new special districts? By what method should the members of the board be selected?
  - \* How should any new district relate to the Metropolitan Council?

Recommendations

We recommend the President of the Citizens League be authorized to appoint a small ad hoc committee to review the questions presented by the prospective creation of additional single-purpose districts in the metropolitan area, and to consider the need for some general policy on the creation of additional districts prior to the 1969 session.