

CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT

No. 82

**Constitutional Amendment #1  
“Home Rule Bill”**

**October 1957**

Approved by PA of Trustees 11/6/57  
# 82

Citizens League  
601 Syndicate Building  
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Forms and Structure Committee, Stanley Platt, Chairman  
SUBJECT: Proposed Constitutional Amendment #1

At its meeting on October 22, the Forms and Structure Committee adopted the following resolution for transmittal to the Board of Directors:

At the last session of the Minnesota legislature there was passed "An Act Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Minnesota relating to Local Government and Revising and Consolidating the Provisions therefore." This bill has been referred to as "the Home Rule Bill". It was sponsored by the League of Minnesota Municipalities and had the active support of the Citizens League.

Minnesota Citizens will vote on this amendment (Amendment #1) at the election to be held on November 8, 1958. This bill directly concerns many of the areas of interest of the Citizens League. The general effect will be to: (1) reduce the need for and discourage the use of special legislation relating to single units of government; (2) provide for the naming of single local government units when special legislation is found necessary; (3) provide for the adoption and amendment of home rule charters and for city-county consolidation "when authorized by law" to be enacted by the Minnesota legislature; and (4) grant general authority to the legislature to provide for the creation, dissolution, etc. of local government units.

This amendment when suitably implemented by legislation can be very helpful to Minneapolis and the metropolitan area in solving problems of local government. It is therefore important that the Citizens League make support of this amendment a major project during the coming twelve months.

We therefore recommend to the Board of Directors that they encourage our committee to work with the League of Minnesota Municipalities and others to bring about voter approval, and that they specifically authorize staff members to devote as much time as can be made available to the planning and implementation of public education leading to favorable consideration of this amendment, and to aid in preparation of suitable supplemental legislation for introduction early in the 1959 session of the Minnesota legislature.

October 22, 1957