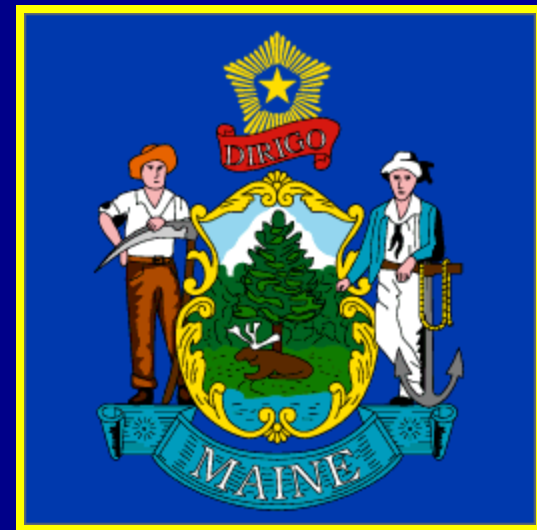


Maine Intergovernmental Advisory Commission

A Blueprint for Maine



Who is on the IAC?

- Comprises legislators, local, county, regional, and state government officials, and non-profit and public members
- Represents education, public safety, corrections, economic development, regional planning
- It is a collaborative effort

What is the IAC?

Purpose:

- Work on ways to improve communication, cooperation and efficiencies within all 3 branches of government
- Provide state assistance to encourage regionalization and cost-effective service delivery

(Title 30-A MRSA, section 2181)

What are the IAC Goals?

1. **Enhancing Compatibility:**
 - **Data Standardization** – getting everyone speaking the same language
2. **Creating Incentives:**
 - **Regional Efficiency Grants** - supporting collaborative initiatives
3. **Streamlining & Strengthening Regional Government:**
 - **Public Service Districts** – proposing a new regional government structure

Data Standardization

- Maine Department of Audit to develop standard chart of accounts
- State agencies to establish processes so that collaborating municipalities can file joint state reports
- IAC to examine other data sources for further standardization

Regional Efficiency Grants

- Provides grants to support collaborative initiatives
- \$1 million in grants awarded to 121 municipalities in spring of 2005
- \$500,000 available for FY07
 - Application notice anticipated in Fall 2006 with awards in Spring 2007

A Proposal to Streamline Regional Government

➤ Proposal:

- Create a new, single structure to replace existing multiple regional governments

➤ Concept:

- Not a final product, seeking public input to refine the concept

Goals

- Improve efficiency and quality
- Reduce property tax burden
- Increase local control and decision making
- Keep what works currently and create opportunities to improve or expand services in other arenas

Public Service District

- Retain existing 16 county boundaries
- Combine several regional functions into a single entity. Possible functions include:
 - County government services
 - Regional planning & community/economic development
 - Some state services delivered at a regional level
 - Some social service entities and quasi-governmental entities

Governance

➤ Elected Board of Commissioners

- Non-partisan
- Nine-member board
 - Counties organized into 3 districts, 2 elected from each
 - Each district appoints a municipal elected official from the municipalities in the district at a district caucus

Commissioners' Responsibilities

- Adopt an annual budget
 - no separate county budget committee
- Provide policy oversight of operations
- Hire professional staff

Voters' Responsibilities

- Elect the district representatives to serve on the Board of Commissioners
- Elect municipal officials, who will, in turn, be appointed to serve on the Board of Commissioners
- May exercise the right of people's veto to overturn the annually adopted budget of the Public Service District

Functions

3 Categories

1. County Statutory - Required by Maine Constitution or by Statute

- Deeds
- Jails
- Probate
- Sheriff
- District Attorney
- Emergency Management

Functions cont.

2. Quasi Governmental Functions

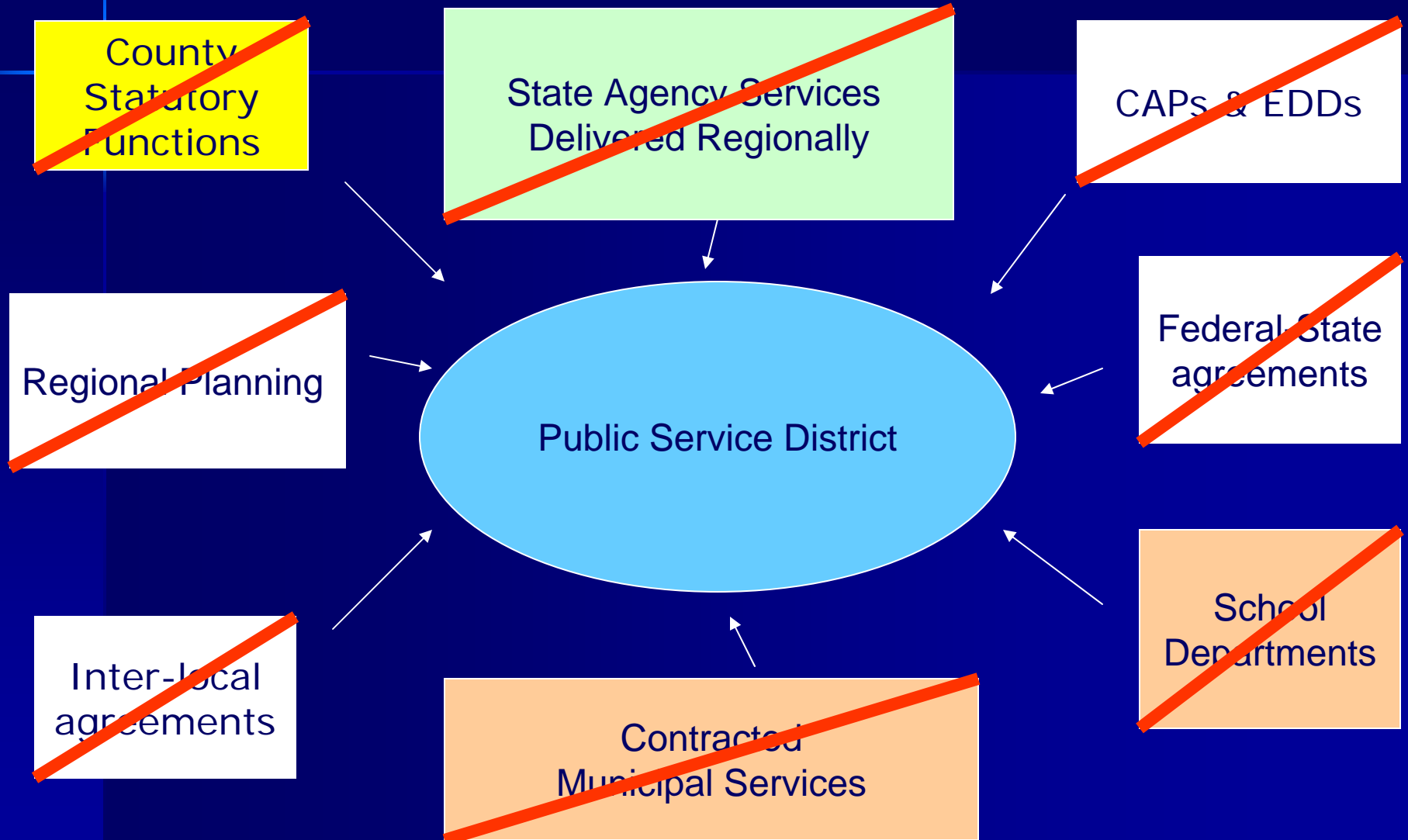
- Services such as planning assistance, bulk purchasing, and economic development, provided by existing regional entities established through contracts and municipal membership
- Federal-state agreements
- Functions and services provided by inter-local agreements and other mutual agreements where applicable

Functions cont.

3. Voluntary Contracted Services

- Municipalities and their citizens decide on services they wish to contract to the new government vs. which they choose to continue to provide on their own
- Municipalities, schools, other governmental units & districts eligible to contract with the new entity

All levels of government and quasi governmental entities can join or contract with the Public Service District



Costs

➤ **Costs of Creating Public Service Districts include:**

- Ongoing expenses of existing county services
- Ongoing expenses of collaborative services provided by the Public Service District
- Start-up costs for regional services to study and implement programs to deliver services more efficiently and effectively

There will be initial start-up costs but savings from collaboration are expected in 3-5 years

How to Fund the Costs?

- **Contracts and Fees**
- **Existing county levy of property taxes**
- **New sources of revenues**

Keep What Works

- Avoid a “cookie-cutter” approach
- Provide municipal choices
- Avoid decentralizing existing larger regional entities
- Provide cross-county boundary choices

Where do we go from here?

- Public forums to inform and solicit input regarding this proposal
- Statewide referendum
 - Citizens voice their opinion on the Blueprint For Maine through a statewide vote
- Each new Public Service District would establish a transition committee to work out unique local details

What Do You Think?

- The Concept
- Governance
- Functions
- Funding Sources

**Thank You for your
thoughts and participation!**