

**Developing an Agreement/Ordinance for Joint Planning
Key Questions to Answer**

Directions: Please answer the questions below and submit your responses to LIAA by **March 30, 2007**.

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For your reference, we have provided an additional sheet showing how the Fremont Community answered these questions.

Jurisdiction

1. What do you want the composition of the Joint Planning Commission to be?

A. What community interest areas do you want represented on the commission?

Municipal Planning Act calls for people of “different professions or occupations.”

Township Planning Act says “major interests” should be represented, “such as agriculture, recreation, education, public health, government, commerce, transportation and industry.”

B. What is the preferred number of people on joint planning commission?

Municipal Planning Act calls for 9 people.

Township Planning Act calls for 5 to 9 people.

Joint Municipal Planning Act also refers to “alternate members.”

C. What is the preferred representation from each jurisdiction?

There is no direction from the legislation. What can we agree on?

2. Should there be specific *qualifications* for appointment to the commission?

The legislation is silent on the meaning and purpose of qualifications.

3. How will you select people to serve on the commission?

Joint Municipal Planning Act refers to “election or appointment.”

Municipal Planning Act provides for appointment by the Mayor or officer subject to approval by the City Council.

Township Planning Act provides for appointment by Township Supervisor subject to approval by the Township Board.

4. What should the terms in office be for commission members?

Both Municipal and Township Planning Acts establish a 3-year term for members, except for the first planning commission. The terms are staggered for the first planning commissioners appointed.

5. What conditions and procedures do you want for removal of commissioners from office?

Municipal Planning Act says that members may be removed after a public hearing by the mayor or legislative body “for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.” *Township Planning Act* gives the Township Supervisor the authority to remove members after a hearing and with approval of the Township Board.

6. How should planning commission vacancies be filled?

The procedures in the Municipal and Township Planning Acts are similar to those for appointing new members.

7. How shall the participating governments share the commission’s operating budget?

The Municipal and Township Planning Acts are similar in providing authority to their commissions to develop budget and obtain assistance (e.g., staff), but funding is appropriated by the legislative bodies – exclusive of gifts.

8. What do you want the Commission’s jurisdictional area to be?

The *Joint Municipal Planning Act* states that the area may “consist of all or part of the combined territory of the participating municipalities.”

9. If a municipality decides to join or withdraw, what procedures should be used?

10. Which state planning act should the Commission follow in terms of procedures?

11. Are the jurisdictions ready to exercise zoning and land use regulation jointly?

12. Do you want the legislative bodies to assert the authority to approve/reject the new master plan developed by the new Joint Planning Commission?

13. Does the Joint Planning Commission adopt the existing regional Plan?