



County of Cumberland

2007 Referendum

Discussion Points



REFERENDUM DISCUSSION POINTS:
Referendum Number One on the County Ballot:
“Shall the issuance of general obligation bonds of the County of Cumberland be authorized in an amount not to exceed \$1,700,000 to fund the costs of an upgraded radio and data transmission system for County law enforcement and emergency response?”

Issue: The current system to connect Cumberland County’s first-responders in an emergency is outdated, does not allow for the use of even current technologies and puts the resident’s of the County at risk, as well as our safety personnel.

Approval of Question 1- Radio Technology Upgrade

- Provides rare opportunity for the governments in Cumberland County to achieve a better radio, data communications system to serve the interests and safety of the Citizens of the County.
- Improves reliability and safety of current law enforcement and Emergency responder communications
- Upgrades county-wide technology and uses connectivity to State and other organizations relating to emergency communications
- Replaces antiquated thirty-year old radio system, which will provide communication service in areas not currently covered.
- Improves the County-wide distribution system with a new transmitter and radios in Sheriff cars
- Creates a County-wide municipal high mod microwave data distribution system for use by all municipalities
- With the addition of two frequencies, provides complete tactical channels for fire and police county-wide during emergencies, plus provides a complete county wide back-up system for all municipalities.
- Annual average cost per year for bond: \$160,600



Referendum Number Two on the County Ballot:
“Shall the amount of general obligation bonds of the County of Cumberland be authorized in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 for the construction of an expanded medical facility for the Cumberland County jail?”

Issue: There is an average 500+ jail inmates per day in the Cumberland County Jail of which almost a third require medical care on a daily basis. Without adequate facilities at the jail, inmates are taken to local hospital emergency rooms, escorted by up to two County Deputies. The yearly cost of transportation and payroll is significantly more than the yearly cost of bond to upgrade the jail facility.

Approval of Question 2 –Inmate Medical Facility

- A new facility is the most cost effective alternative, especially to doing nothing. Current yearly costs for treatment at emergency rooms is estimated at \$150,218 per year
- Resolves a critical safety situation for staff, inmates and public
- Medical needs have increased dramatically in recent years, causing space need situation, due in large part to mental illness issues
- Up to 175 inmates treated per day, as required by law
- Annual average cost per year for bond: \$105,400, saving taxpayers close to \$45,000 per year with construction.



Referendum Issue Number Three on the County Ballot:

To determine the voters' recommendation as to whether they "Favor the Maine State Legislature increasing the number of Cumberland County Commissioner districts from three (3) to seven (7)"?

Issue: The State legislature has determined that only three commissioners for the 265,000 citizens of Cumberland County leaves the citizens under represented. The Legislature is recommending an increase from three commissioners to seven. If approved by voters, the Legislature will act on the vote, with new commissioners elected in November 2008, taking office January 2009.

Approval of Question 3 - Commissioner Redistricting:

- Question of representation – it will change from roughly 87,000 per commissioner to 37,500 per commissioner
- Total cost of additional commissioners to be determined by the next Board of Commissioners.
- This is a recommendation for final approval by the legislature, as a Resolve of the Legislature
- Districts to be determined by statute, with limitations as to congruity, population distribution and methods of division.