

# The Advertiser-Gleam

Wednesdays and Saturdays

Marshall County's Oldest Business

## County seeks support for limited home rule

The county's rural voters will decide in the June primary whether the County Commission needs more authority to deal with a number of health and safety problems in the unincorporated part of the county.

A relatively new state law allows counties to adopt "self governance" or so-called "limited home rule." The County Commission has put it on the June ballot.

If the voters approve it, the Commission will have the authority to set up laws regulating weeds, junkyards, litter & rubbish, noise, pollution, sewage and animal control.

Several commissioners said Monday that the people they're talking to don't fully understand the proposal.

Chairman Billy Cannon said they've got the idea that the "Commission will come in and rule with an iron fist but it's not like that at all."

Commissioner Charlie McClendon: "I've had several tell me that they are absolutely against it. But you talk to them some more and they'll tell you they're not against the cleaner roadsides that the bill promotes."

Chairman Cannon: "I'm getting the same thing. We all are."

Commissioner McClendon: "The bill has absolutely nothing to do with zoning or taxing. It does not give us the authority to get into that."

Chairman Cannon: "It deals with health issues such as trash and junk cars. There is a noise portion. Unfortunately, we're starting to have some noise problems. We don't mind people having a good time, but they don't need to be so loud their neighbors can't sleep after midnight."

Commissioner Buddy Allen said he has some printouts on what the proposed self governance would allow the Commission to do. He said he can make copies for any

citizen who is interested.

"Commissioner Allen and I went to Whitesville to a dinner at the community center," Chairman Cannon said. "There were probably 30 people there and none of them were for it. Then we got to explaining what it would do and I think none of them were against it."

The assistant director of the Alabama County Commissioners Assn., Sonny Brasfield, will be at the next Commission meeting on May 22 to talk about the proposal. The Commission meets at 10:00 on the third floor of the Courthouse.

"There are a lot of chicken operations in the county and some of our farmers fear we might use this to try to limit where they can spread their chicken litter," Commissioner McClendon said. "This law spells out that the Commission is to have no authority in matters like that when there is another agency that oversees it."

Commissioner Allen said he felt the bill would help to beautify the county.

"What we're talking about would not hurt property values," he said.

Commissioner McClendon: "Property values might just go up in some areas."

Marshall is one of 7 counties that will vote on self governance in June. The others are Autauga, Dallas, DeKalb, Jackson, Macon and Mobile.

Bibb County will vote on it in November.

Commissioner Allen said some counties already have it and have raved about what a difference it has made there.

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