

# Jackson commission OKs home-rule vote

## Ballot set June 6 over ability to pass public health laws

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**SCOTTSBORO** - The Jackson County Commission on Tuesday voted 3-1 to set a June 6 referendum on granting the commission limited home rule power to help control or eliminate litter, sewage problems, illegal junkyards and other nuisances.

District 1 Commissioner Darren Blizzard of Bridgeport cast the dissenting vote without comment. District 2 Commissioner Carl Allen of Hollywood, District 3 Commissioner Carl "Cheese" Marona of Scottsboro and District 4 Commissioner Glenda "Bit" Hodges of Woodville voted for the measure.

The Legislature passed "The Alabama Limited Self-Governance Act" earlier this year to give counties the authority to pass public health laws. But the law requires voters' approval before a county can implement it. "There must be a local vote to put this in motion," said commission Chairman James Tidmore of Section.

Only those residents in the county's unincorporated areas may vote in the referendum. And only those areas would be

affected by the law.

The Association of County Commissions of Alabama got the Legislature to pass the act, sponsored by Sen. Lowell Barron, D-Fyffe, and other lawmakers. So far, Autauga and DeKalb counties have placed referendums on their June primary ballots.

In other business Tuesday, the commission:

■ Authorized Tidmore to buy 43 voting machines for handicapped voters at \$6,025 each. The machines will be used in the county's 39 voting precincts, including one for absentee voting.

Tidmore said the county hopes to be reimbursed 100 percent with federal money under the 2002 Help America Vote Act.

■ Agreed to apply for a grant to provide drinking water in the Wannville community near Hollywood and the Pikeville community near Scottsboro.

■ Reappointed Beatrice Thompson of Stevenson to the Department of Human Resources Board of Directors' District 1 seat.

■ Agreed to advertise for bids on repairing a sewer system at the Jackson County Extension and Solid Waste Authority offices.

The commission will meet again on Jan. 12 at 4:30 p.m. in its board room at the courthouse in Scottsboro.