

WITF News

Eight initiatives recommended for improving York area 11/16/2007

Scott Detrow

(York) -- After two years of meetings and research, the nonprofit coalition YorkCounts is presenting its Metro-York recommendations. The eight ideas are meant to improve York County's government and education structure. They include creating a consolidated Metro-York police department and a possible reorganization of county government. Metro-York Co-Chair Eric Menzer says the coalition is also urging the county to reexamine its tax system.

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“The existing property tax system fails on every count. It doesn’t work well for fast-growing school districts on the edge of the metro area. It doesn’t work well for a landlocked third-class city or for older boroughs or municipalities close to the heart of the area. It’s a burden on people who have a fixed income. It’s not really very responsive to economic growth.”

As for education, YorkCounts says a consortium should be put together to consider charter schools, magnet schools, and a school vouchers system. The study also says education can't be fixed without addressing poverty. It's urging the county to create more education-related incentives to bring families from diverse income ranges into York's school districts.