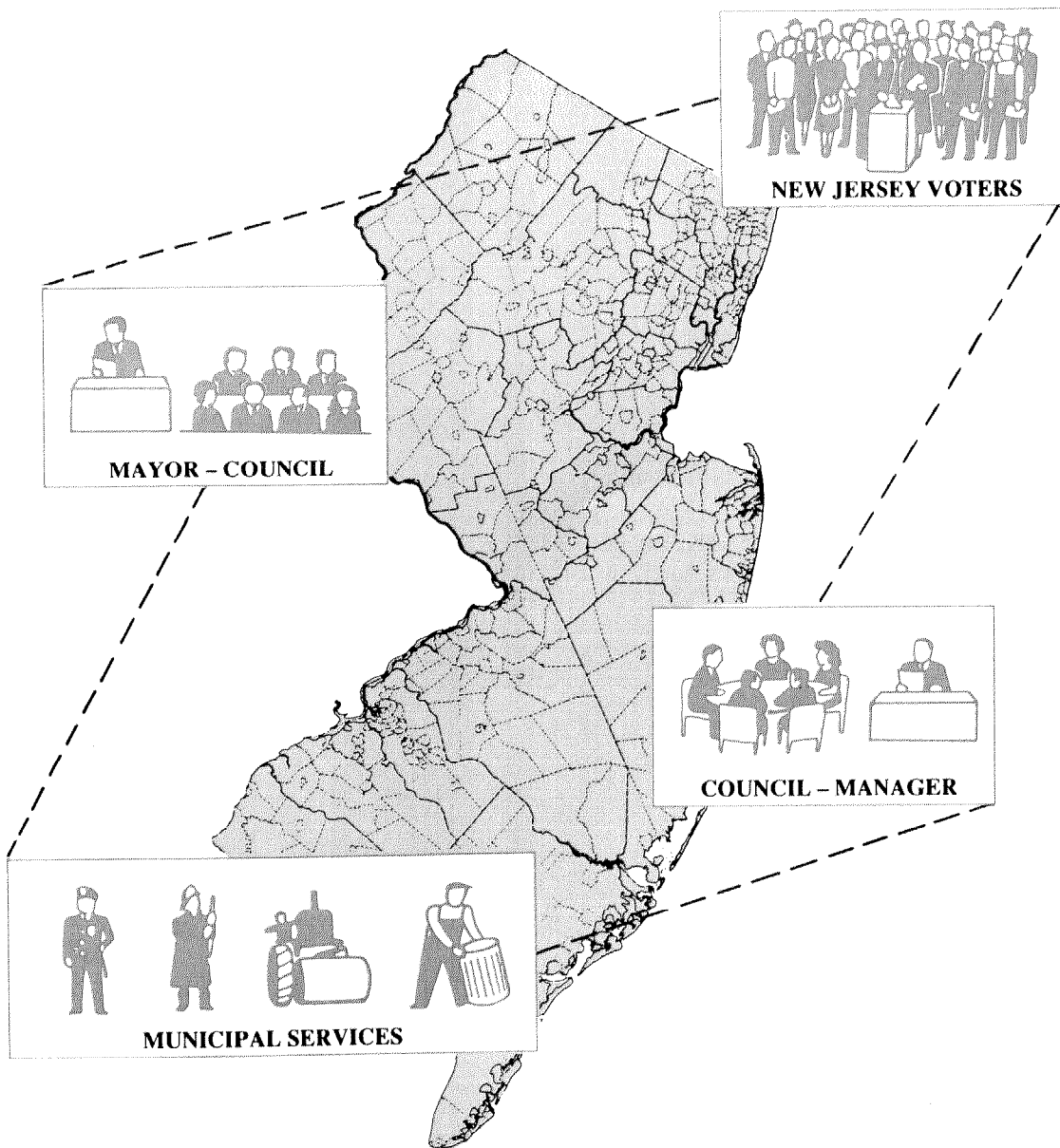


STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
STATE COMMISSION ON  
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

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# MODERN FORMS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT



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**\*Available upon request**



*State of New Jersey*  
**State Commission on  
County and Municipal Government**  
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# **MODERN FORMS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

**May 1992**

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COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

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## State of New Jersey

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FRED G. STICKEL III  
ACTING CHAIRMAN

DAVID C. MATTEK  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **To His Excellency Governor James J. Florio and Honorable Members of the Senate and General Assembly:**

The State Commission on County and Municipal Government is pleased to submit its forty-second report, *Modern Forms of Municipal Government*.

The Commission has reviewed the statutes that govern the modern forms of municipal government - the Optional Municipal Charter Law (Faulkner Act), the 1923 Municipal Manager Form, the Commission Form (Walsh Act), and the special charters. In so doing, it has become clear that there is a need for certain policy and technical changes that will eliminate conflict with general law, clarify provisions in less ambiguous terms, and provide local officials and interested citizens with a more organized and efficient set of statutes. This report also takes into account over 35 interviews with mayors, council members, managers, administrators, and clerks, who have provided valuable information in developing the Commission's recommendations.

One of the most important findings of the Commission is the ever-growing popularity of the Faulkner Act. The experience of the last 42 years indicates overwhelming movement to the forms within that act. Today it has been adopted by 120 municipalities containing 47 per cent of the State's population. The Commission's analysis of the Faulkner Act has revealed certain provisions to be redundant, out-dated, or in conflict with general law. The Commission recommends revising the Faulkner Act in order to clarify and simplify the law.

In addition, the report recommends the merging of the 1923 Municipal Manager form with the identical Faulkner Act Council-Manager form and the revision of the 81 year old Commission Form of government law. The report also includes a first time analysis of the ten special charters in New Jersey.

It is the belief of the Commission that the numerous recommendations for statutory changes contained in the report will strengthen the modern forms of municipal government. The revision of these statutes will maintain and enhance the ability of our municipalities to serve their citizens.

Respectfully submitted by the members of the State Commission on County  
and Municipal Government:

/s/ Fred Stickel III, *Acting Chairman*

/s/ George F. Geist

/s/ Gerald B. Green

/s/ Robert W. Singer

/s/ Robert F. Casey

/s/ Benjamin R. Fitzgerald

/s/ Dennis A. Maycher

/s/ Susan Bass-Levin

/s/ John E. Trafford

/s/ Stephen Capestro

/s/ Carol J. Murphy

/s/ Linda Spalinski