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## Toward a regional city

If the Portland City Council adopts the Portland Future Focus Strategic Plan, it should do so realizing that the plan heads the city far down the road of regionalism. And that means many traditional city political and administrative power bases will be eroded or even lost.

The proposal is the product of 18 months' effort by a 55-person citizen committee. Its assignment was to develop the first communitywide strategic plan. The plan is designed to guide the city to year 2000.

No part of the plan is more significant than the statement that Portland will cooperate in consolidating numerous service functions into a single regional government. This already occurs to some degree with Metro. What's new is the lengthy list of services that the regional government is to plan, finance and deliver: regional transportation, human services, libraries, arts, recreational facilities, air quality, natural areas and wildlife refuges, county roads, solid waste, corrections, elections, assessment and taxation, housing density and affordability, regional economic development, growth management and urban containment.

While the statement appears to be a coup de grâce aimed at urban county government, its real import is that regional government should capture

sizable tax dollars to finance highly visible public functions. Specifically, the plan recommends the regional government's activities be funded through earmarked revenues, including a sales tax or income tax increase.

It is axiomatic that government power is directly proportional to its share of the revenue pie. Or as Deep Throat said to Watergate sleuth Bob Woodward: Follow the money.

Further review of the services list also makes clear that the future shaping of Portland will be done regionally. Most long-range planning would occur outside City Hall because the regional government would regulate where Portland's urban fences are located. Much of Portland's economic, cultural and recreational vitality would also be entrusted to the new regional government.

The plan will be formally delivered to Mayor Bud Clark Thursday. With the structuring of Metro's new home rule charter under way, the Future Focus plan lays out clear city choices for the type of regional government Metro could become. Residents and Portland council members should carefully analyze the proposal — as The Oregonian will — to determine what regional route the city should to travel.

## Law dean's job no dream

As the University of Oregon Law School seeks a new dean, it ought to add two key criteria to the usual academic qualifications — fund-raising skills and an ability to rally support for state-funded legal education.

That probably requires a different type of dean from the most recent ones, the controversial Derrick Bell and Maurice Holland. Holland

vate contributions, but was confronted with American Bar Association threats to strip accreditation. The school responded by improving student-faculty ratios through admission curbs and tuition increases.

Therein lies the new dean's most challenging task. The law school's existence is frequently justified because it supposedly functions as a

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