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Nebraska Home Rule Project: Nebraska Municipal Survey

Robert F. Blair

University of Nebraska at Omaha, rblair@unomaha.edu

Dale Krane

University of Nebraska at Omaha, dkrane@unomaha.edu

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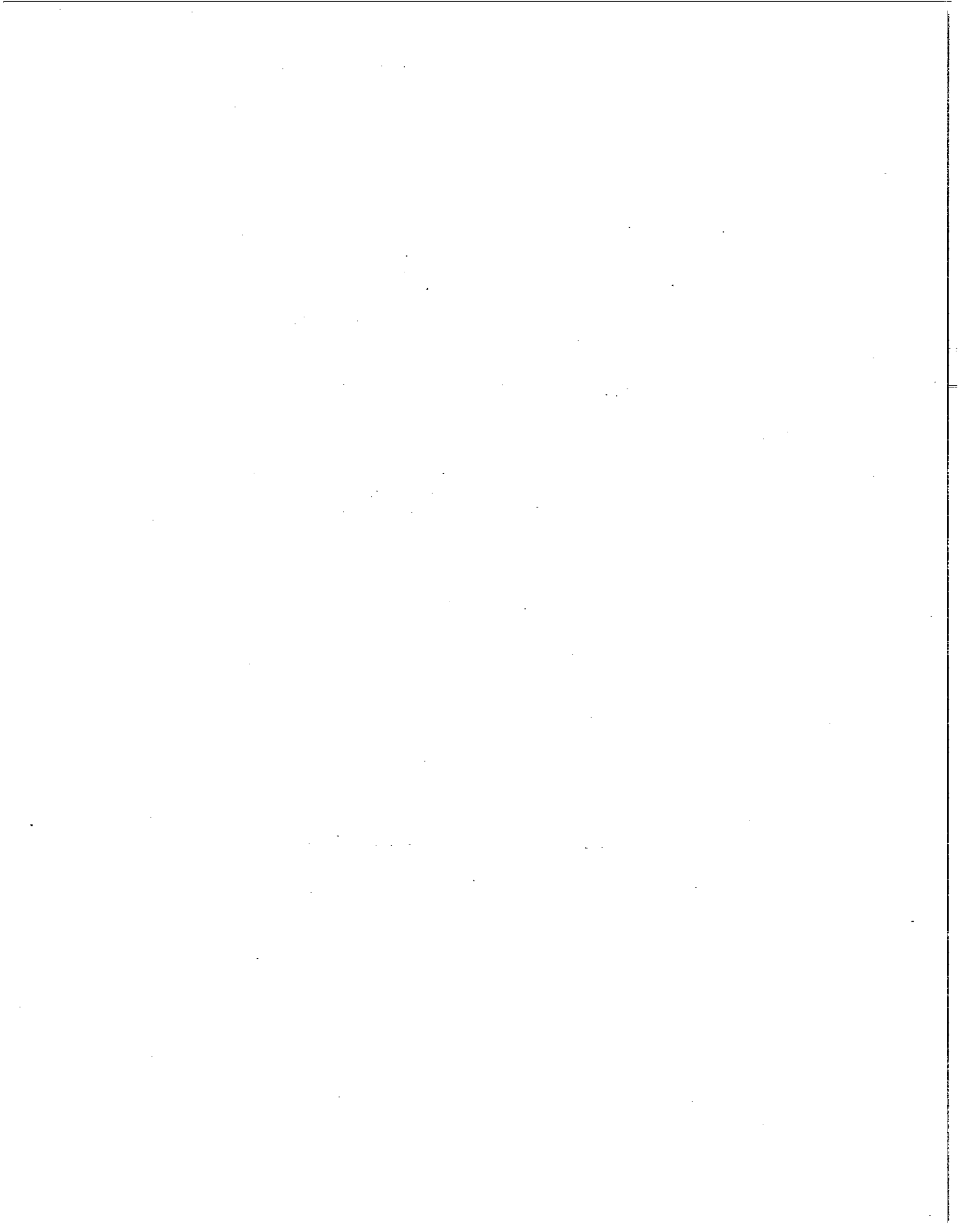
Nebraska Home Rule Project: Nebraska Municipal Survey

April 2000

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Robert Blair and Dale Krane
Department of Public Administration

Jerry Deichert and Dave Fifer
Center for Public Affairs Research



**NEBRASKA HOME RULE PROJECT:
NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL SURVEY**

**Submitted to the Nebraska Commission on
Local Government Innovation and Restructuring**

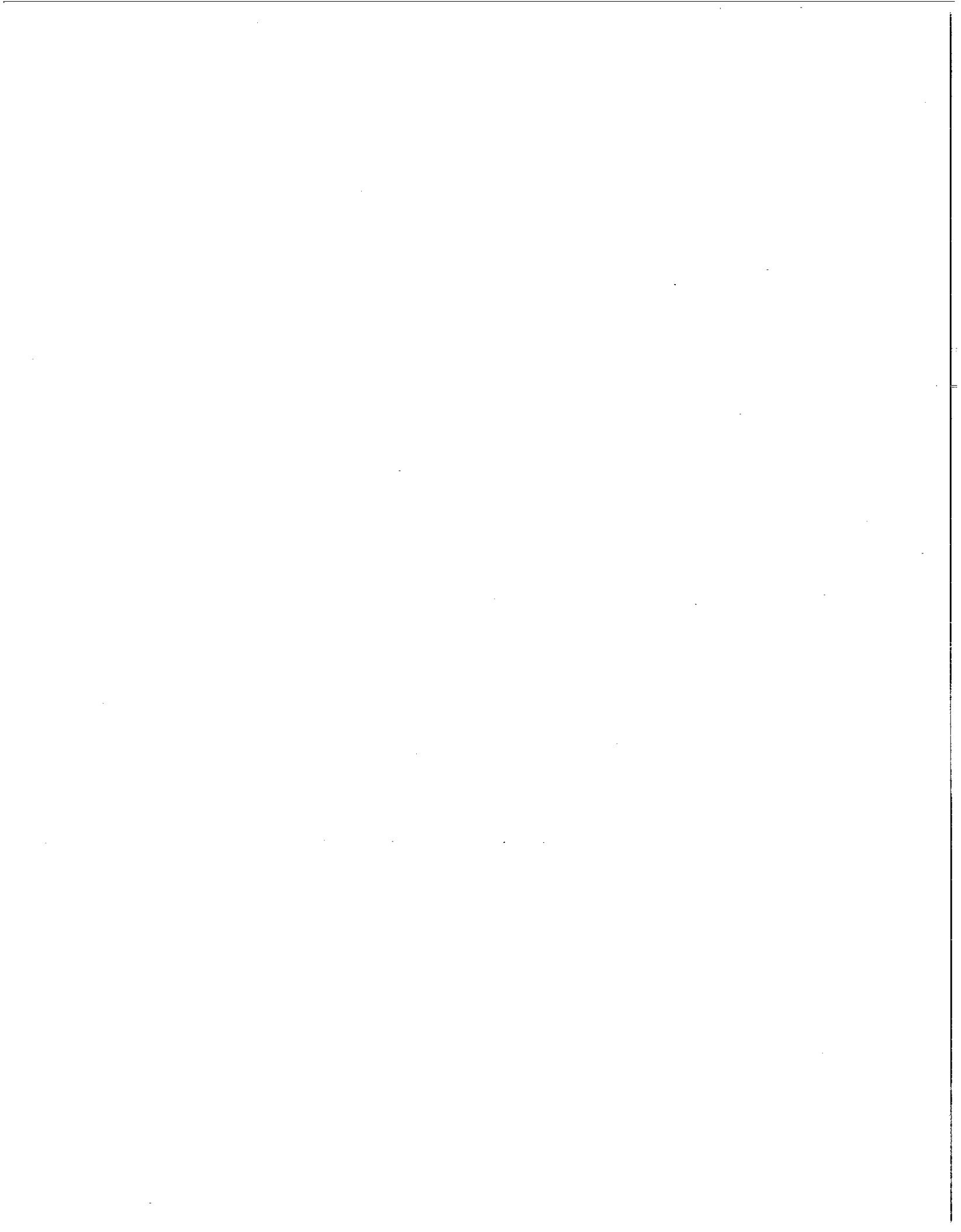
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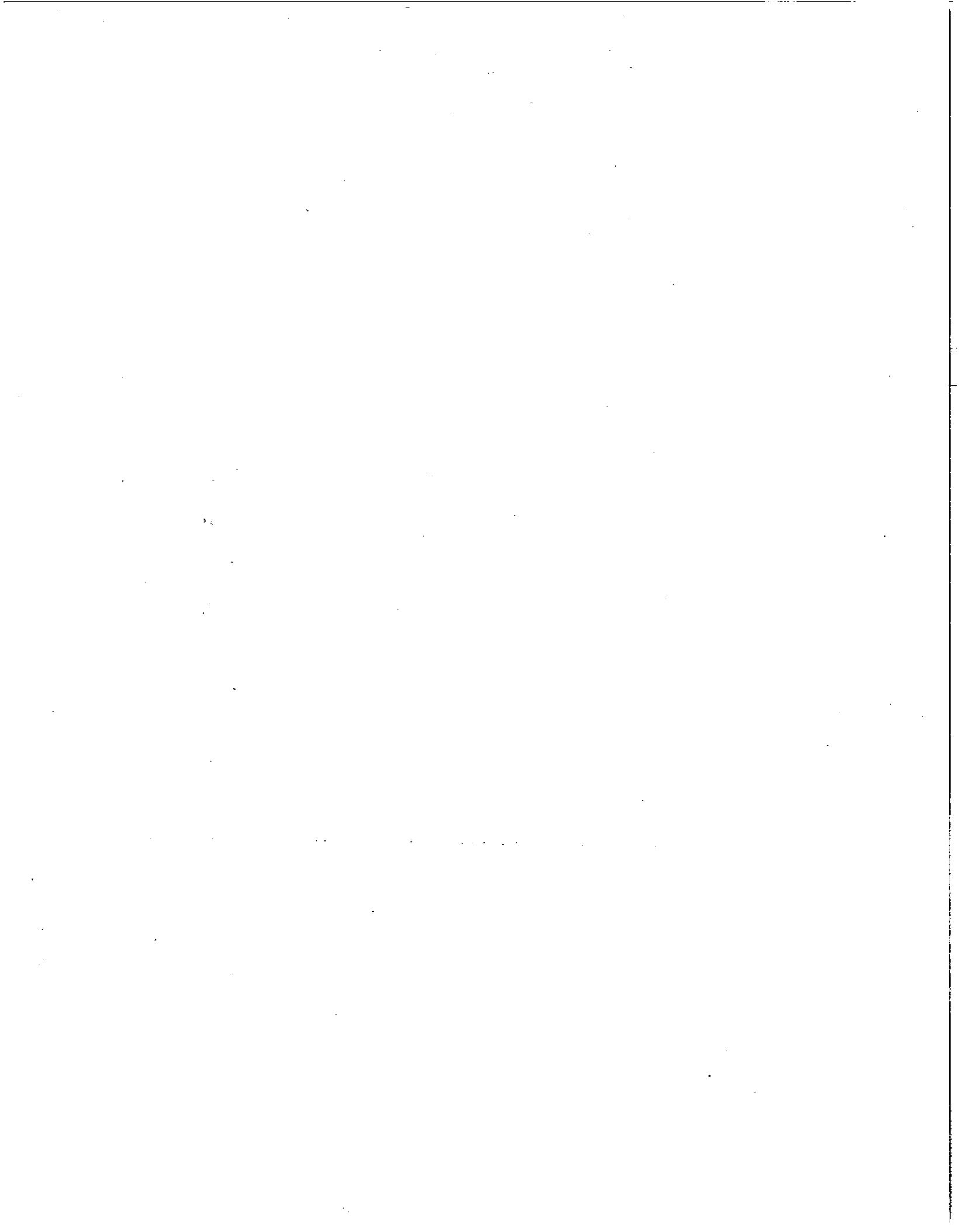
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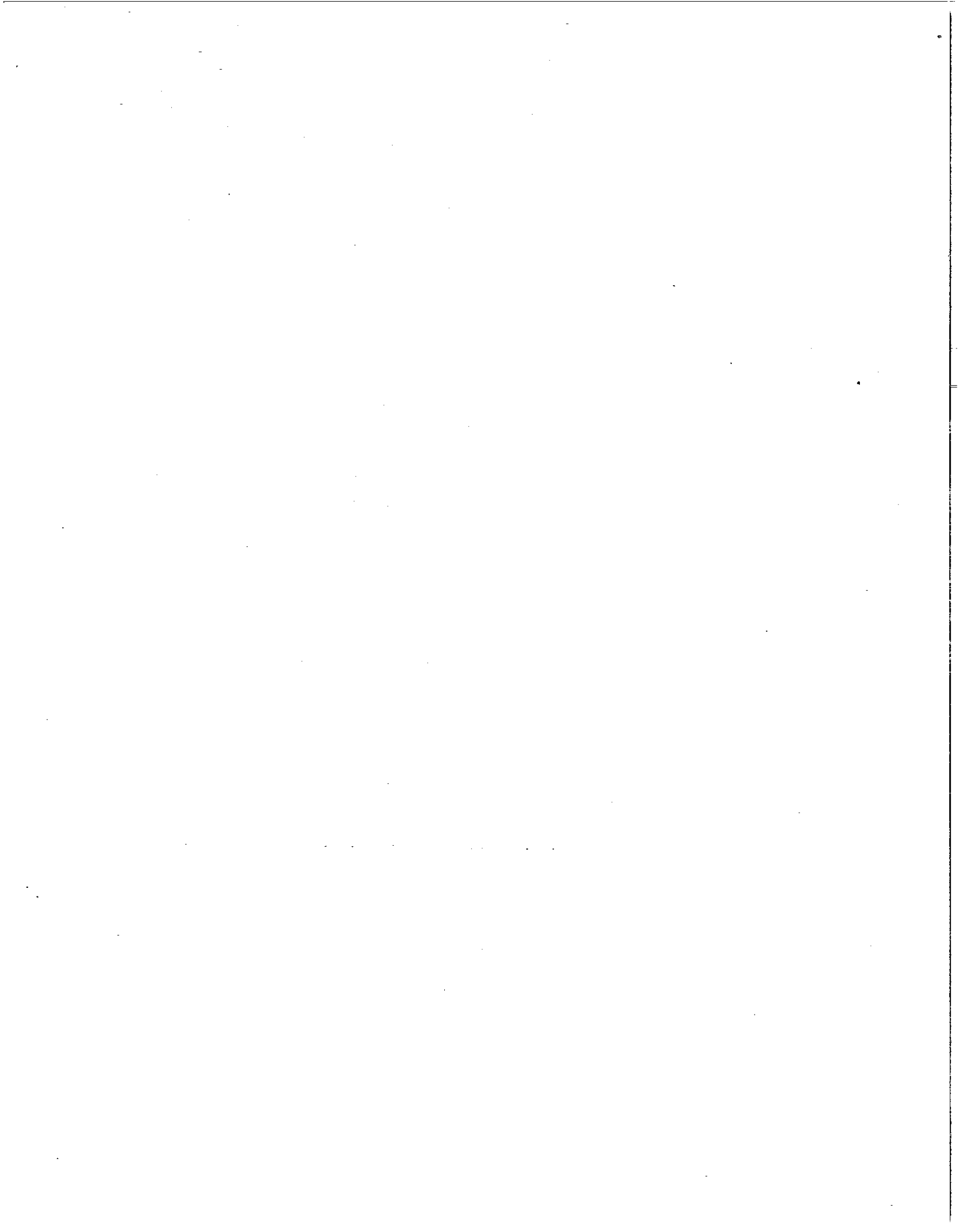


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About the Survey

Purpose

The purpose of the survey was to collect information from Nebraska municipal officials on how state government affects their operations and to identify potential areas for improvement.

Subjects

The survey was sent to mayors, council and board chairs, city administrators and managers, city attorneys, city clerks and treasurers, and police chiefs and marshals. Addresses were obtained from the 1999 League of Nebraska Municipalities Directory.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire asked officials to:

- Identify functional areas where state control was too little, about right, or too much.
- Indicate their level of agreement with several statements pertaining to home rule.
- Recommend actions that state government could take to help municipalities function more efficiently.

A copy of the questionnaire and cover letter appears on the pages immediately following.

Mailing

The survey was conducted by mail beginning in mid-September 1999. Just over 2,000 surveys went out, each addressed to a specific person (where possible) or a title. After about three weeks, reminder/thank-you cards were sent to everyone. In late October, non-respondents were sent a second questionnaire.

Response

Officials returned 558 usable surveys. Respondents included 57 city administrators or managers, 126 council and village board chairs, 86 city attorneys, 53 mayors, 51 police chiefs, and 185 treasurers and clerk-treasurers. The respondents represented 29 metro, primary and first class cities (96.7% of total), 101 second class cities (87.8% of total), and 193 villages (50.1% of total).



Commission on Local Government Innovation and Restructuring

Sept. 13, 1999

Laura L. Peterson
Director
The Executive Building
521 South 14th Street, Suite 30
Lincoln, Ne 68508-2707
Phone (402) 471-8697
Fax (402) 471-9560

The Nebraska Commission on Local Government Innovation and Restructuring was established to assist local governments in confronting various changes in their environment including levy and revenue limitations. As part of its efforts, the Commission is currently working to identify and overcome barriers to local government cooperation and innovation. Our aim is to recommend models for innovation that reflect the needs of Nebraska's municipalities and other local governments. To do so, we need to understand how much flexibility municipalities have in conducting business. Also, are there changes that would help municipalities function better? If so, what changes should be made?

You are one of a number of key municipal officials being asked to offer insights on this topic. For our study results to truly represent the thinking of communities and local officials, it is vitally important we hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire within the next ten days.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Department of Public Administration will analyze the results, and your responses will be completely confidential. The questionnaire has an identification number for mailing and tracking purposes only. This identification number will allow them to conduct follow-up on questionnaires that are not returned. Your name will never be placed on the questionnaire, and results will be reported in summary form only so that individual responses cannot be identified.

If you have any questions about this study, please call David Fifer of the University of Nebraska at Omaha at (402) 554-2132.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Flora Lundberg (handwritten signature)

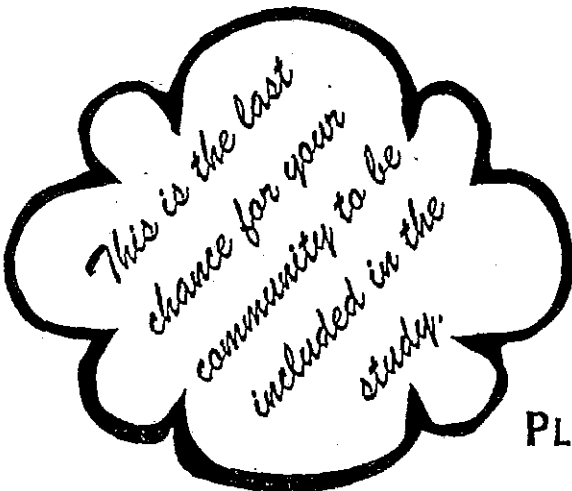
Flora Lundberg
Mayor, McCook
Chair, Nebraska Commission on Local
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PLEASE RESPOND BY NOVEMBER 1, 1999.



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Nebraska at
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Nebraska Municipal Survey Reminder!

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate in its academic, employment, or admissions policies and abides by all federal, state, and regental regulations pertaining to same.

Dear Municipal Government Official,

Recently, we sent you a Nebraska Municipal Survey. If you have already returned the survey, we would like to thank you. If you have not completed the survey, we hope you will return it within the next few days. Your cooperation in completing and returning the survey will help to assess the amount of flexibility Nebraska municipalities have in conducting business.

For more information about the survey contact:

Dave Fifer
The University of Nebraska at Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68182
Telephone (402) 554-2132
Fax (402) 595-2366



Please help us to better understand the effect Nebraska state government has on Nebraska municipalities. Your responses are important to us. Your completed questionnaires will be combined with others to generate summary statistics. Individual questionnaires are kept strictly confidential. Questions? Call David Fifer at (402) 554-2132.

1. State government affects municipalities through laws, regulations, unfunded mandates, state aid and grants, and other ways. For each of the municipal activities listed below, how much control does Nebraska state government have over the actions you take in your municipality? Is it too much, too little, or about right? Please use a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 is too little control, 4 is about the right amount of control, and 7 is too much control. Circle the number associated with your opinion.

	Too Little State Control			About Right	Too Much State Control		
Administrative functions							
Human resources management.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Administrative procedures.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Contracting and purchasing authority.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Planning, zoning, and land use controls.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Health insurance and other employee benefits.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Development activities							
Creation of economic development organizations.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Raising economic development funds.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Spending economic development funds.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Industrial parks and other facility development.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Local revenues							
Types of revenues that municipalities may use.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Local tax rates.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tax lids or caps.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Borrowing and debt limits.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Local expenditures							
Types of expenditures that municipalities may use.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Auditing and accounting.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Spending limits.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Balanced budget requirement.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State government grants to municipalities							
Types of grants.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Local discretion over administration of grants.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Local discretion over spending of grants.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Other							
Interlocal government cooperation.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Land fills.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Annexation.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

2. The functions and activities that municipalities may engage in differ from state to state. The statements below list functions or activities that currently may or may not be available to Nebraska municipalities. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement by circling the number associated with your opinion, where 1 is strongly agree, 2 is agree, 3 is disagree, and 4 is strongly disagree.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Nebraska municipalities should be permitted to utilize the following types of revenue.				
Property tax	1	2	3	4
Sales tax.....	1	2	3	4
Income tax	1	2	3	4
Estate or inheritance tax	1	2	3	4
Business, commerce, and industry (licenses).....	1	2	3	4
Entertainment and tourism (room or ticket tax).....	1	2	3	4
Gaming or gambling	1	2	3	4
User fees or charges.....	1	2	3	4
Sale of municipal services to other local governments.....	1	2	3	4
Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by Nebraska municipalities.....	1	2	3	4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development.	1	2	3	4
Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens.....	1	2	3	4
The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities.....	1	2	3	4
Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska.	1	2	3	4
Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds.	1	2	3	4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm.....	1	2	3	4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry.....	1	2	3	4
Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget.	1	2	3	4
Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds.....	1	2	3	4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management.....	1	2	3	4
State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently.	1	2	3	4

For each of the following statements, please circle the number associated with your opinion. Add any comments where indicated.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
3a. Nebraska state legislation helps a municipality function in an efficient manner.	1	2	3	4
3b. Nebraska state agencies and administrative regulations help a municipality function in an efficient manner.	1	2	3	4
3c. Nebraska court decisions help a municipality function in an efficient manner.	1	2	3	4
3d. If you disagreed with any of the above statements, what could Nebraska state government do to help a municipality function in a more efficient manner?				

	Yes	No
4a. Is there specific state legislation that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?	1	2
4b. Are there specific state agencies or administrative regulations that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?	1	2
4c. Are there specific state court decisions that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?	1	2
4d. If yes to any of the above, please explain briefly.		

5. Are there activities that your municipality would like to engage in but are not authorized to do so by state law?	Yes 1	No 2
5a. If yes, what are these activities?		

	Very frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
6a. How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state legislation that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?	1	2	3	4
6b. How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state agencies or administrative regulations that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?	1	2	3	4
6c. How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state court decisions that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?	1	2	3	4

7. Please share any comments or views you have about the discretionary authority that currently is available to Nebraska municipalities.

Finally, a few questions about yourself.

8. What is your job title or elected office? _____

9. How many total years have you worked or served as an elected official in municipal government? _____ years

10. What is your gender? (circle appropriate number) 1 Male 2 Female

11. What is your highest level of education? (circle appropriate number)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Less than 12 years of high school | 4 A 4-year degree |
| 2 High school diploma or GED | 5 Some graduate school |
| 3 Some college | 6 An advanced degree (Master's, Law, Ph.D., etc.) |

*******FOR CITY CLERKS/TREASURERS ONLY*******

12. What is the approximate number of full-time city employees on your city's payroll? _____

THANK YOU for your time.

Please return the completed questionnaire in the business reply envelope included with the mailing. If you use another envelope, address it to:

Nebraska Municipal Survey
Center for Public Affairs Research
University of Nebraska at Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182

**Perception of State Control Over Municipal Activities:
Total**

	State control		
	Too little	About right	Too much
Tax lids or caps	1.1	14.0	84.9
Spending limits	2.2	23.9	73.9
Types of revenues that municipalities may use	1.9	28.1	70.0
Local tax rates	0.7	30.7	68.6
Types of expenditures that municipalities may use	2.0	35.2	62.8
Land fills	6.2	41.3	52.5
Local discretion over spending of grants	3.5	45.1	51.4
Local discretion over administration of grants	3.0	48.3	48.7
Borrowing and debt limits	0.9	51.5	47.6
Spending economic development funds	8.2	49.1	42.7
Auditing and accounting	1.8	56.2	42.0
Balanced budget requirement	2.2	56.7	41.1
Planning, zoning, and land use controls	6.9	53.6	39.4
Administrative procedures	1.7	59.7	38.6
Contracting and purchasing authority	1.7	60.9	37.4
Types of grants	6.1	62.1	31.8
Industrial parks and other facility development	10.4	60.5	29.2
Annexation	3.8	67.4	28.8
Health insurance and other employee benefits	14.1	58.9	27.0
Raising economic development funds	16.4	56.7	26.9
Interlocal government cooperation	8.8	67.2	24.1
Creation of economic development organizations	11.0	65.7	23.2
Human resources management	3.3	73.9	22.8

**Perception of State Control Over Municipal Activities:
Metro, Primary, First Class**

	State control		
	Too little	About right	Too much
Tax lids or caps	0.0	4.8	95.2
Spending limits	1.2	13.3	85.5
Local tax rates	0.0	15.9	84.1
Types of revenues that municipalities may use	1.2	17.1	81.7
Types of expenditures that municipalities may use	1.2	26.5	72.3
Land fills	7.5	43.8	48.8
Borrowing and debt limits	1.2	50.6	48.2
Local discretion over spending of grants	3.7	48.1	48.1
Administrative procedures	1.2	51.2	47.6
Contracting and purchasing authority	1.2	53.0	45.8
Spending economic development funds	7.3	47.6	45.1
Planning, zoning, and land use controls	6.0	53.0	41.0
Local discretion over administration of grants	3.7	55.6	40.7
Health insurance and other employee benefits	7.4	53.1	39.5
Industrial parks and other facility development	12.3	48.1	39.5
Annexation	2.5	58.0	39.5
Balanced budget requirement	3.6	60.2	36.1
Raising economic development funds	13.4	51.2	35.4
Human resources management	4.8	61.4	33.7
Auditing and accounting	2.4	68.3	29.3
Creation of economic development organizations	12.2	61.0	26.8
Interlocal government cooperation	12.0	63.9	24.1
Types of grants	4.9	71.6	23.5

**Perception of State Control Over Municipal Activities:
Second Class**

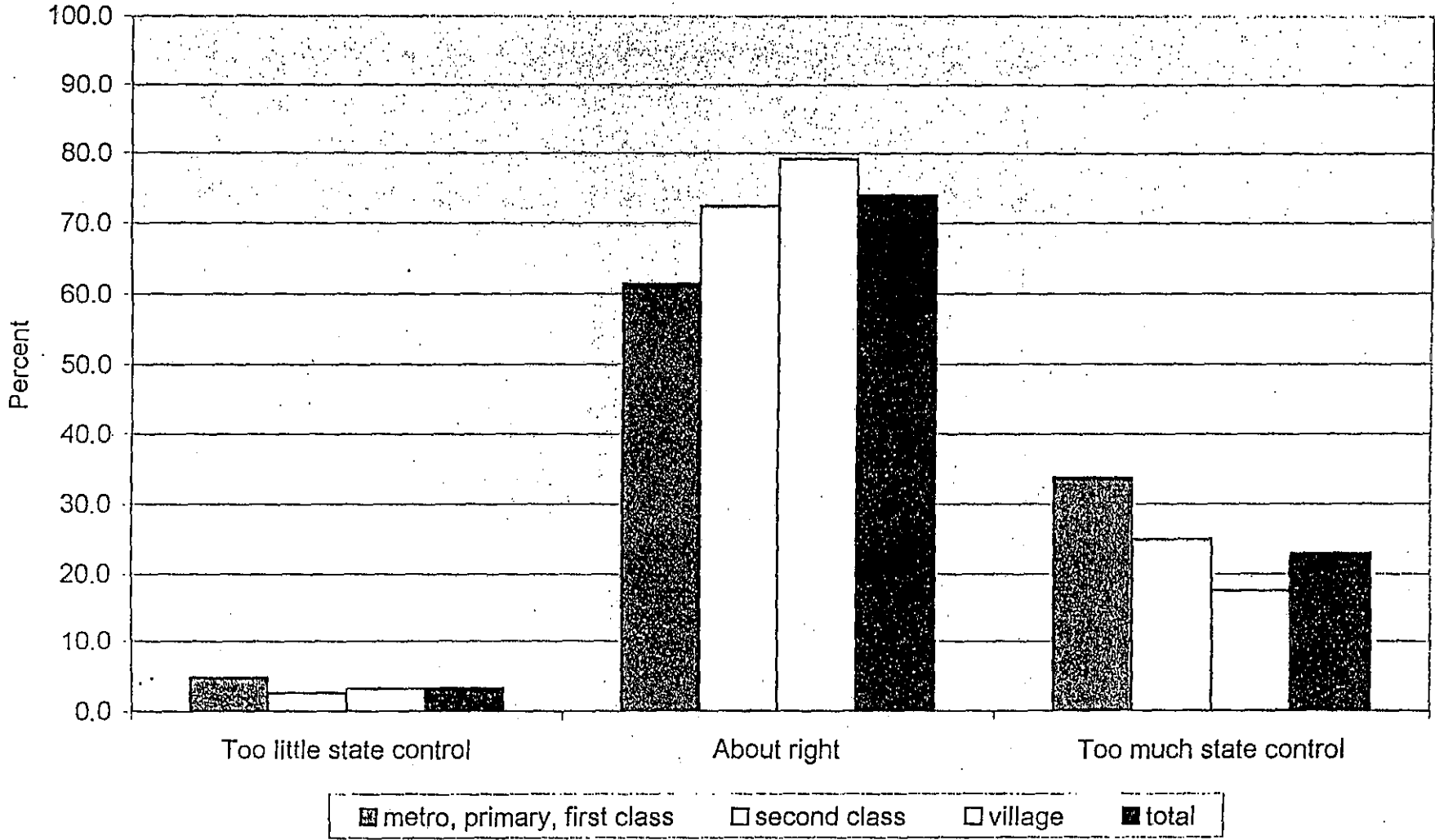
	State control		
	Too little	About right	Too much
Tax lids or caps	1.0	8.6	90.4
Spending limits	1.0	20.5	78.5
Types of revenues that municipalities may use	1.5	21.9	76.5
Local tax rates	1.0	25.4	73.6
Types of expenditures that municipalities may use	1.5	35.5	62.9
Land fills	4.6	37.2	58.2
Local discretion over spending of grants	4.0	41.9	54.0
Local discretion over administration of grants	3.0	44.4	52.5
Borrowing and debt limits	1.0	48.0	51.0
Spending economic development funds	7.8	46.1	46.1
Balanced budget requirement	1.0	53.3	45.7
Auditing and accounting	2.0	54.8	43.1
Administrative procedures	1.0	56.7	42.3
Contracting and purchasing authority	1.0	56.7	42.3
Planning, zoning, and land use controls	7.2	52.6	40.2
Types of grants	5.6	59.6	34.8
Industrial parks and other facility development	10.0	59.5	30.5
Health insurance and other employee benefits	14.3	55.6	30.1
Raising economic development funds	19.2	50.8	30.1
Interlocal government cooperation	8.2	64.6	27.2
Annexation	3.6	69.9	26.5
Creation of economic development organizations	13.0	61.5	25.5
Human resources management	2.6	72.5	24.9

**Perception of State Control Over Municipal Activities:
Villages**

	State control		
	Too little	About right	Too much
Tax lids or caps	1.5	20.8	77.7
Spending limits	3.4	29.7	66.9
Types of revenues that municipalities may use	2.3	36.3	61.4
Local tax rates	0.8	39.2	60.0
Types of expenditures that municipalities may use	2.6	37.7	59.6
Local discretion over spending of grants	3.1	46.5	50.4
Land fills	7.0	43.6	49.4
Local discretion over administration of grants	2.7	49.0	48.3
Auditing and accounting	1.5	53.4	45.1
Borrowing and debt limits	0.8	54.4	44.8
Spending economic development funds	8.8	52.0	39.2
Balanced budget requirement	2.7	58.2	39.2
Planning, zoning, and land use controls	7.0	54.7	38.4
Administrative procedures	2.4	64.8	32.8
Types of grants	6.9	61.0	32.0
Contracting and purchasing authority	2.3	66.7	31.0
Annexation	4.4	68.4	27.2
Industrial parks and other facility development	10.0	65.4	24.6
Interlocal government cooperation	8.1	70.2	21.7
Raising economic development funds	15.3	63.1	21.7
Health insurance and other employee benefits	16.1	63.5	20.5
Creation of economic development organizations	9.2	70.5	20.3
Human resources management	3.2	79.2	17.6

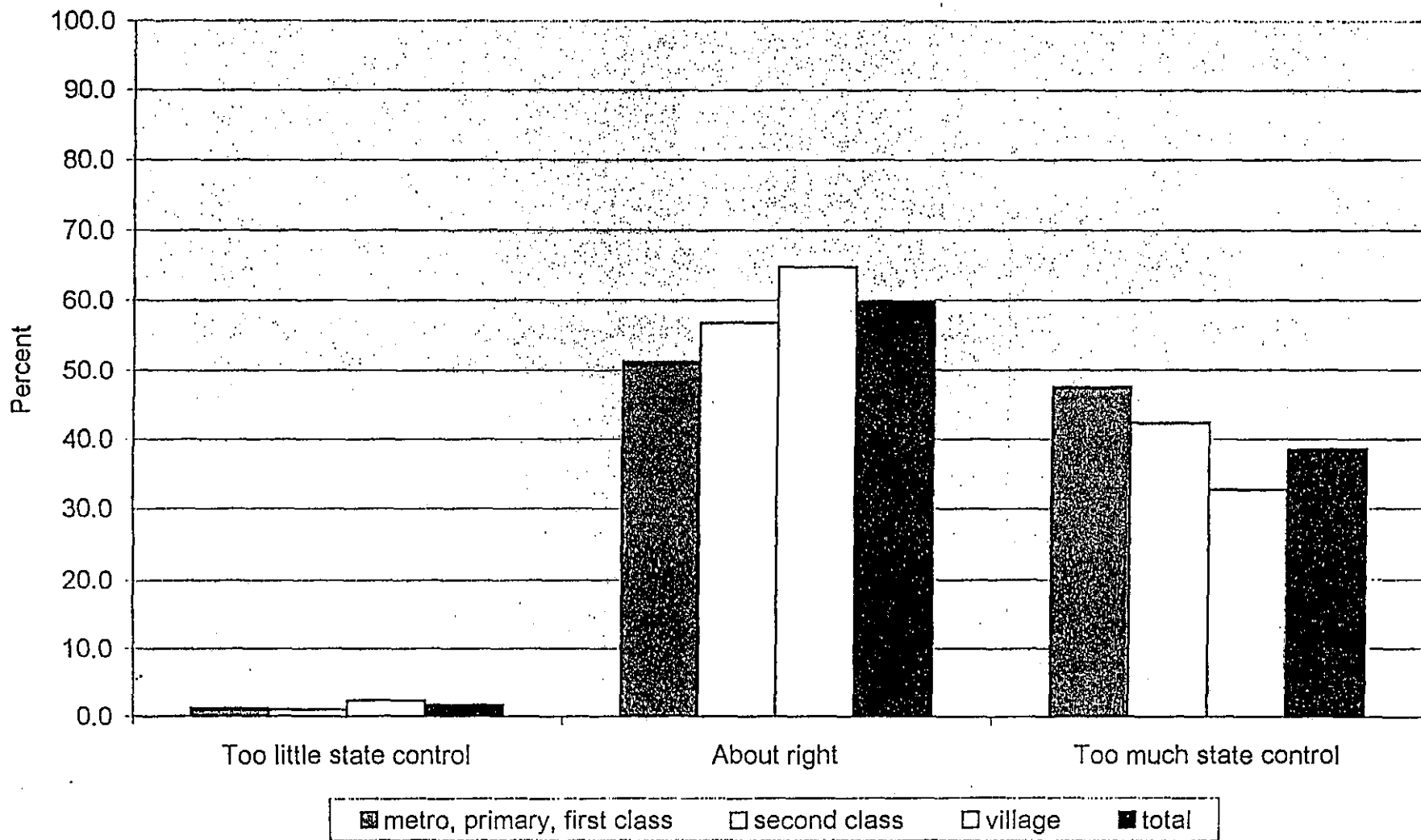
State Government Control Over: Human Resources Management

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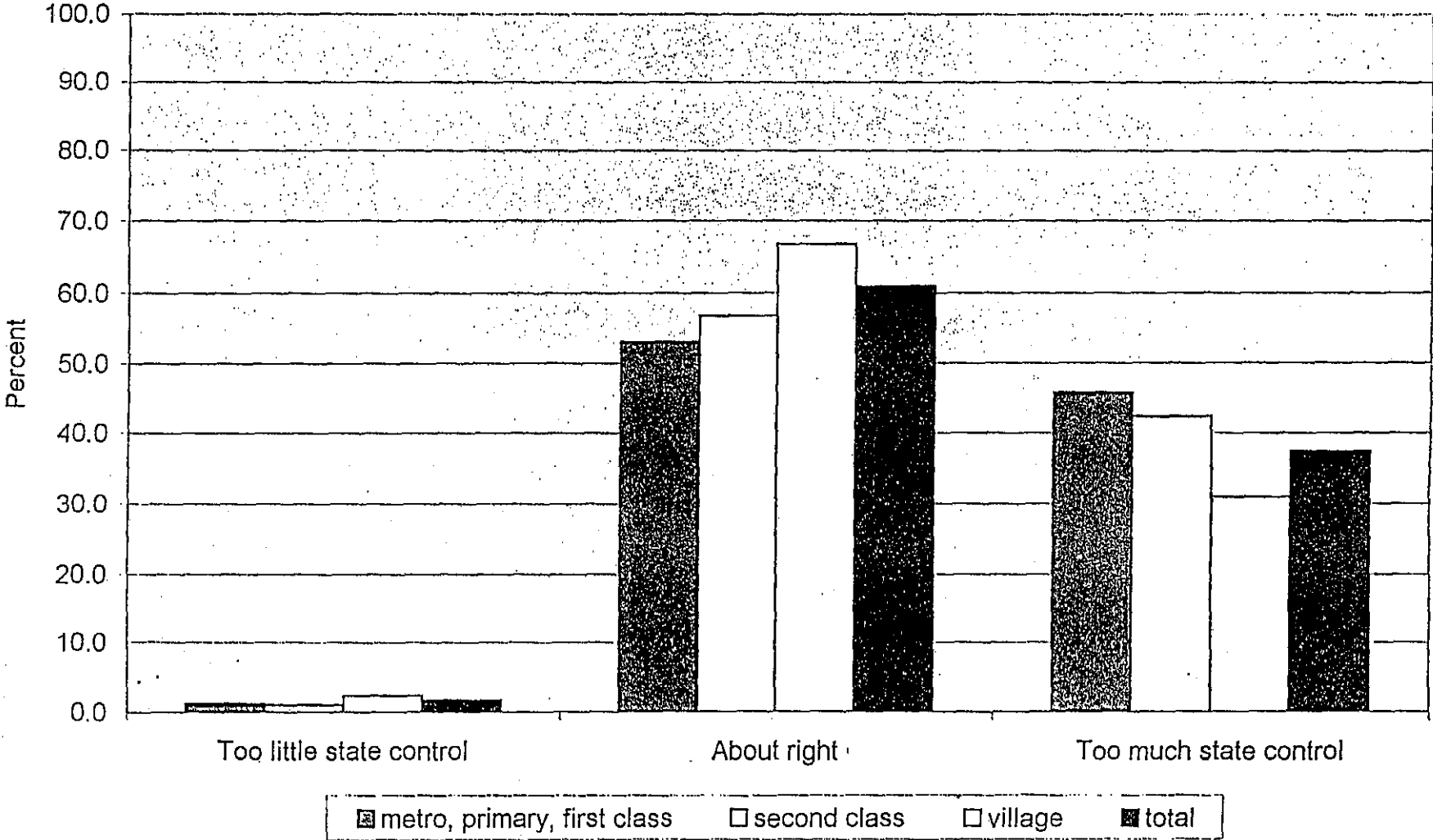
State Government Control Over: Administrative Procedures

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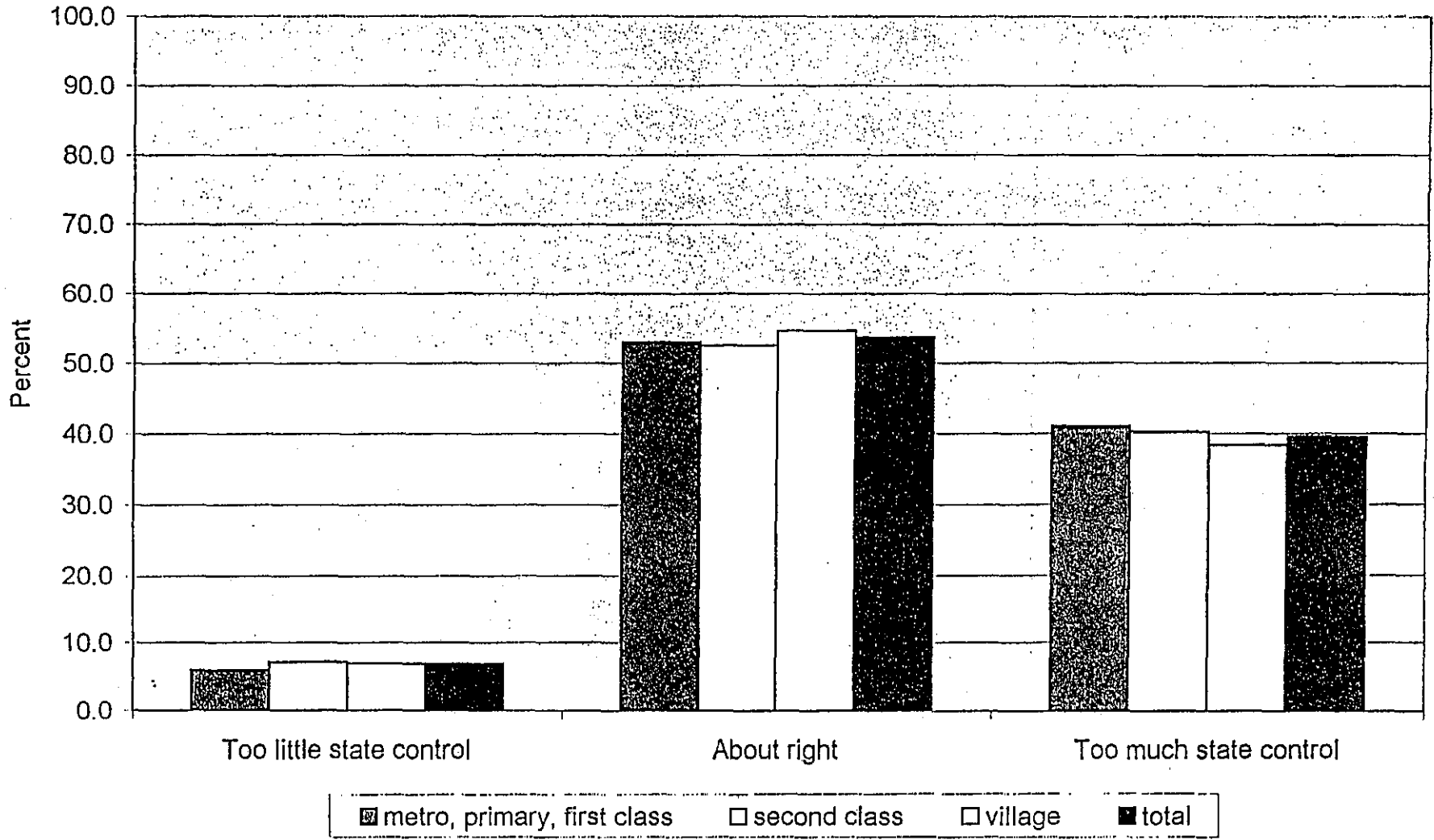
State Government Control Over: Contracting and Purchasing Authority

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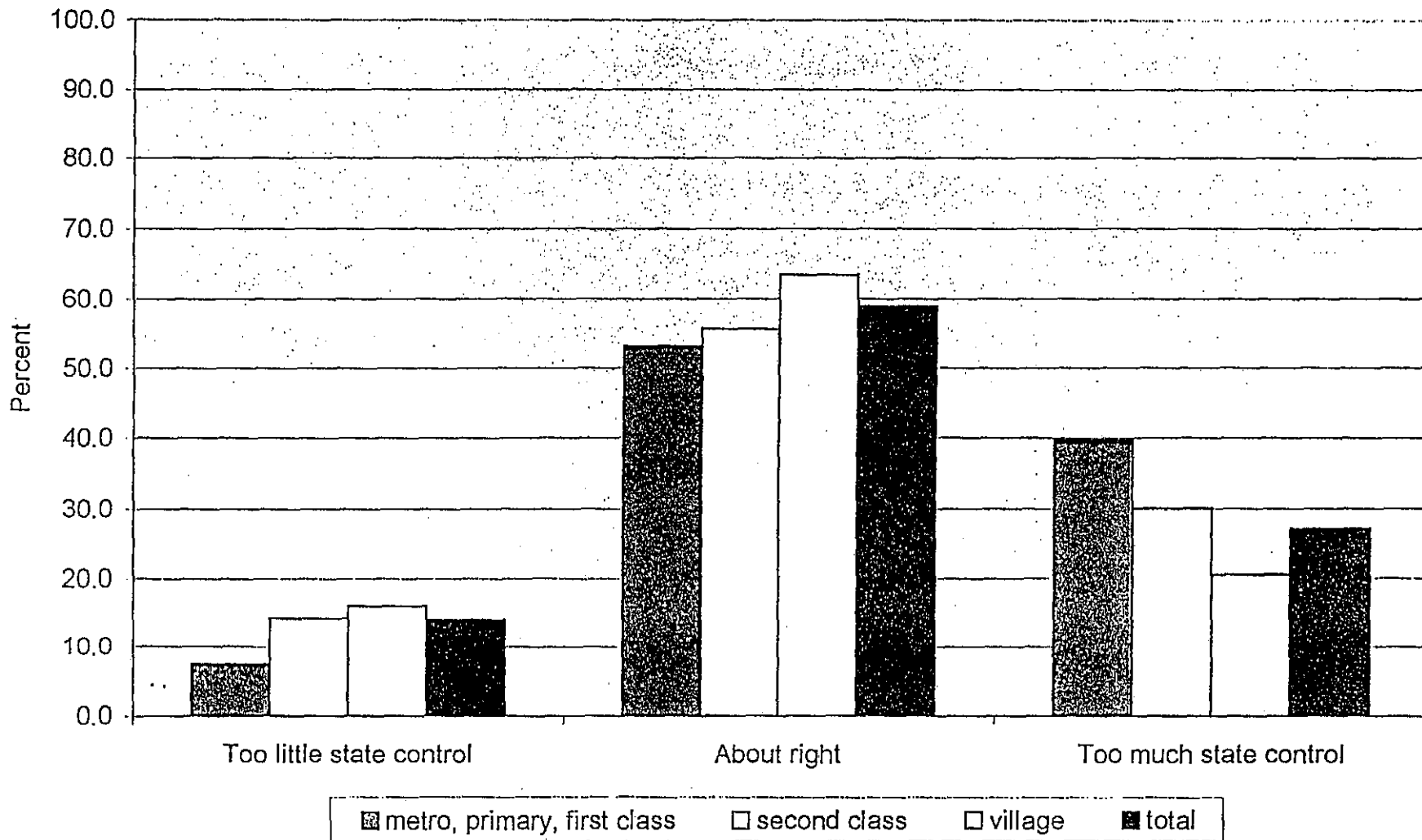
State Government Control Over: Planning, Zoning, and Land Use Controls

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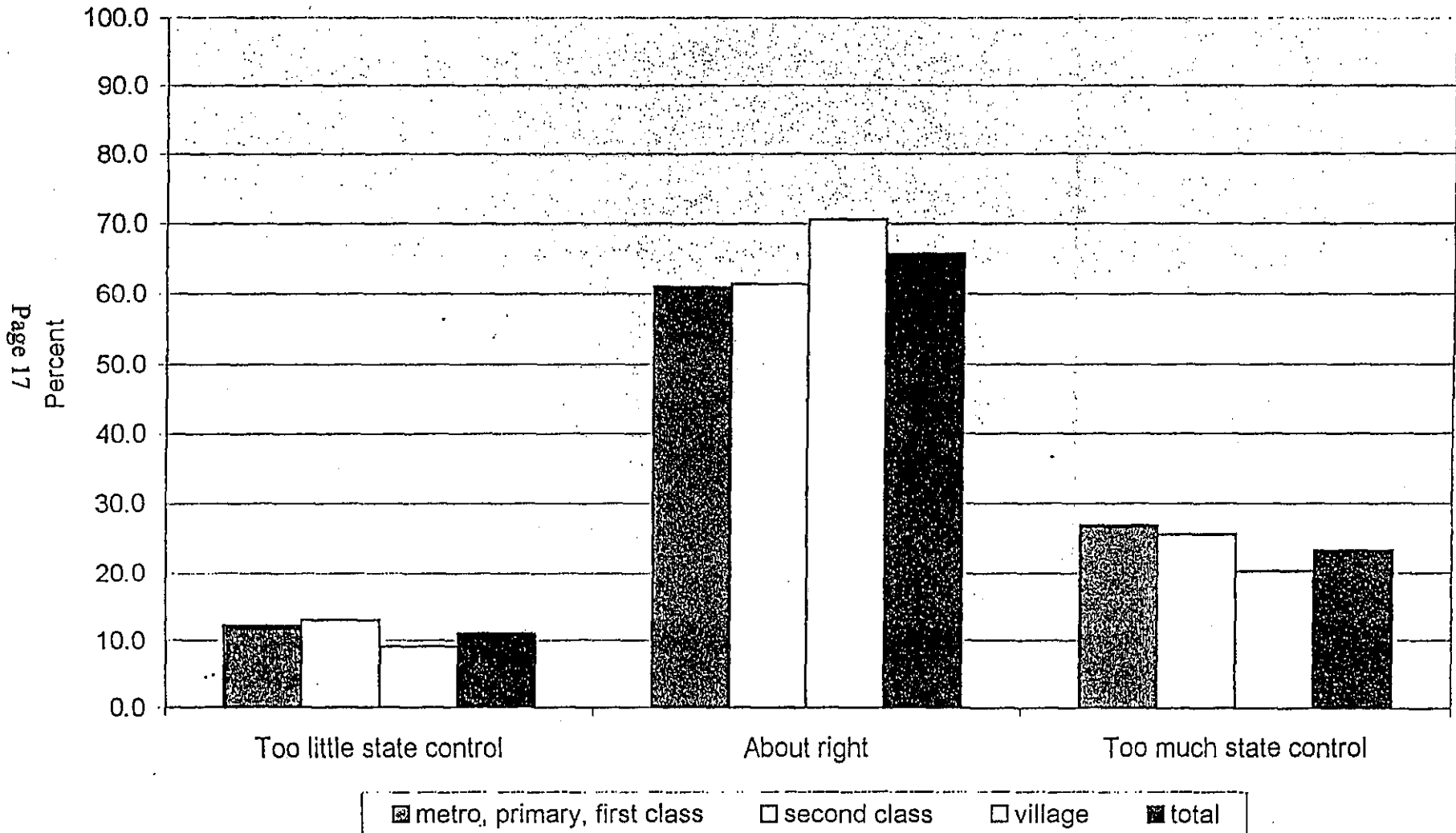


State Government Control Over: Health Insurance and Other Employee Benefits

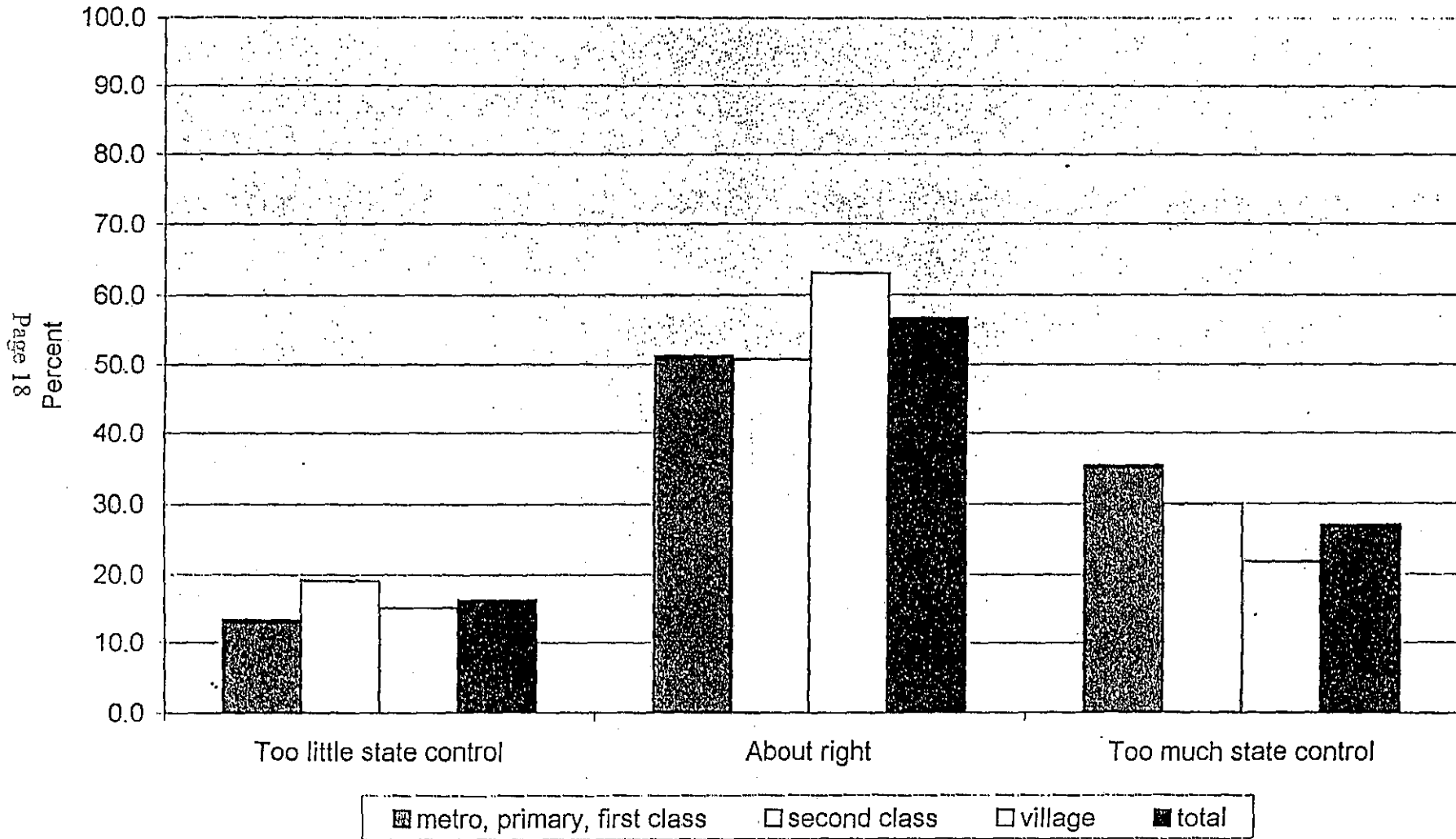
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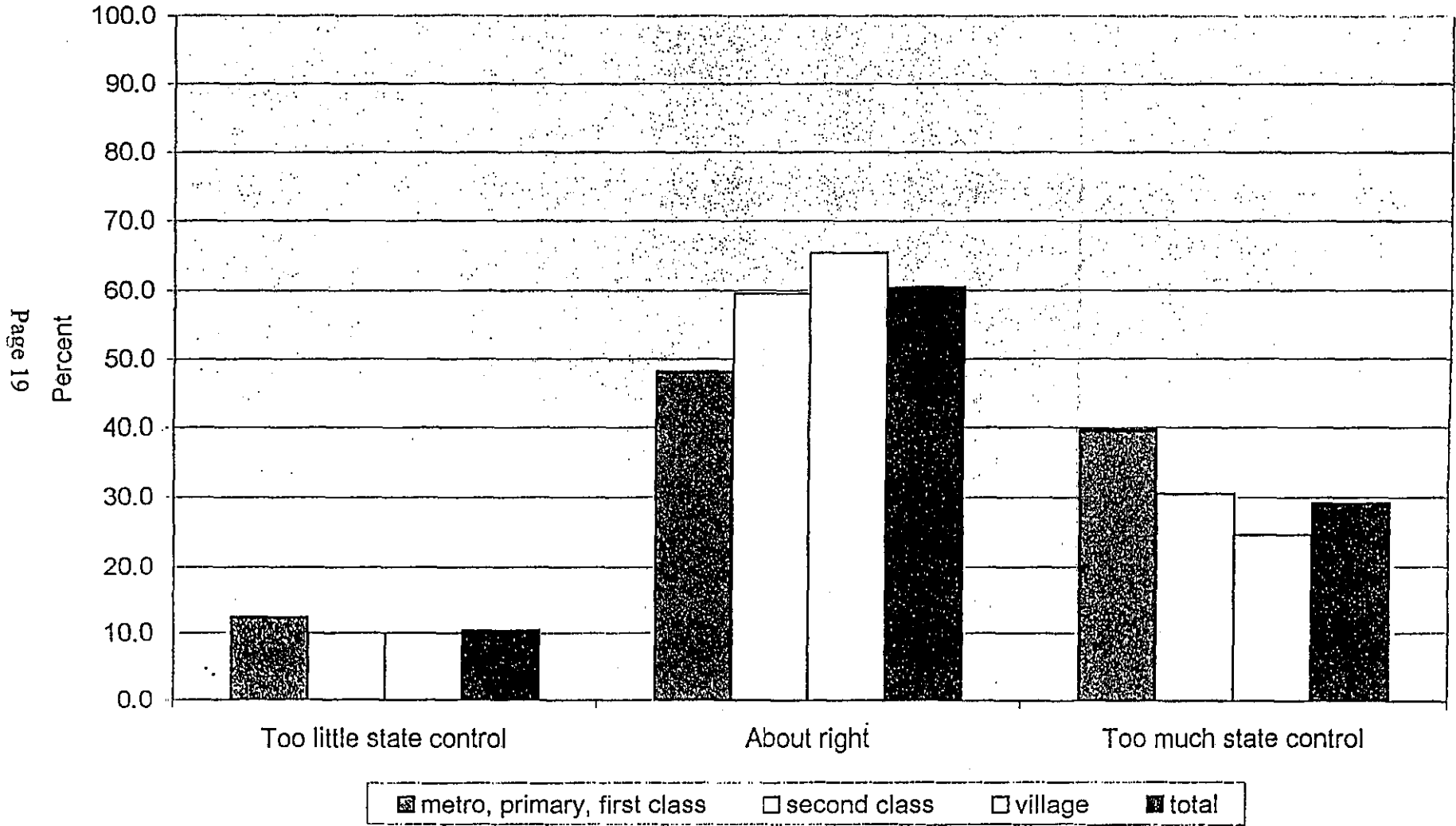
State Government Control Over: Creation of Economic Development Organizations



State Government Control Over: Raising Economic Development Funds

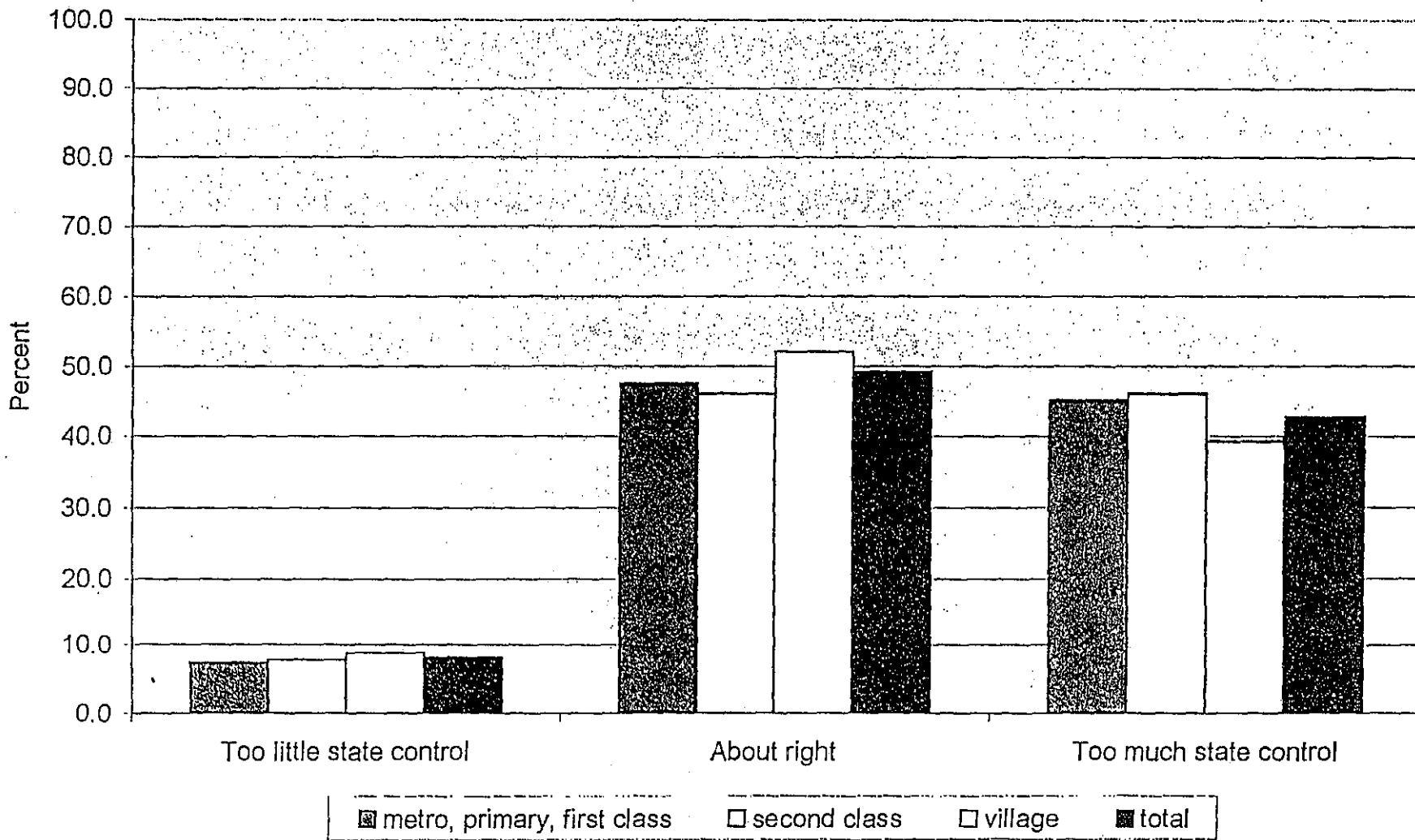


State Government Control Over: Industrial Parks and Other Facility Development

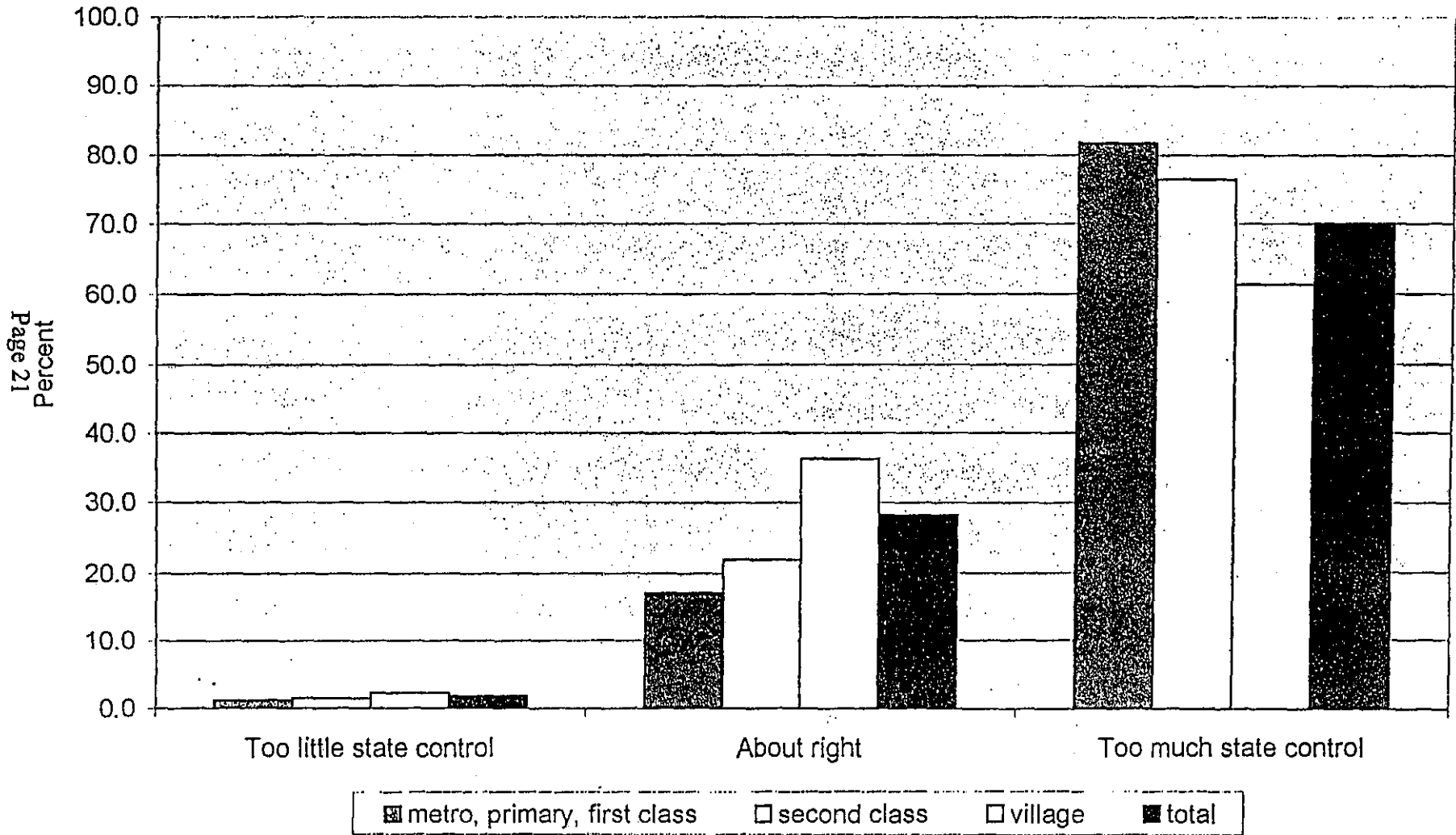


State Government Control Over: Spending Economic Development Funds

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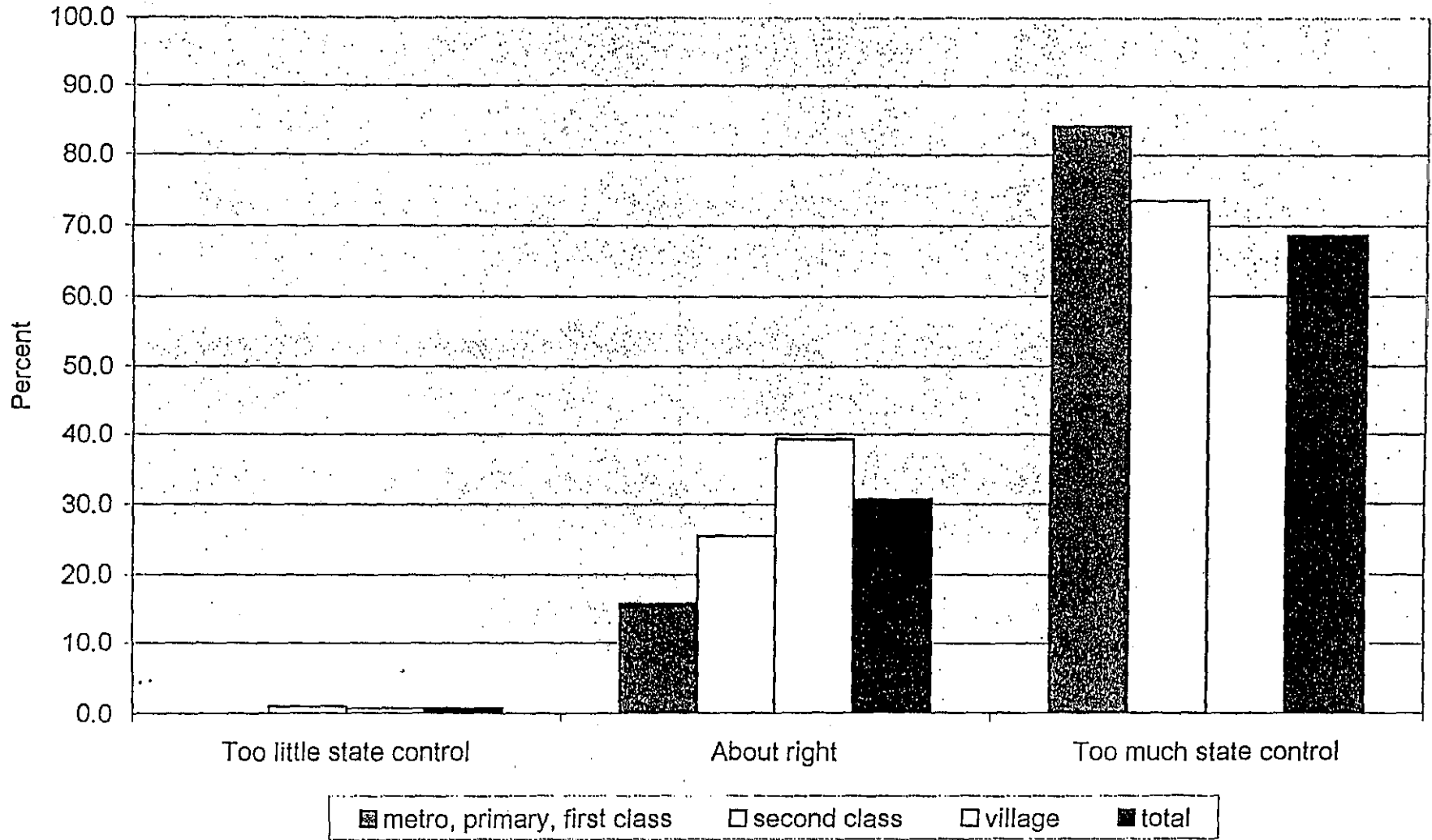


State Government Control Over: Types of Revenues that Municipalities May Use

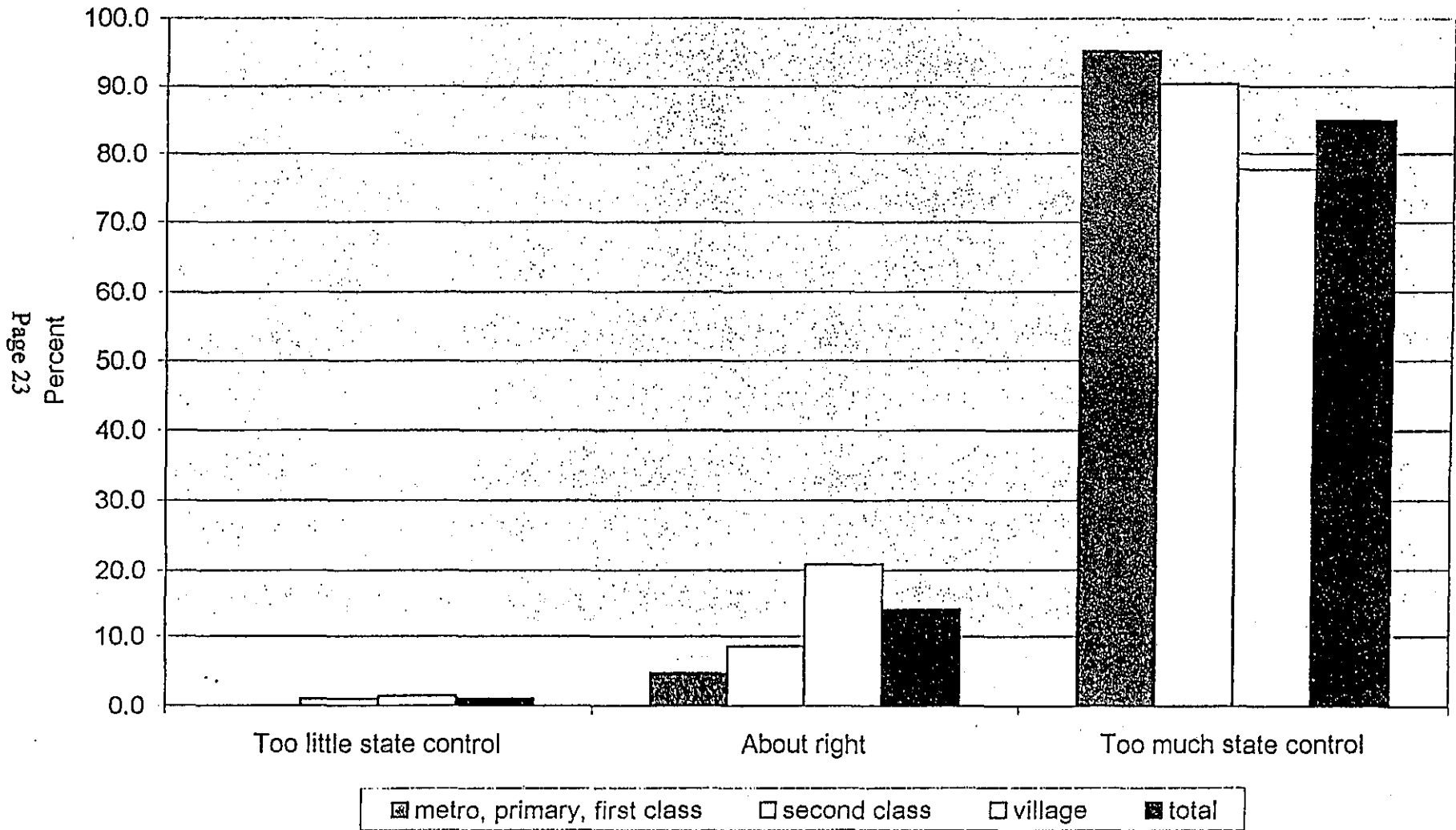


State Government Control Over: Local Tax Rates

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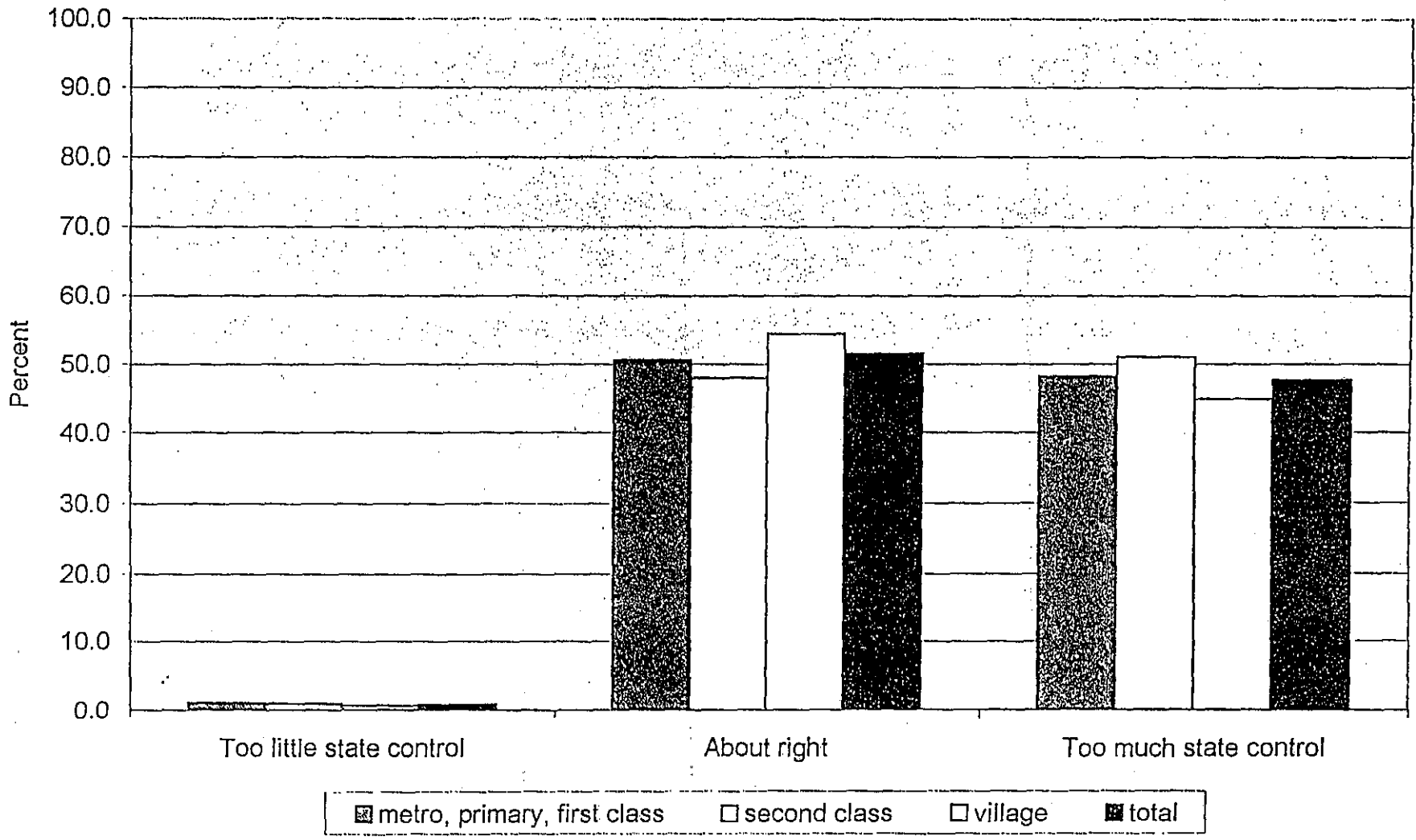


State Government Control Over: Tax Lids or Caps

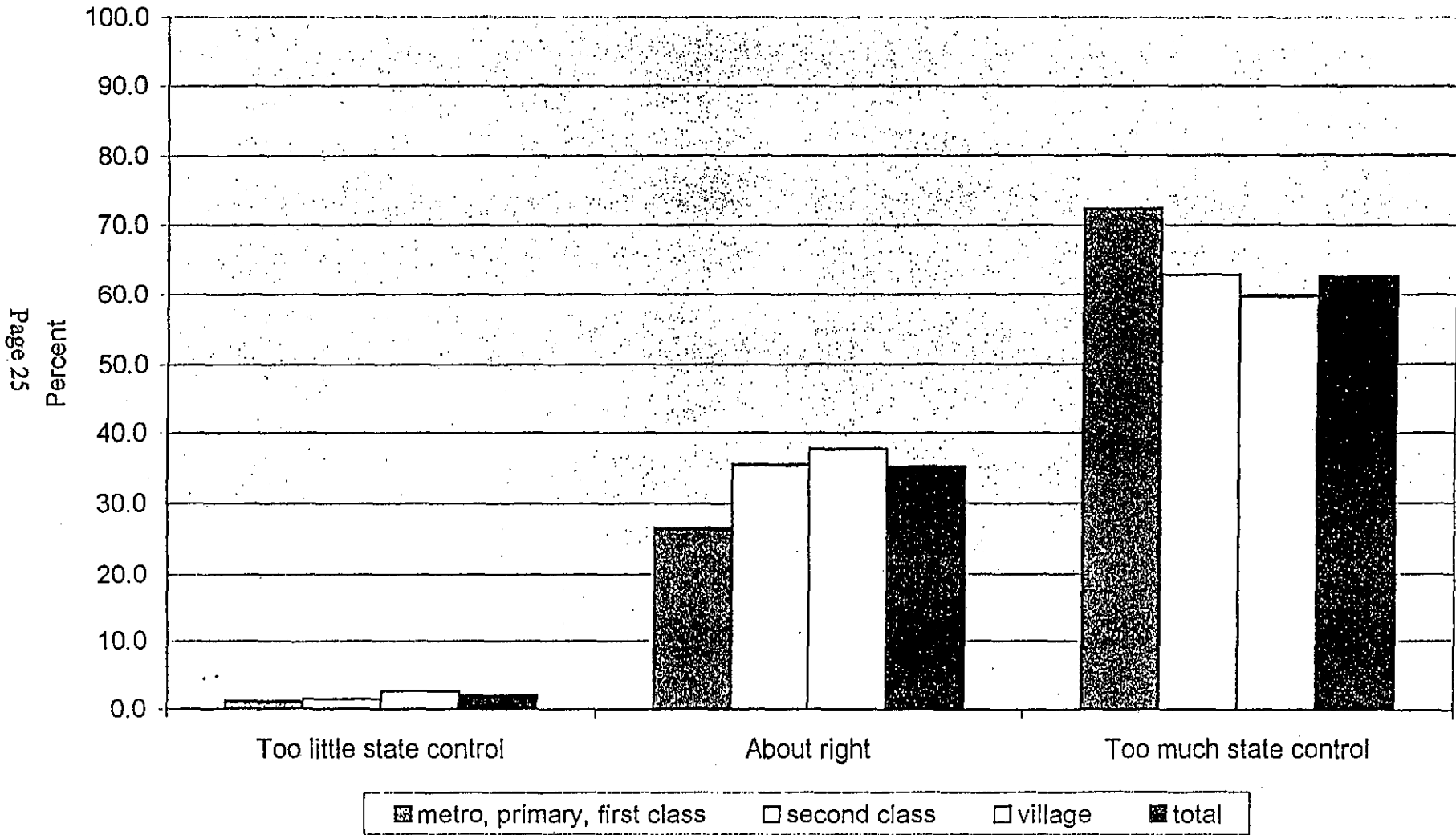


State Government Control Over: Borrowing and Debt Limits

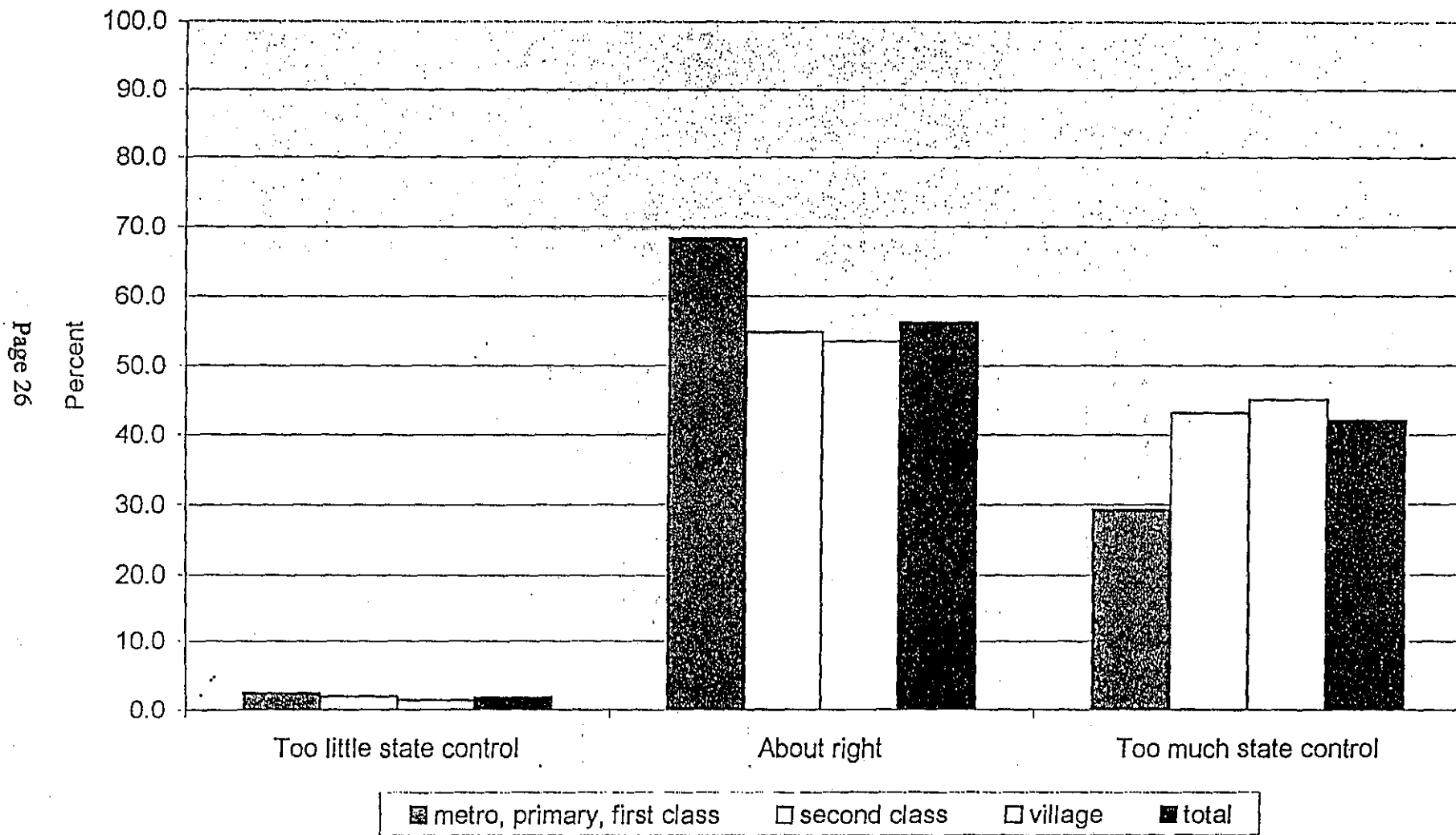
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State Government Control Over: Types of Expenditures that Municipalities May Use

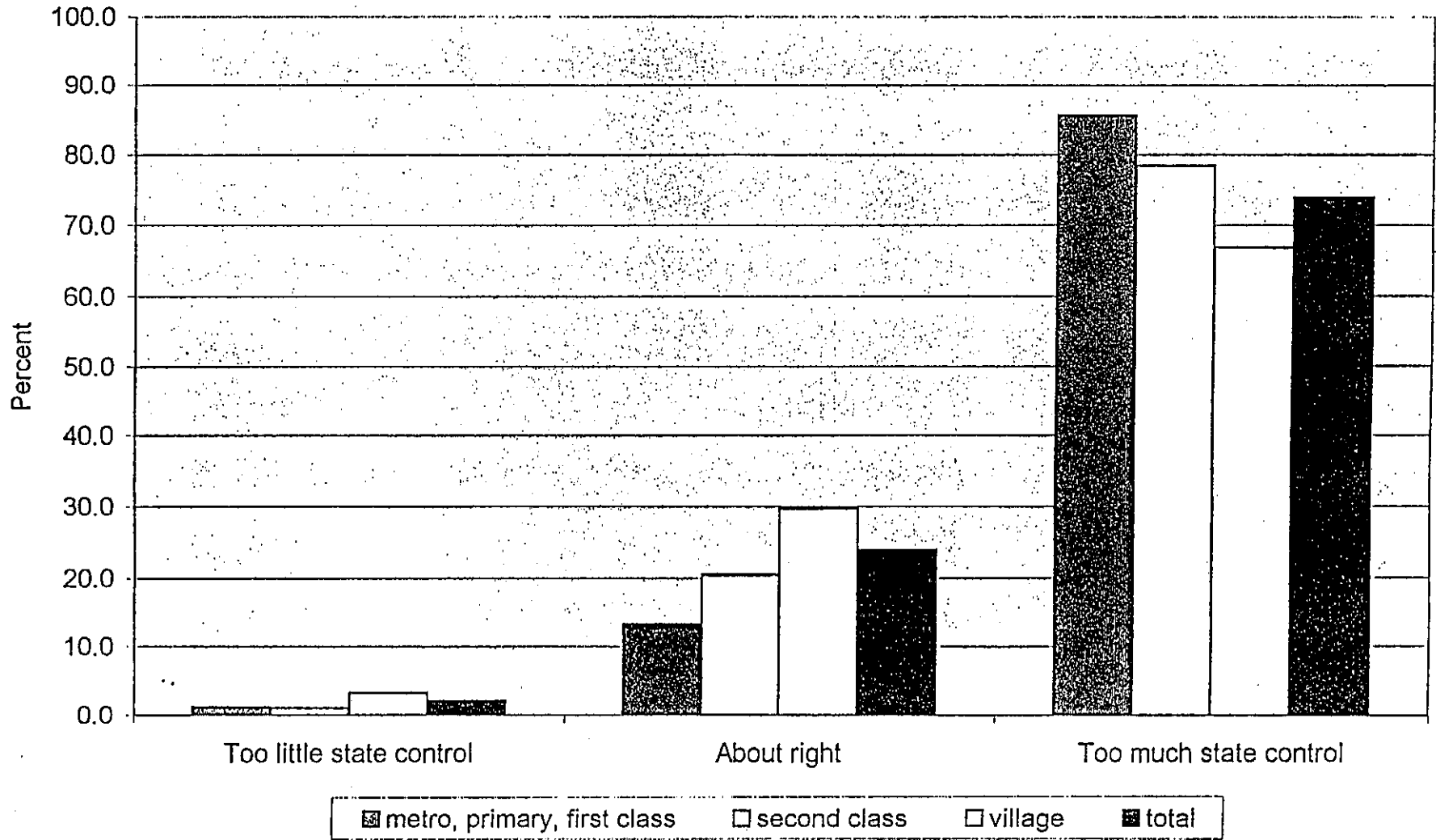


State Government Control Over: Auditing and Accounting



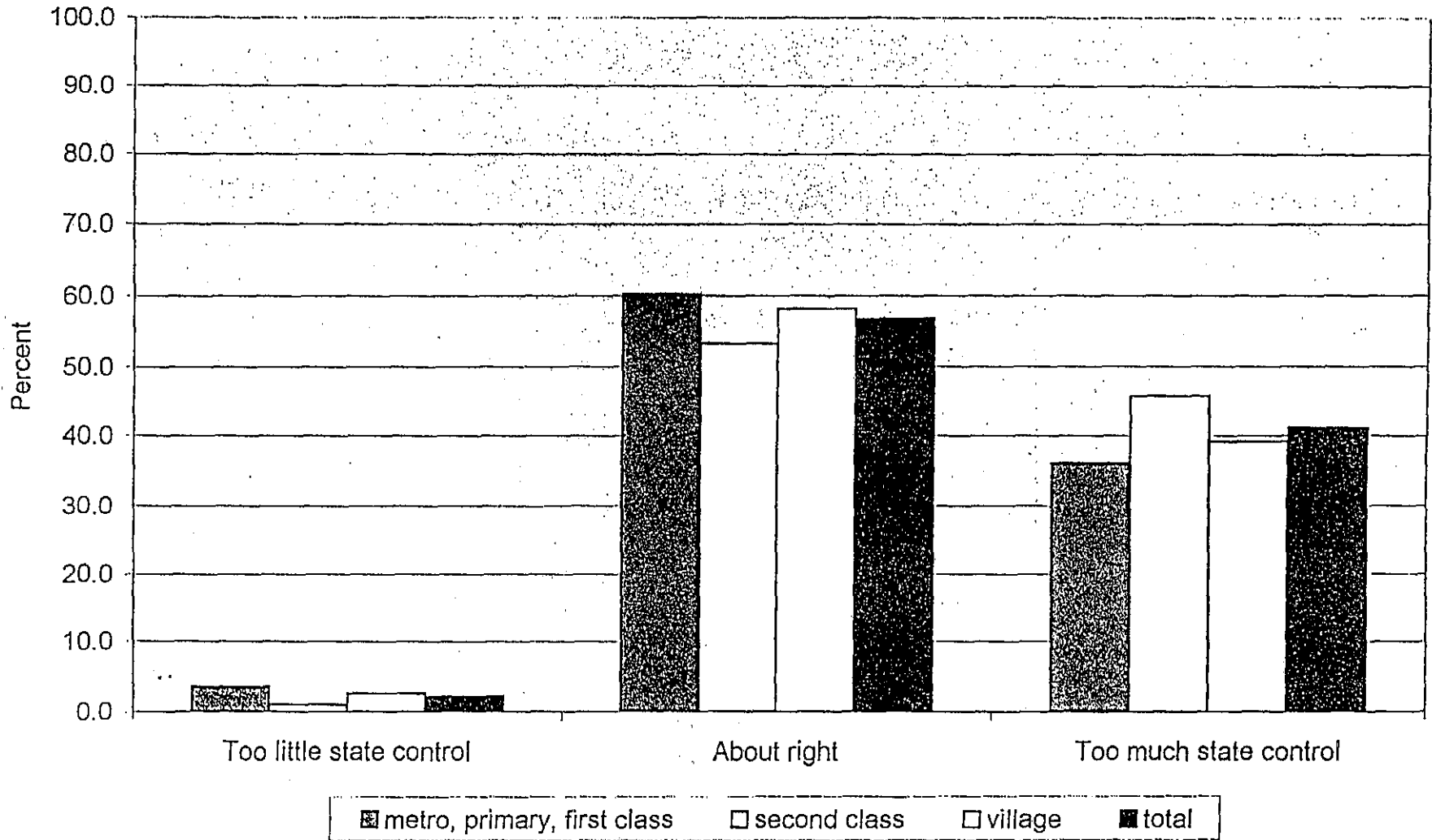
State Government Control Over: Spending Limits

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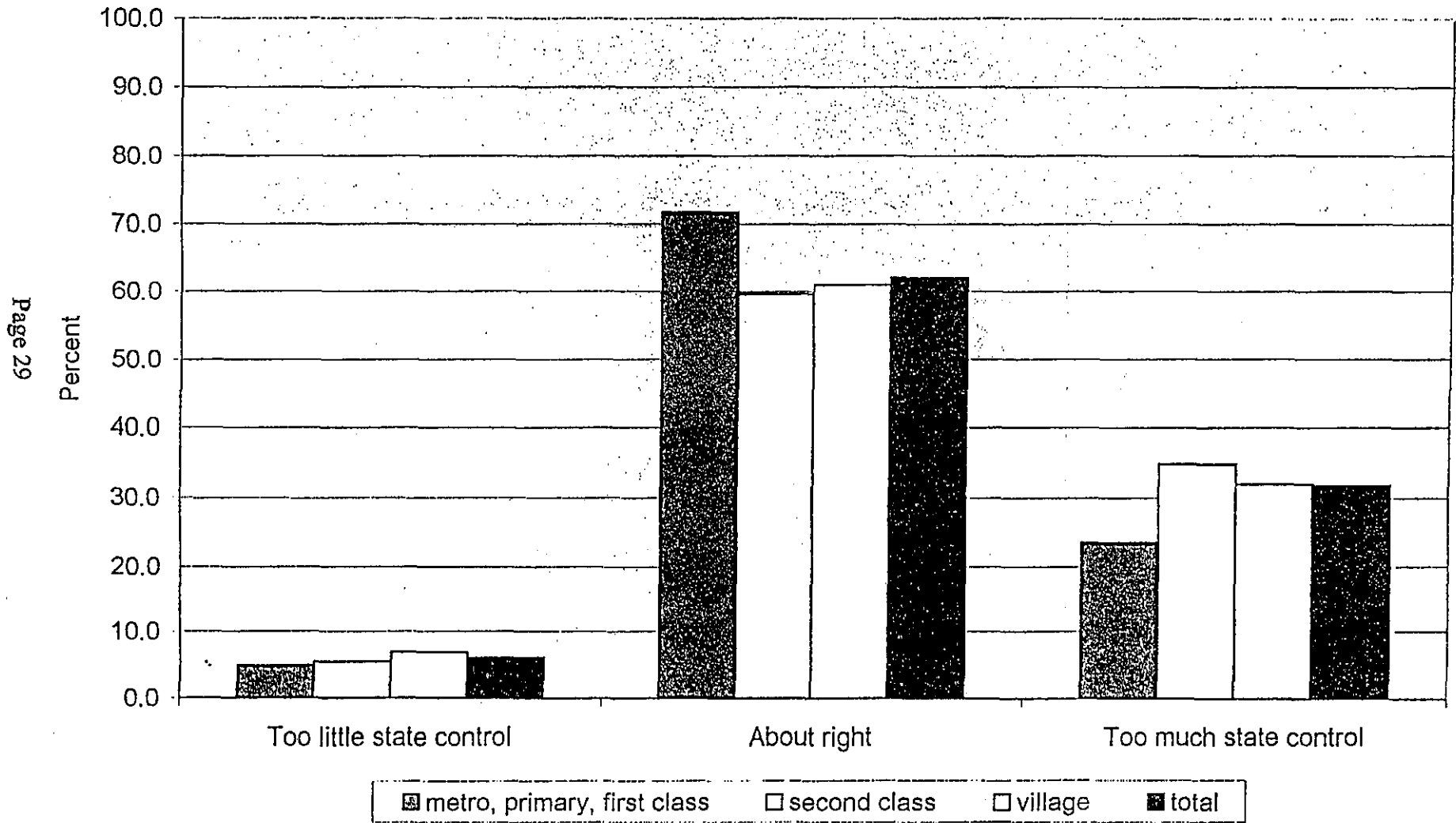


State Government Control Over: Balanced Budget Requirement

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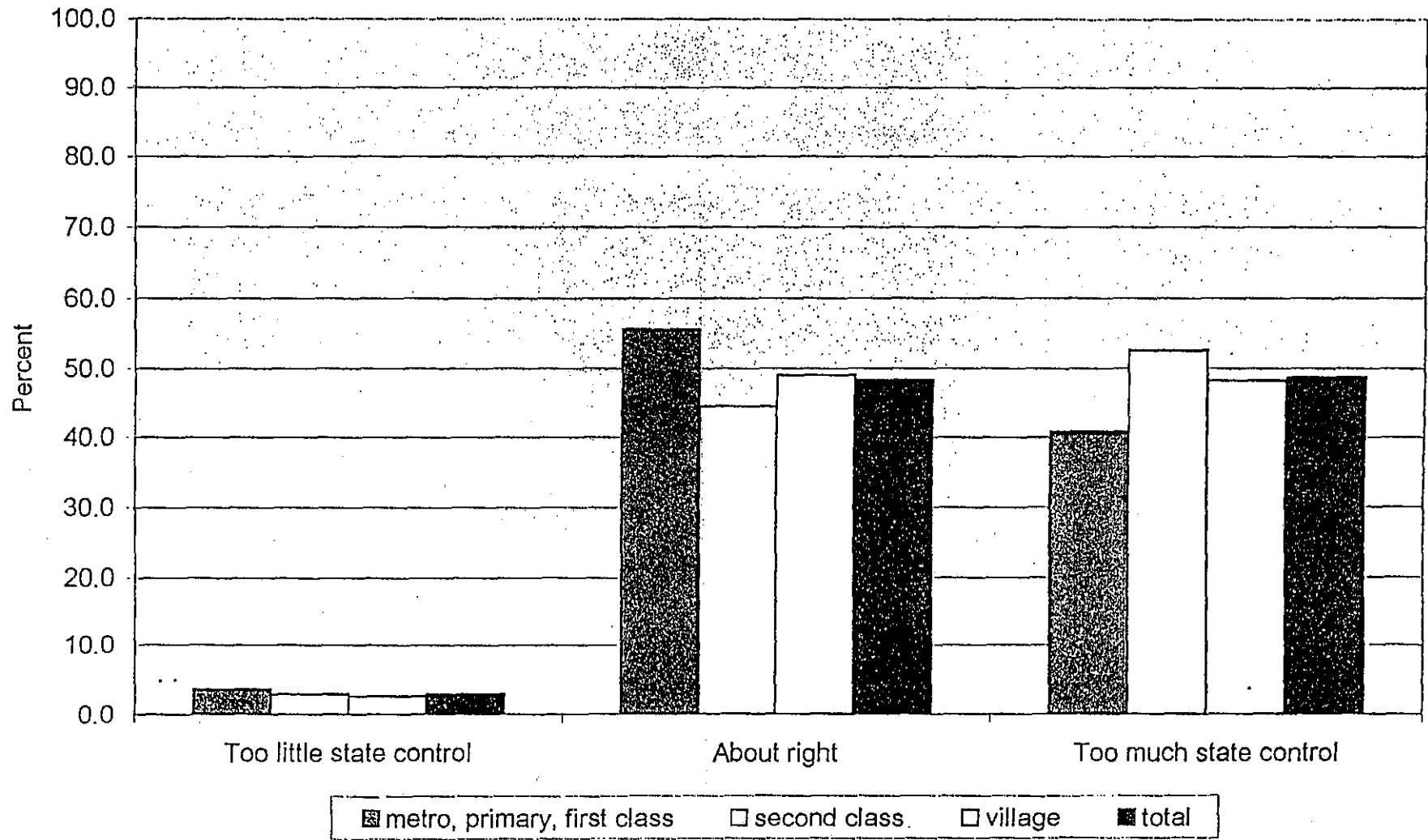


State Government Control Over: Types of Grants

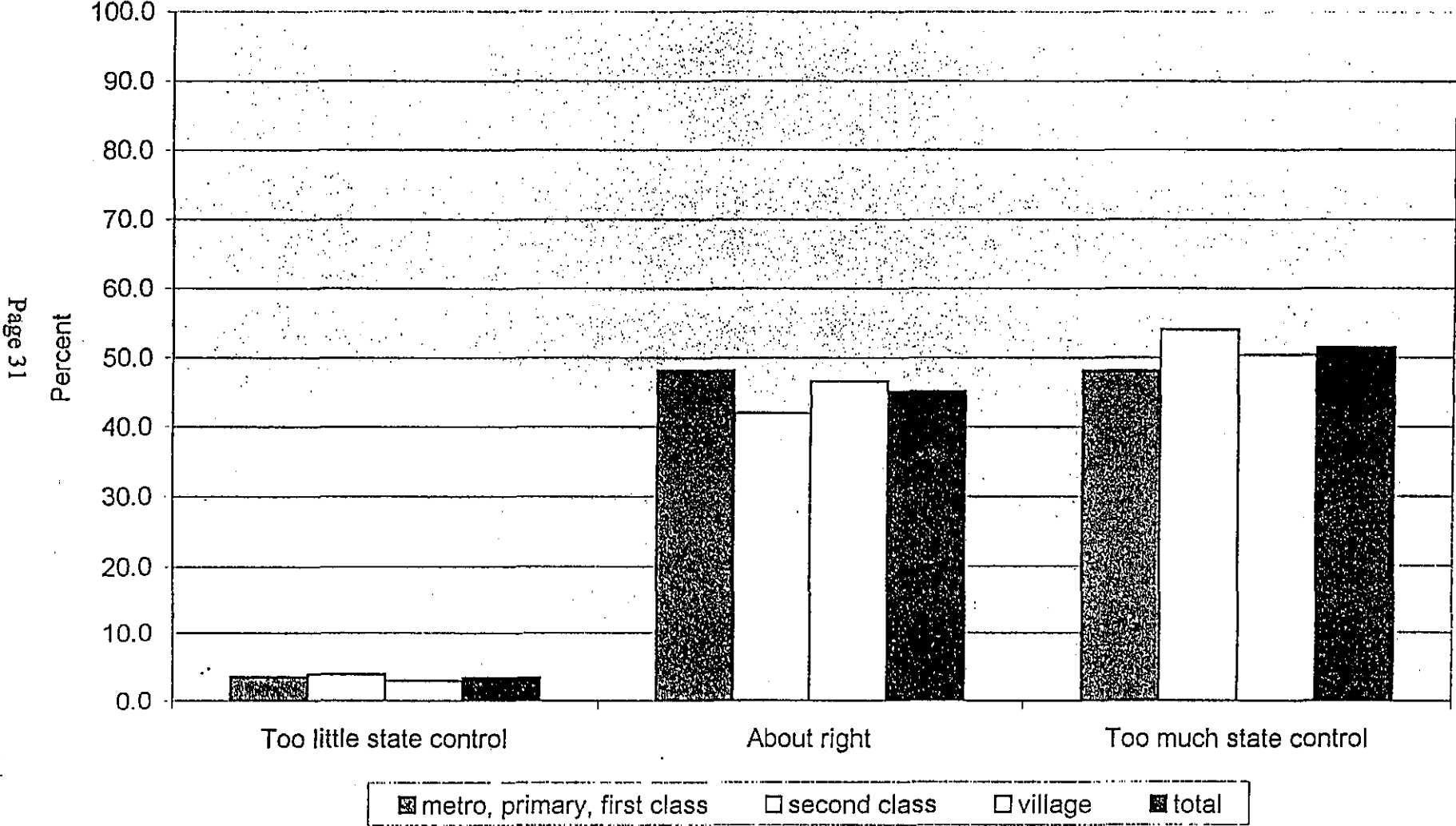


State Government Control Over: Local Discretion Over Administration of Grants

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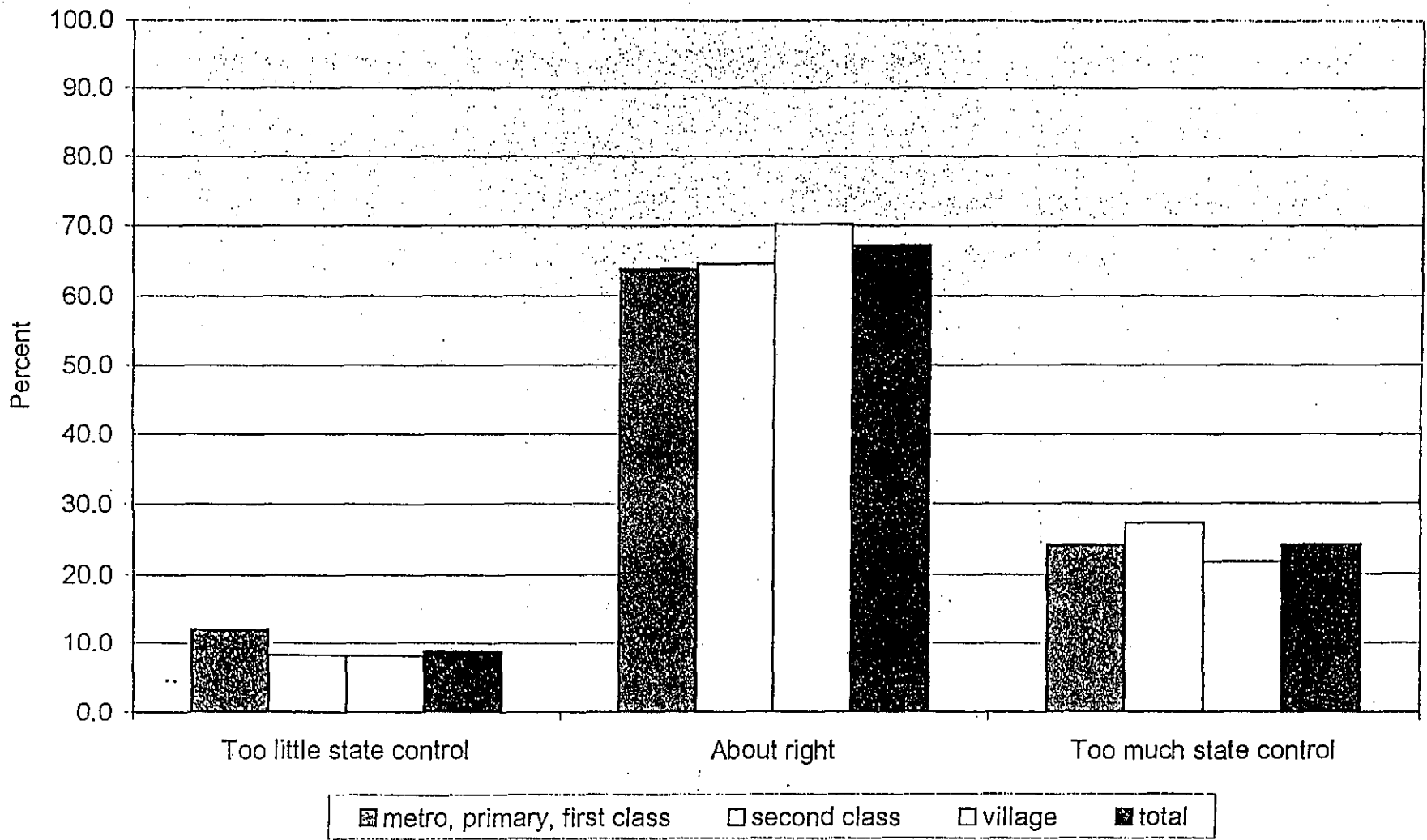


State Government Control Over: Local Discretion Over Spending of Grants

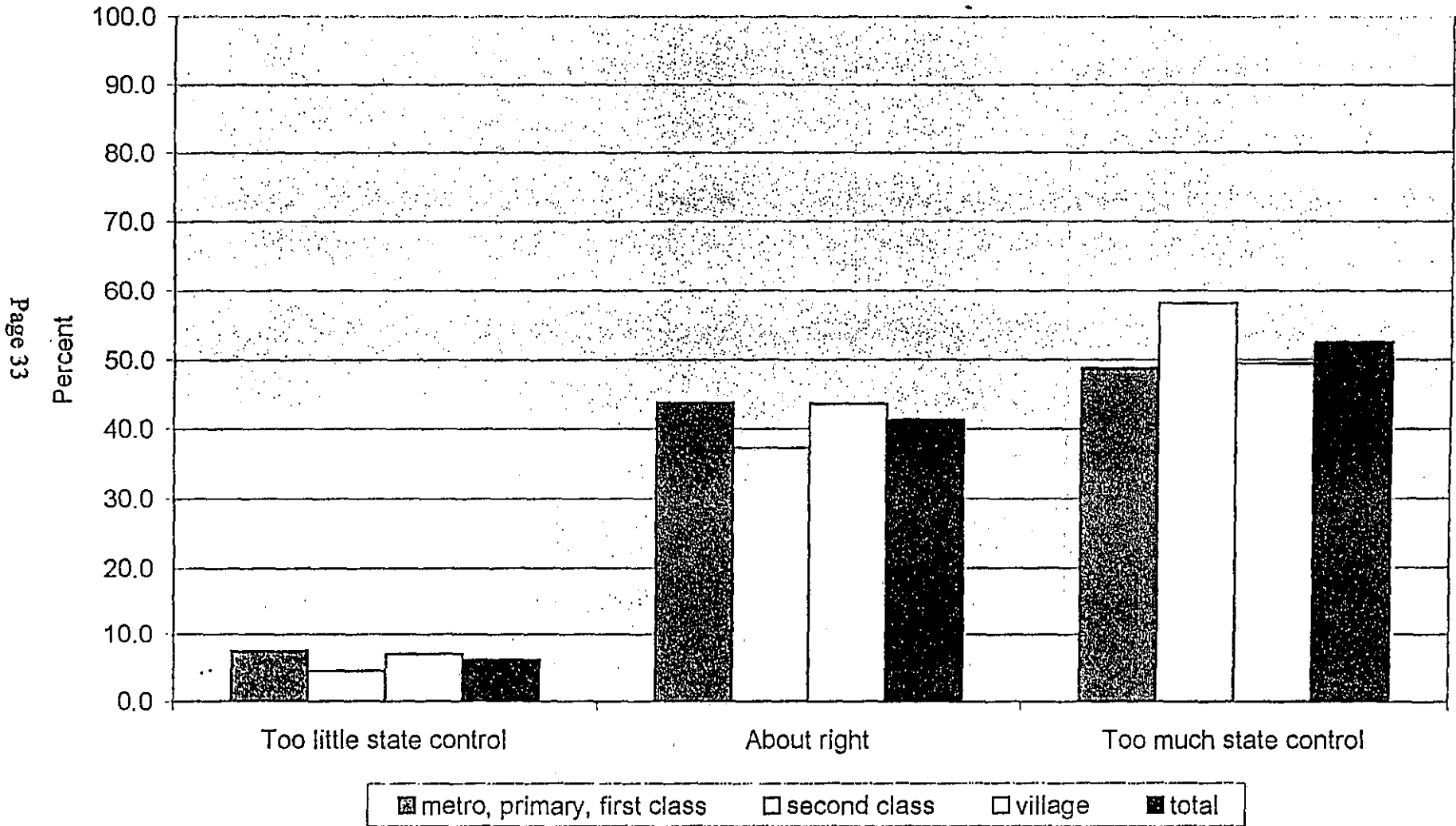


State Government Control Over: Interlocal Government Cooperation

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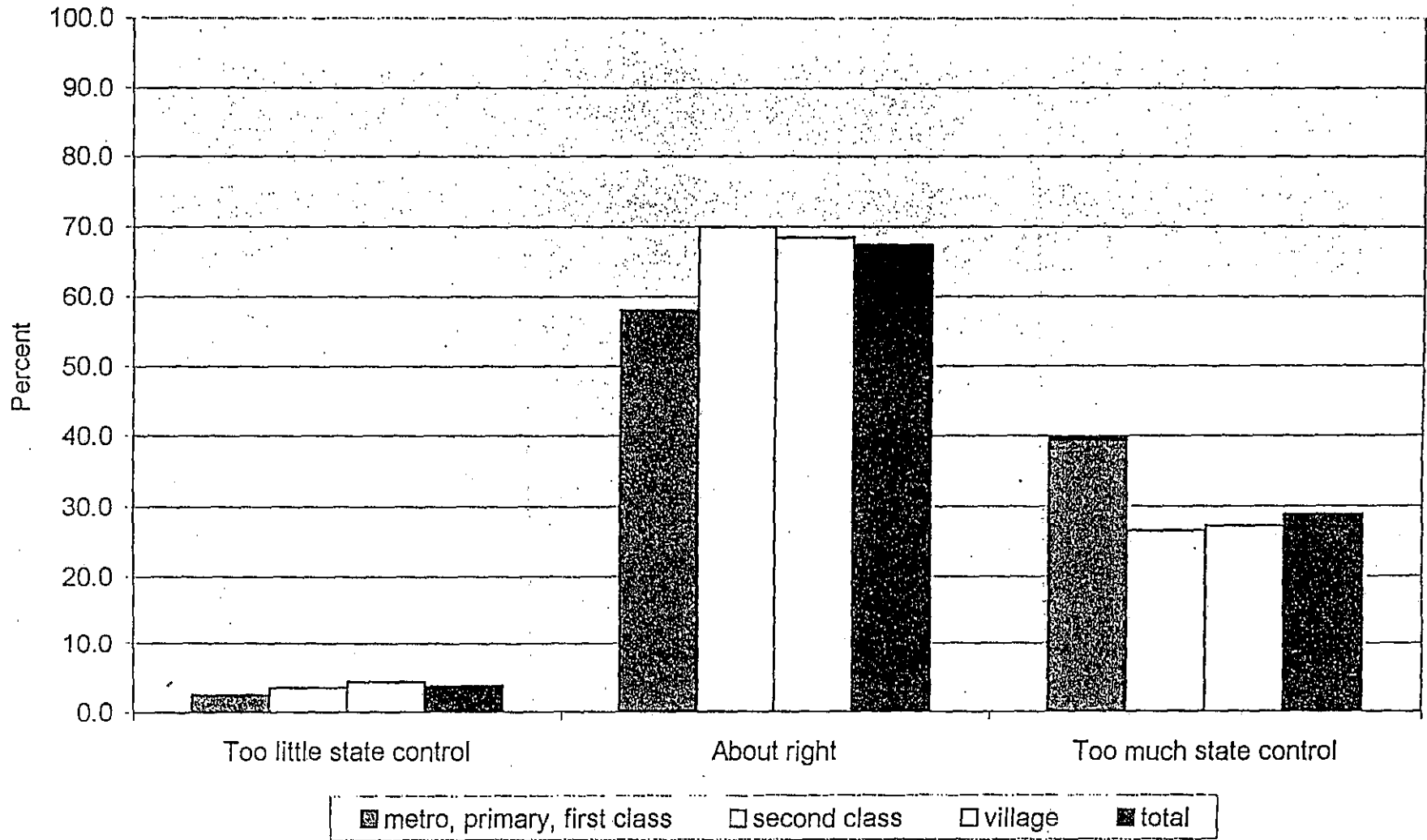


State Government Control Over: Land Fills



State Government Control Over: Annexation

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Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Human resources management * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total	
Human resources management	Too little state control	Count	1		1	2
		% within city class	1.2%		.4%	.4%
	2	Count			3	3
		% within city class			1.2%	.6%
	3	Count	3	5	4	12
		% within city class	3.6%	2.6%	1.6%	2.3%
	About right	Count	51	137	198	386
		% within city class	61.4%	72.5%	79.2%	73.9%
	5	Count	16	34	25	75
		% within city class	19.3%	18.0%	10.0%	14.4%
	6	Count	7	10	4	21
		% within city class	8.4%	5.3%	1.6%	4.0%
Too much state control	Count	5	3	15	23	
	% within city class	6.0%	1.6%	6.0%	4.4%	
Total	Count	83	189	250	522	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Administrative procedures * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Administrative procedures	Too little state control	Count			1	1
		% within city class			.4%	.2%
3		Count	1	2	5	8
		% within city class	1.2%	1.0%	2.0%	1.5%
About right		Count	42	110	164	316
		% within city class	51.2%	56.7%	64.8%	59.7%
5		Count	25	55	53	133
		% within city class	30.5%	28.4%	20.9%	25.1%
6		Count	11	19	12	42
		% within city class	13.4%	9.8%	4.7%	7.9%
Too much state control		Count	3	8	18	29
		% within city class	3.7%	4.1%	7.1%	5.5%
Total		Count	82	194	253	529
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Contracting and purchasing authority * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Contracting and purchasing authority	2	Count		1	1	2
		% within city class		.5%	.4%	.4%
3		Count	1	1	5	7
		% within city class	1.2%	.5%	1.9%	1.3%
About right		Count	44	110	172	326
		% within city class	53.0%	56.7%	66.7%	60.9%
5		Count	19	54	42	115
		% within city class	22.9%	27.8%	16.3%	21.5%
6		Count	15	18	22	55
		% within city class	18.1%	9.3%	8.5%	10.3%
Too much state control		Count	4	10	16	30
		% within city class	4.8%	5.2%	6.2%	5.6%
Total		Count	83	194	258	535
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Planning, zoning, and land use controls * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Planning, zoning, and land use controls	Too little state control	Count		2	4	6
		% within city class		1.0%	1.6%	1.1%
	2	Count	2	4	1	7
		% within city class	2.4%	2.1%	.4%	1.3%
	3	Count	3	8	13	24
		% within city class	3.6%	4.1%	5.0%	4.5%
	About right	Count	44	102	141	287
		% within city class	53.0%	52.6%	54.7%	53.6%
	5	Count	18	47	56	121
		% within city class	21.7%	24.2%	21.7%	22.6%
	6	Count	11	25	22	58
		% within city class	13.3%	12.9%	8.5%	10.8%
Too much state control	Count	5	6	21	32	
	% within city class	6.0%	3.1%	8.1%	6.0%	
Total	Count	83	194	258	535	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Health insurance and other employee benefits * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Health insurance and other employee benefits	Too little state control	Count	2	5	8	15
		% within city class	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%	2.9%
	2	Count	1	7	7	15
		% within city class	1.2%	3.6%	2.8%	2.9%
	3	Count	3	16	25	44
		% within city class	3.7%	8.2%	10.0%	8.4%
	About right	Count	43	109	158	310
		% within city class	53.1%	55.6%	63.5%	58.9%
	5	Count	21	25	31	77
		% within city class	25.9%	12.8%	12.4%	14.6%
	6	Count	6	20	8	34
		% within city class	7.4%	10.2%	3.2%	6.5%
Too much state control	Count	5	14	12	31	
	% within city class	6.2%	7.1%	4.8%	5.9%	
Total	Count	81	196	249	526	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Creation of economic development organizations * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Creation of economic development organizations	Too little state control	Count	1		3	4
		% within city class	1.2%		1.2%	.8%
	2	Count	3	3	1	7
		% within city class	3.7%	1.6%	.4%	1.3%
	3	Count	6	22	19	47
		% within city class	7.3%	11.5%	7.6%	9.0%
	About right	Count	50	118	177	345
		% within city class	61.0%	61.5%	70.5%	65.7%
	5	Count	12	34	31	77
		% within city class	14.6%	17.7%	12.4%	14.7%
	6	Count	4	12	5	21
		% within city class	4.9%	6.3%	2.0%	4.0%
Too much state control	Count	6	3	15	24	
	% within city class	7.3%	1.6%	6.0%	4.6%	
Total	Count	82	192	251	525	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Raising economic development funds * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Raising economic development funds	Too little state control	Count	1	1	4	6
		% within city class	1.2%	.5%	1.6%	1.1%
	2	Count	3	5	6	14
		% within city class	3.7%	2.6%	2.4%	2.7%
	3	Count	7	31	28	66
		% within city class	8.5%	16.1%	11.2%	12.6%
	About right	Count	42	98	157	297
		% within city class	51.2%	50.8%	63.1%	56.7%
	5	Count	12	36	32	80
		% within city class	14.6%	18.7%	12.9%	15.3%
	6	Count	10	18	8	36
		% within city class	12.2%	9.3%	3.2%	6.9%
Too much state control	Count	7	4	14	25	
	% within city class	8.5%	2.1%	5.6%	4.8%	
Total	Count	82	193	249	524	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Spending economic development funds * city class Crosstabulation

		city class					
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total	
Spending economic development funds	Too little state control	Count	1		3	4	
		% within city class	1.2%		1.2%	.8%	
	2	Count	3		4	2	9
		% within city class	3.7%		2.1%	.8%	1.7%
	3	Count	2		11	17	30
		% within city class	2.4%		5.7%	6.8%	5.7%
	About right	Count	39		89	130	258
		% within city class	47.6%		46.1%	52.0%	49.1%
	5	Count	12		53	58	123
		% within city class	14.6%		27.5%	23.2%	23.4%
	6	Count	16		29	22	67
		% within city class	19.5%		15.0%	8.8%	12.8%
	Too much state control	Count	9		7	18	34
		% within city class	11.0%		3.6%	7.2%	6.5%
Total	Count	82		193	250	525	
	% within city class	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Industrial parks and other facility development * city class Crosstabulation

		city class					
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total	
Industrial parks and other facility development	Too little state control	Count	2		5	7	
		% within city class	2.5%		2.1%	1.4%	
	2	Count	2		4	3	9
		% within city class	2.5%		2.1%	1.3%	1.8%
	3	Count	6		15	16	37
		% within city class	7.4%		7.9%	6.7%	7.2%
	About right	Count	39		113	157	309
		% within city class	48.1%		59.5%	65.4%	60.5%
	5	Count	16		43	35	94
		% within city class	19.8%		22.6%	14.6%	18.4%
	6	Count	9		12	9	30
		% within city class	11.1%		6.3%	3.8%	5.9%
	Too much state control	Count	7		3	15	25
		% within city class	8.6%		1.6%	6.3%	4.9%
Total	Count	81		190	240	511	
	% within city class	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Types of revenues that municipalities may use * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Types of revenues that municipalities may use	2	Count			1	1
		% within city class			.4%	.2%
	3	Count	1	3	5	9
		% within city class	1.2%	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%
	About right	Count	14	43	94	151
		% within city class	17.1%	21.9%	36.3%	28.1%
	5	Count	24	75	85	184
		% within city class	29.3%	38.3%	32.8%	34.3%
	6	Count	23	39	40	102
		% within city class	28.0%	19.9%	15.4%	19.0%
	Too much state control	Count	20	36	34	90
		% within city class	24.4%	18.4%	13.1%	16.8%
Total		Count	82	196	259	537
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Local tax rates * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Local tax rates	Too little state control	Count			1	1
		% within city class			.4%	.2%
	3	Count	2	1	3	
		% within city class	1.0%	.4%	.6%	
	About right	Count	13	50	104	167
		% within city class	15.9%	25.4%	39.2%	30.7%
	5	Count	17	53	61	131
		% within city class	20.7%	26.9%	23.0%	24.1%
	6	Count	28	34	48	110
		% within city class	34.1%	17.3%	18.1%	20.2%
	Too much state control	Count	24	58	50	132
		% within city class	29.3%	29.4%	18.9%	24.3%
Total		Count	82	197	265	544
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Tax lids or caps * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Tax lids or caps	Too little state control	Count			2	2
		% within city class			.7%	.4%
	2	Count		1	1	2
		% within city class		.5%	.4%	.4%
	3	Count		1	1	2
		% within city class		.5%	.4%	.4%
	About right	Count	4	17	56	77
		% within city class	4.8%	8.6%	20.8%	14.0%
	5	Count	11	37	62	110
		% within city class	13.3%	18.8%	23.0%	20.0%
	6	Count	25	43	52	120
		% within city class	30.1%	21.8%	19.3%	21.9%
Too much state control	Count	43	98	95	236	
	% within city class	51.8%	49.7%	35.3%	43.0%	
Total	Count	83	197	269	549	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Borrowing and debt limits * city class Crosstabulation

		city class					
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total	
Borrowing and debt limits	2	Count	1		1	2	
		% within city class	1.2%		.4%	.4%	
	3	Count			2	1	3
		% within city class			1.0%	.4%	.6%
	About right	Count	42	94	141	277	
		% within city class	50.6%	48.0%	54.4%	51.5%	
	5	Count	11	51	63	125	
		% within city class	13.3%	26.0%	24.3%	23.2%	
	6	Count	17	18	26	61	
		% within city class	20.5%	9.2%	10.0%	11.3%	
	Too much state control	Count	12	31	27	70	
		% within city class	14.5%	15.8%	10.4%	13.0%	
Total	Count	83	196	259	538		
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Types of expenditures that municipalities may use * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Types of expenditures that municipalities may use	2	Count		1	2	3
		% within city class		.5%	.8%	.6%
	3	Count	1	2	5	8
		% within city class	1.2%	1.0%	1.9%	1.5%
About right		Count	22	70	100	192
		% within city class	26.5%	35.5%	37.7%	35.2%
	5	Count	21	74	90	185
		% within city class	25.3%	37.6%	34.0%	33.9%
	6	Count	21	25	32	78
		% within city class	25.3%	12.7%	12.1%	14.3%
Too much state control		Count	18	25	36	79
		% within city class	21.7%	12.7%	13.6%	14.5%
Total		Count	83	197	265	545
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Auditing and accounting * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Auditing and accounting	Too little state control	Count		1		1
		% within city class		.5%		.2%
	2	Count			2	2
		% within city class			.8%	.4%
	3	Count	2	3	2	7
		% within city class	2.4%	1.5%	.8%	1.3%
About right		Count	56	108	141	305
		% within city class	68.3%	54.8%	53.4%	56.2%
	5	Count	5	38	59	102
		% within city class	6.1%	19.3%	22.3%	18.8%
	6	Count	8	22	30	60
		% within city class	9.8%	11.2%	11.4%	11.0%
Too much state control		Count	11	25	30	66
		% within city class	13.4%	12.7%	11.4%	12.2%
Total		Count	82	197	264	543
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Spending limits * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Spending limits	Too little state control	Count			1	1
		% within city class			.4%	.2%
2		Count		1	1	2
		% within city class		.5%	.4%	.4%
3		Count	1	1	7	9
		% within city class	1.2%	.5%	2.6%	1.7%
About right		Count	11	40	79	130
		% within city class	13.3%	20.5%	29.7%	23.9%
5		Count	15	50	72	137
		% within city class	18.1%	25.6%	27.1%	25.2%
6		Count	27	49	56	132
		% within city class	32.5%	25.1%	21.1%	24.3%
Too much state control		Count	29	54	50	133
		% within city class	34.9%	27.7%	18.8%	24.4%
Total		Count	83	195	266	544
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Balanced budget requirement * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Balanced budget requirement	Too little state control	Count		1	1	2
		% within city class		.5%	.4%	.4%
2		Count	1		3	4
		% within city class	1.2%		1.1%	.7%
3		Count	2	1	3	6
		% within city class	2.4%	.5%	1.1%	1.1%
About right		Count	50	105	153	308
		% within city class	60.2%	53.3%	58.2%	56.7%
5		Count	11	42	48	101
		% within city class	13.3%	21.3%	18.3%	18.6%
6		Count	9	21	26	56
		% within city class	10.8%	10.7%	9.9%	10.3%
Too much state control		Count	10	27	29	66
		% within city class	12.0%	13.7%	11.0%	12.2%
Total		Count	83	197	263	543
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Types of grants * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Types of grants	Too little state control	Count		1	1	2
		% within city class		.5%	.4%	.4%
	2	Count		3	7	10
		% within city class		1.5%	2.7%	1.9%
	3	Count	4	7	10	21
		% within city class	4.9%	3.5%	3.9%	3.9%
About right		Count	58	118	158	334
		% within city class	71.6%	59.6%	61.0%	62.1%
	5	Count	9	50	46	105
		% within city class	11.1%	25.3%	17.8%	19.5%
	6	Count	5	8	21	34
		% within city class	6.2%	4.0%	8.1%	6.3%
Too much state control		Count	5	11	16	32
		% within city class	6.2%	5.6%	6.2%	5.9%
Total		Count	81	198	259	538
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Local discretion over administration of grants * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Local discretion over administration of grants	Too little state control	Count		1	1	2
		% within city class		.5%	.4%	.4%
	2	Count		1	1	3
		% within city class		1.2%	.5%	.4%
	3	Count		2	4	5
		% within city class		2.5%	2.0%	1.9%
About right		Count	45	88	127	260
		% within city class	55.6%	44.4%	49.0%	48.3%
	5	Count	15	62	70	147
		% within city class	18.5%	31.3%	27.0%	27.3%
	6	Count	9	24	36	69
		% within city class	11.1%	12.1%	13.9%	12.8%
Too much state control		Count	9	18	19	46
		% within city class	11.1%	9.1%	7.3%	8.6%
Total		Count	81	198	259	538
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Local discretion over spending of grants * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Local discretion over spending of grants	Too little state control	Count			1	1
		% within city class			.4%	.2%
	2	Count	1	2		3
		% within city class	1.2%	1.0%		.6%
	3	Count	2	6	7	15
		% within city class	2.5%	3.0%	2.7%	2.8%
	About right	Count	39	83	121	243
		% within city class	48.1%	41.9%	46.5%	45.1%
	5	Count	18	65	70	153
		% within city class	22.2%	32.8%	26.9%	28.4%
	6	Count	12	25	37	74
		% within city class	14.8%	12.6%	14.2%	13.7%
Too much state control	Count	9	17	24	50	
	% within city class	11.1%	8.6%	9.2%	9.3%	
Total	Count	81	198	260	539	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Interlocal government cooperation * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Interlocal government cooperation	Too little state control	Count	1	1	3	5
		% within city class	1.2%	.5%	1.2%	.9%
	2	Count	2	3	7	12
		% within city class	2.4%	1.5%	2.7%	2.2%
	3	Count	7	12	11	30
		% within city class	8.4%	6.2%	4.3%	5.6%
	About right	Count	53	126	181	360
		% within city class	63.9%	64.6%	70.2%	67.2%
	5	Count	13	33	33	79
		% within city class	15.7%	16.9%	12.8%	14.7%
	6	Count	3	8	12	23
		% within city class	3.6%	4.1%	4.7%	4.3%
Too much state control	Count	4	12	11	27	
	% within city class	4.8%	6.2%	4.3%	5.0%	
Total	Count	83	195	258	536	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Land fills * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Land fills	Too little state control	Count	1	2	2	5
		% within city class	1.3%	1.0%	.8%	.9%
2		Count	1	2	4	7
		% within city class	1.3%	1.0%	1.6%	1.3%
3		Count	4	5	12	21
		% within city class	5.0%	2.6%	4.7%	3.9%
About right		Count	35	73	112	220
		% within city class	43.8%	37.2%	43.6%	41.3%
5		Count	17	44	56	117
		% within city class	21.3%	22.4%	21.8%	22.0%
6		Count	9	38	37	84
		% within city class	11.3%	19.4%	14.4%	15.8%
Too much state control		Count	13	32	34	79
		% within city class	16.3%	16.3%	13.2%	14.8%
Total		Count	80	196	257	533
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Annexation * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Annexation	Too little state control	Count			3	3
		% within city class			1.2%	.6%
2		Count	1	3	2	6
		% within city class	1.2%	1.5%	.8%	1.1%
3		Count	1	4	6	11
		% within city class	1.2%	2.0%	2.4%	2.1%
About right		Count	47	137	171	355
		% within city class	58.0%	69.9%	68.4%	67.4%
5		Count	27	32	39	98
		% within city class	33.3%	16.3%	15.6%	18.6%
6		Count	2	12	15	29
		% within city class	2.5%	6.1%	6.0%	5.5%
Too much state control		Count	3	8	14	25
		% within city class	3.7%	4.1%	5.6%	4.7%
Total		Count	81	196	250	527
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Level of Agreement With Functions Available to Municipalities:
Total**

	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Should be permitted to utilize property tax revenue	97.4	2.6
Should be permitted to utilize sales tax revenue	96.7	3.3
Should be permitted to utilize user fees or charges revenue	95.9	4.1
Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds.	95.6	4.4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development.	95.1	4.9
Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds.	94.7	5.3
Should be permitted to utilize sale of municipal services to other local governments revenue	94.5	5.5
Should be permitted to utilize business, commerce, and industry (licenses) revenue	93.4	6.6
Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm.	92.9	7.1
Should be permitted to utilize entertainment and tourism (room or ticket tax) revenue	91.7	8.3
Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management.	91.7	8.3

Total (continued)	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
** Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget.	90.7	9.3
State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently.	86.6	13.4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry.	84.4	15.6
Should be permitted to utilize gaming or gambling revenue	82.5	17.5
** The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities.	77.3	22.7
** Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska.	75.2	24.8
Should be permitted to utilize income tax revenue	69.3	30.7
Should be permitted to utilize estate or inheritance tax revenue	60.5	39.5
** Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens.	46.3	53.7
** Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by Nebraska municipalities.	25.1	74.9

**Level of Agreement With Functions Available to Municipalities:
Metro, Primary, First Class**

	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Should be permitted to utilize sales tax revenue	100.0	0.0
Should be permitted to utilize user fees or charges revenue	100.0	0.0
Should be permitted to utilize property tax revenue	98.8	1.2
Should be permitted to utilize business, commerce, and industry (licenses) revenue	98.8	1.2
Should be permitted to utilize entertainment and tourism (room or ticket tax) revenue	98.8	1.2
Should be permitted to utilize sale of municipal services to other local governments revenue	98.8	1.2
Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds.	97.6	2.4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm.	95.2	4.8
Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds.	94.0	6.0
Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development.	92.8	7.2
** Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget.	92.8	7.2

Metro, Primary, First Class (continued)	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management.	92.8	7.2
** The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities.	89.2	10.8
** Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska.	89.2	10.8
Should be permitted to utilize gaming or gambling revenue	81.9	18.1
State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently.	80.7	19.3
Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry.	79.5	20.5
Should be permitted to utilize income tax revenue	55.4	44.6
Should be permitted to utilize estate or inheritance tax revenue	47.0	53.0
** Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens.	26.8	73.2
** Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by Nebraska municipalities.	15.9	84.1

**Level of Agreement With Functions Available to Municipalities:
Second Class**

	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Should be permitted to utilize sales tax revenue	98.0	2.0
Should be permitted to utilize user fees or charges revenue	98.0	2.0
Should be permitted to utilize property tax revenue	97.0	3.0
Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development.	96.0	4.0
Should be permitted to utilize business, commerce, and industry (licenses) revenue	94.9	5.1
Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds.	94.0	6.0
Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds.	93.9	6.1
Should be permitted to utilize sale of municipal services to other local governments revenue	93.3	6.7
Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm.	92.4	7.6
** Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget.	91.5	8.5
Should be permitted to utilize entertainment and tourism (room or ticket tax) revenue	91.3	8.7

Second Class (continued)

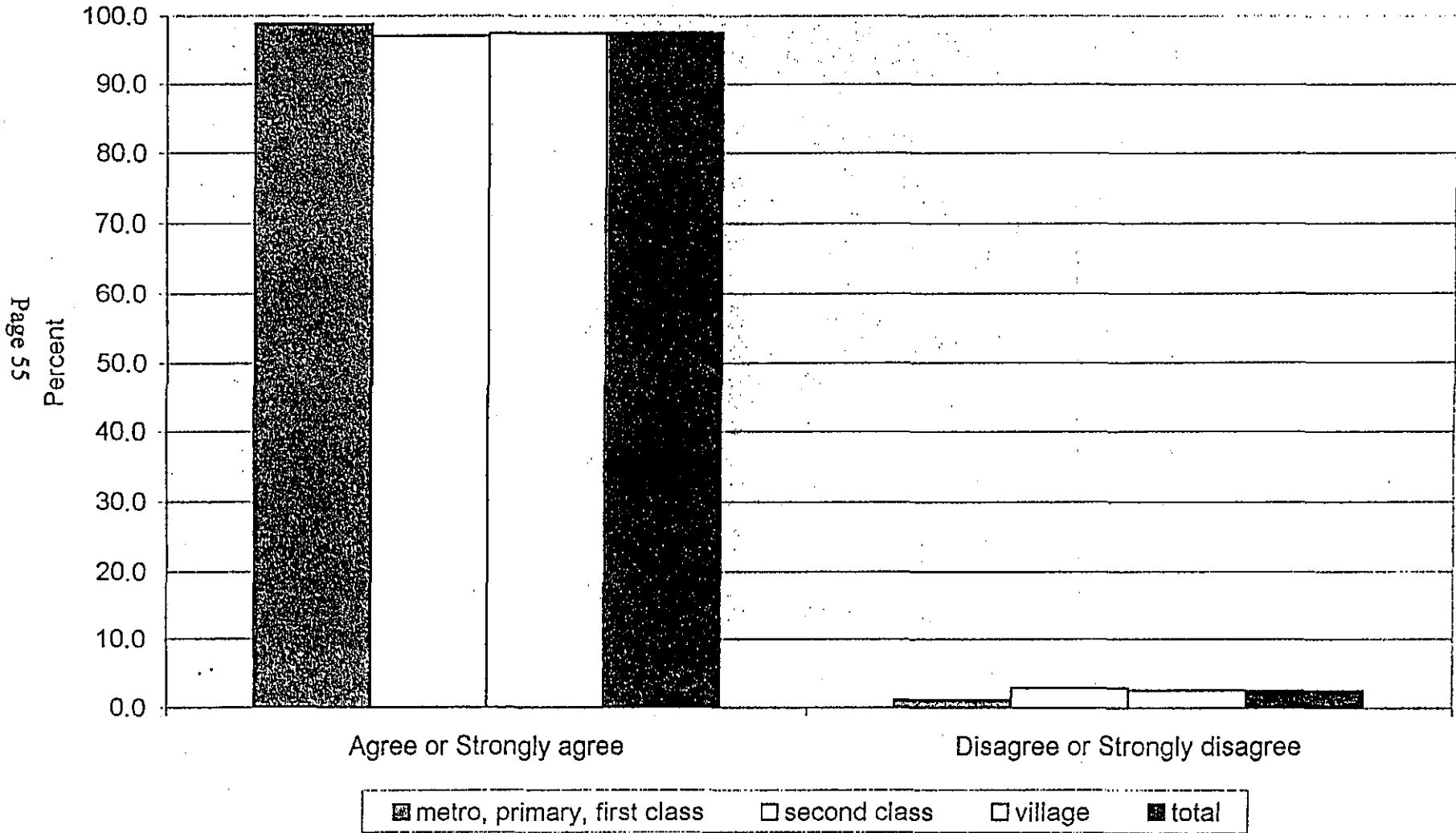
	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management.	88.9	11.1
State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently.	85.2	14.8
** The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities.	84.4	15.6
Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry.	82.9	17.1
Should be permitted to utilize gaming or gambling revenue	82.5	17.5
** Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska.	73.4	26.6
Should be permitted to utilize income tax revenue	68.2	31.8
Should be permitted to utilize estate or inheritance tax revenue	62.5	37.5
** Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens.	42.7	57.3
** Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by Nebraska municipalities.	27.2	72.8

**Level of Agreement With Functions Available to Municipalities:
Villages**

	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Should be permitted to utilize property tax revenue	97.4	2.6
Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds.	96.2	3.8
Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds.	95.5	4.5
Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development.	95.1	4.9
Should be permitted to utilize sales tax revenue	94.7	5.3
Should be permitted to utilize sale of municipal services to other local governments revenue	94.0	6.0
Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management.	93.5	6.5
Should be permitted to utilize user fees or charges revenue	92.9	7.1
Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm.	92.5	7.5
Should be permitted to utilize business, commerce, and industry (licenses) revenue	90.6	9.4

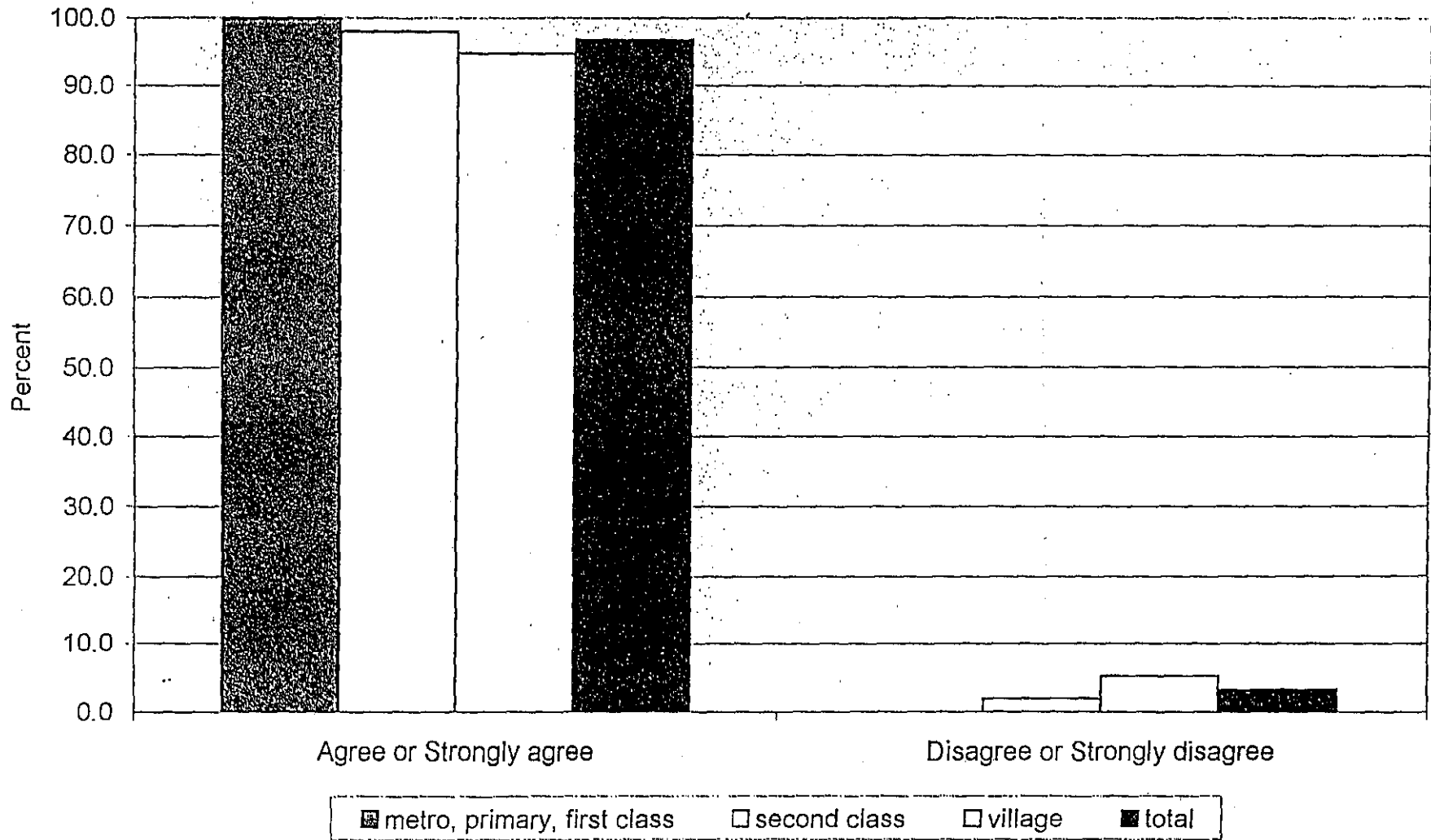
Villages (continued)	Agree/ strongly agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Should be permitted to utilize entertainment and tourism (room or ticket tax) revenue	89.6	10.4
State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently.	89.6	10.4
** Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget.	89.6	10.4
Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry.	87.0	13.0
Should be permitted to utilize gaming or gambling revenue	82.6	17.4
Should be permitted to utilize income tax revenue	74.6	25.4
** Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska.	72.3	27.7
** The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities.	68.3	31.7
Should be permitted to utilize estate or inheritance tax revenue	63.3	36.7
** Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens.	55.1	44.9
** Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by Nebraska municipalities.	26.4	73.6

Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Property Tax Revenue



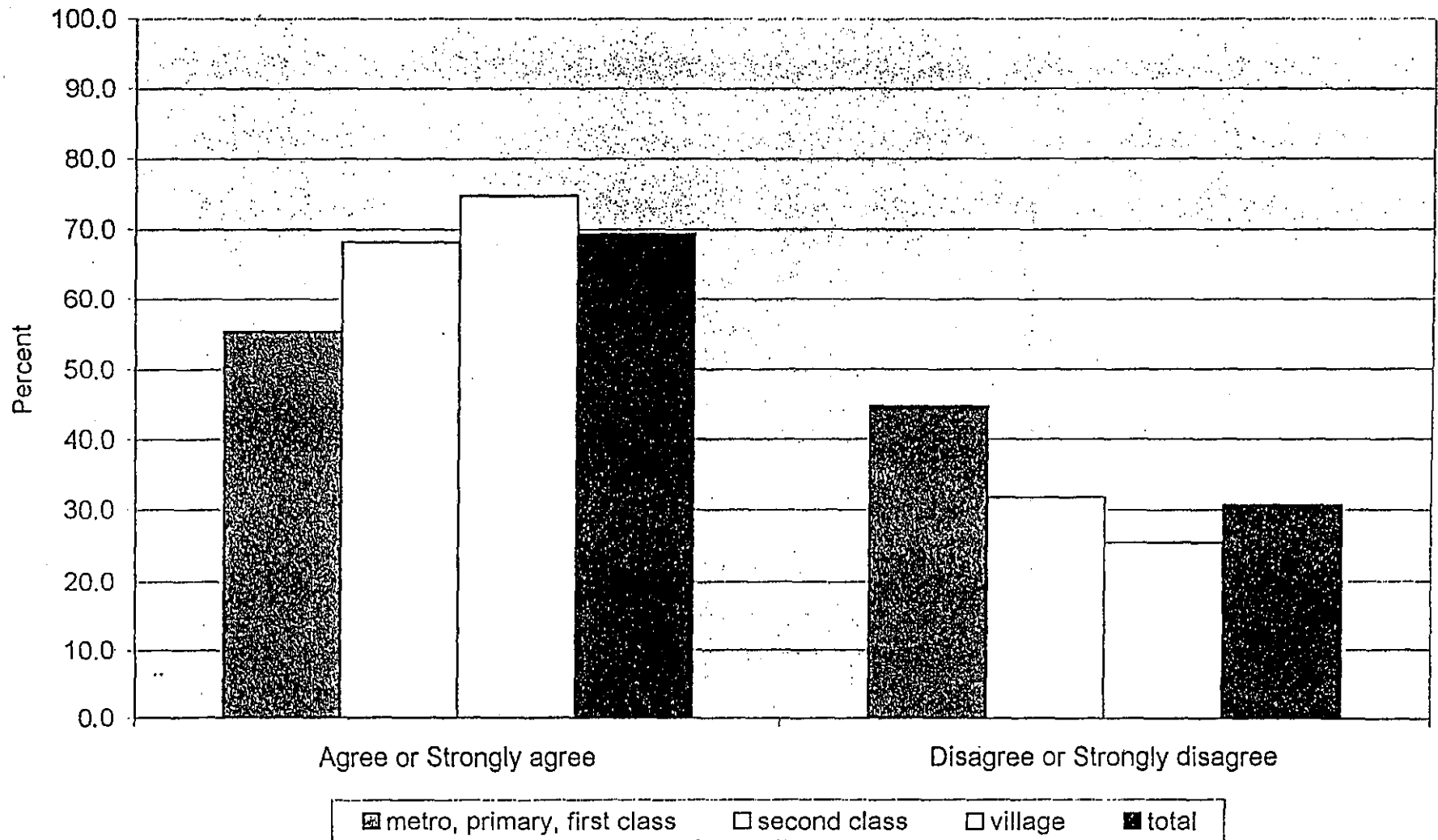
Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Sales Tax Revenue

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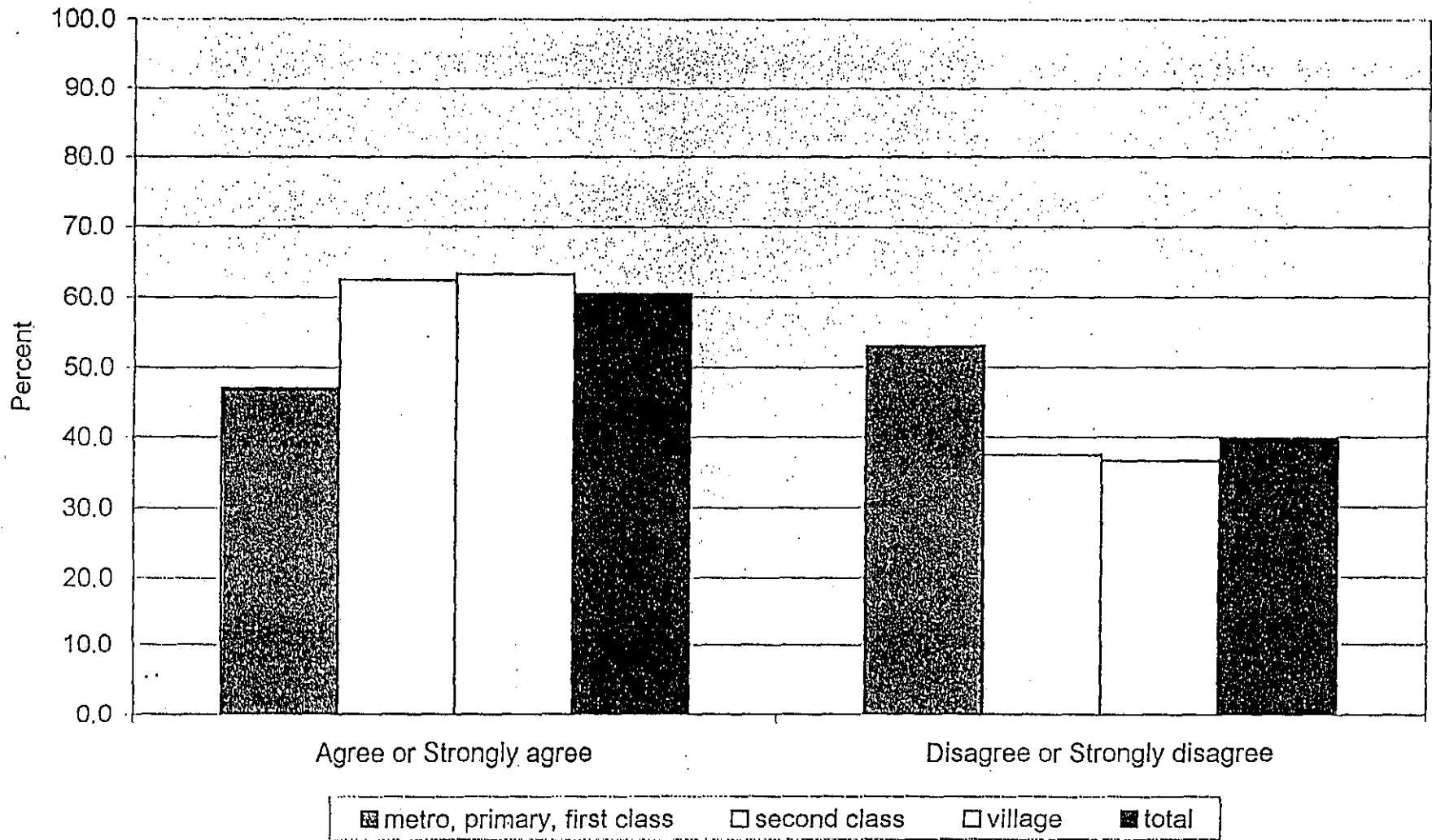


Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Income Tax Revenue

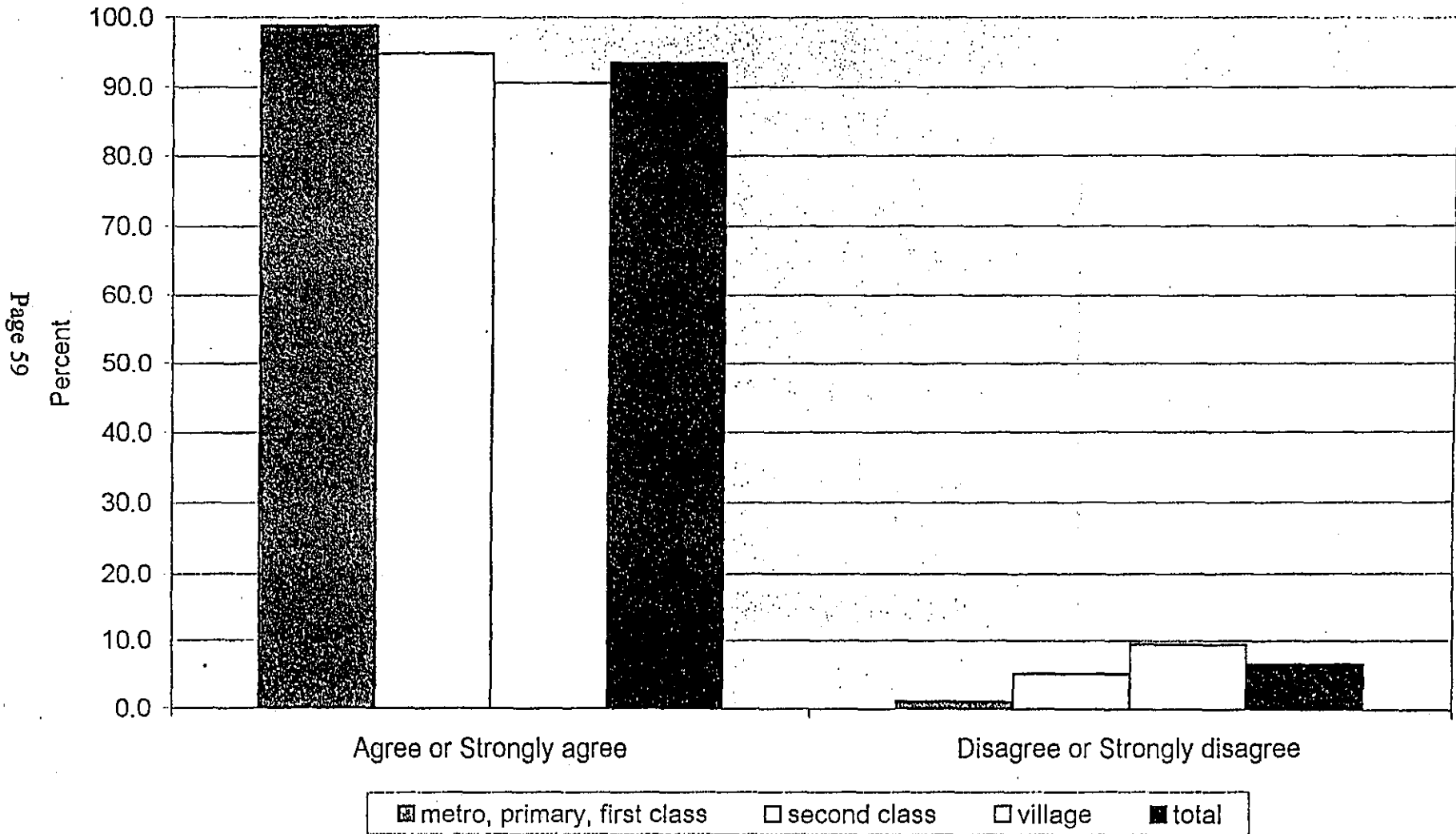
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Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Estate or Inheritance Tax Revenue

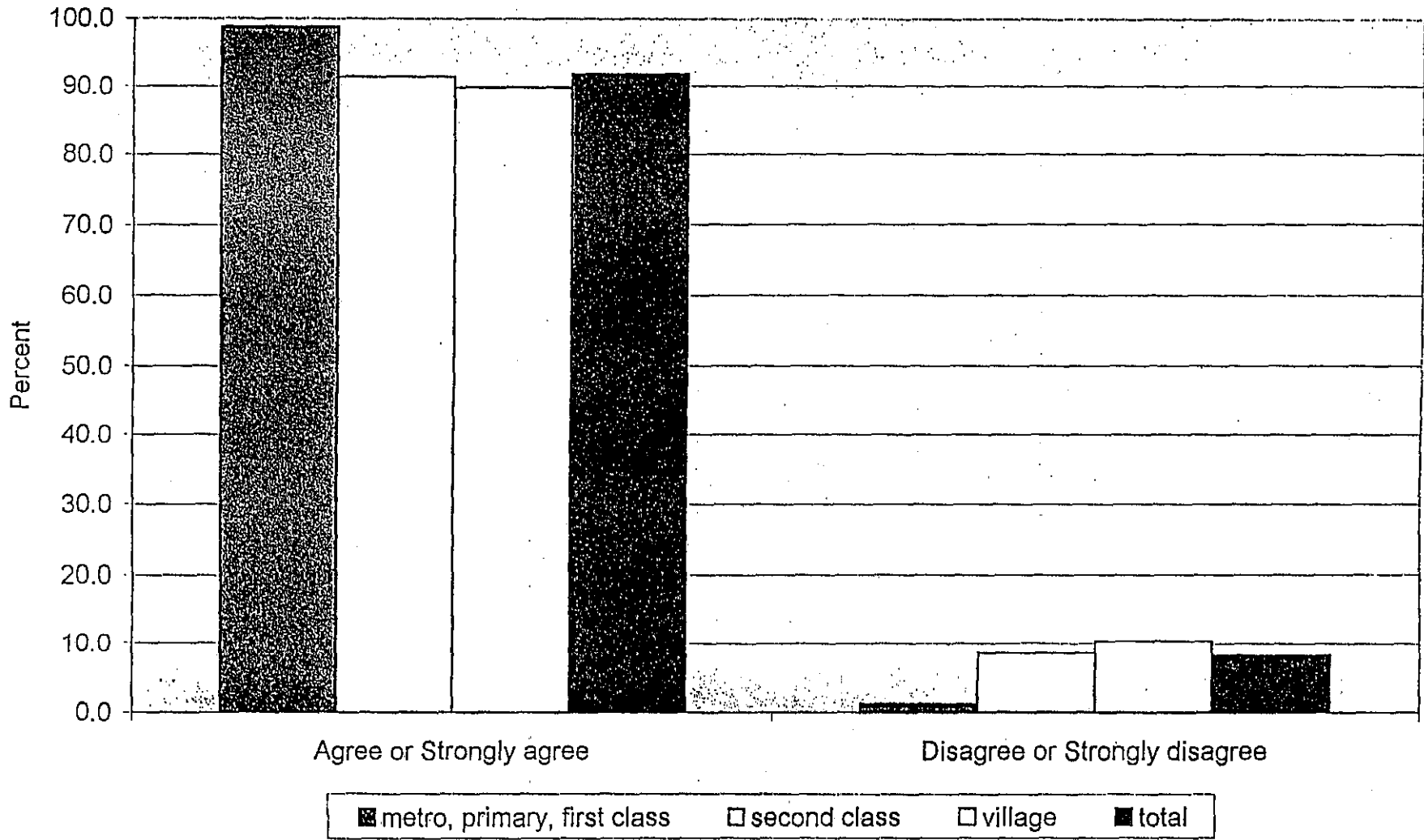


Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Business, Commerce, and Industry (Licenses) Revenue



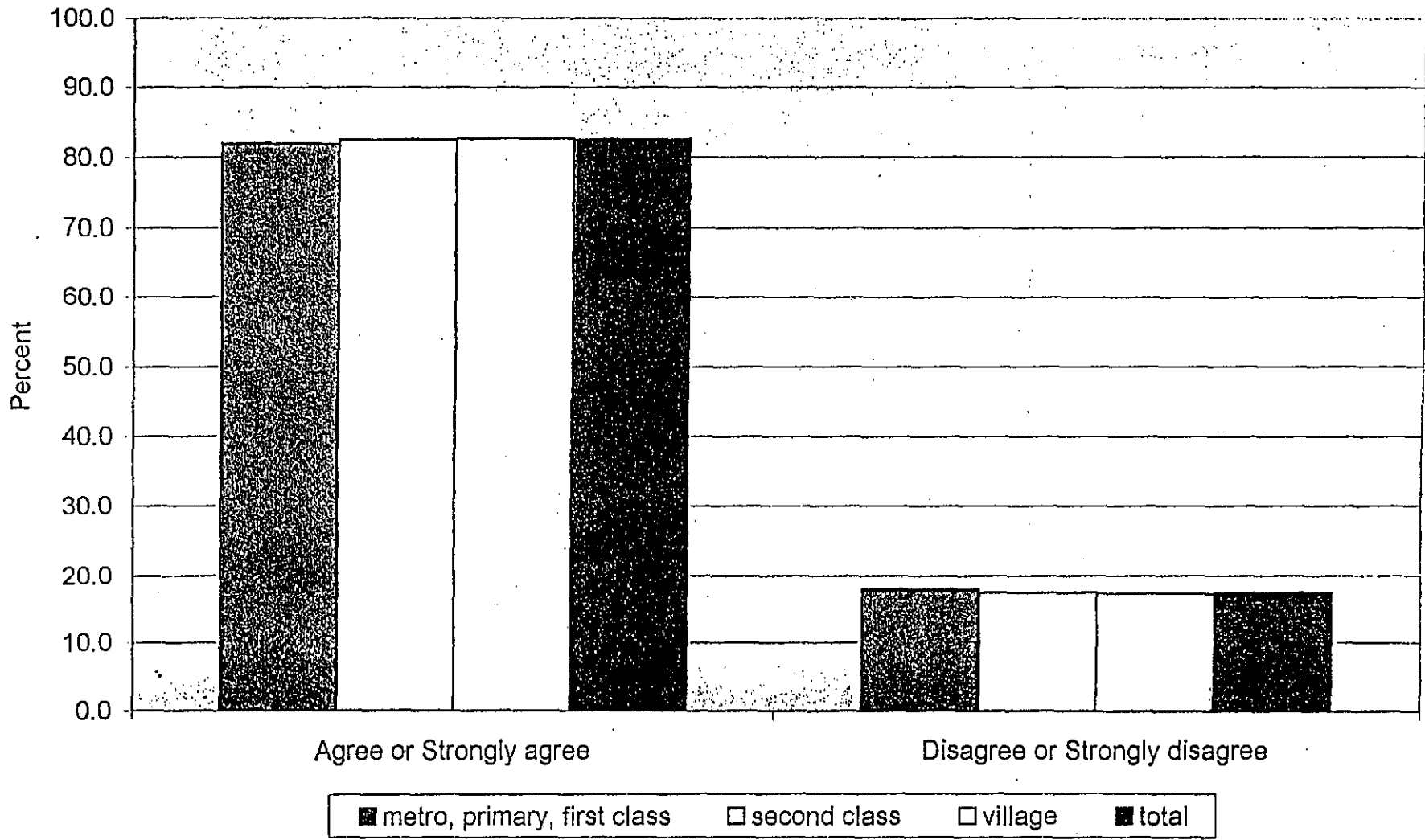
Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Entertainment and Tourism (Room or Ticket Tax) Revenue

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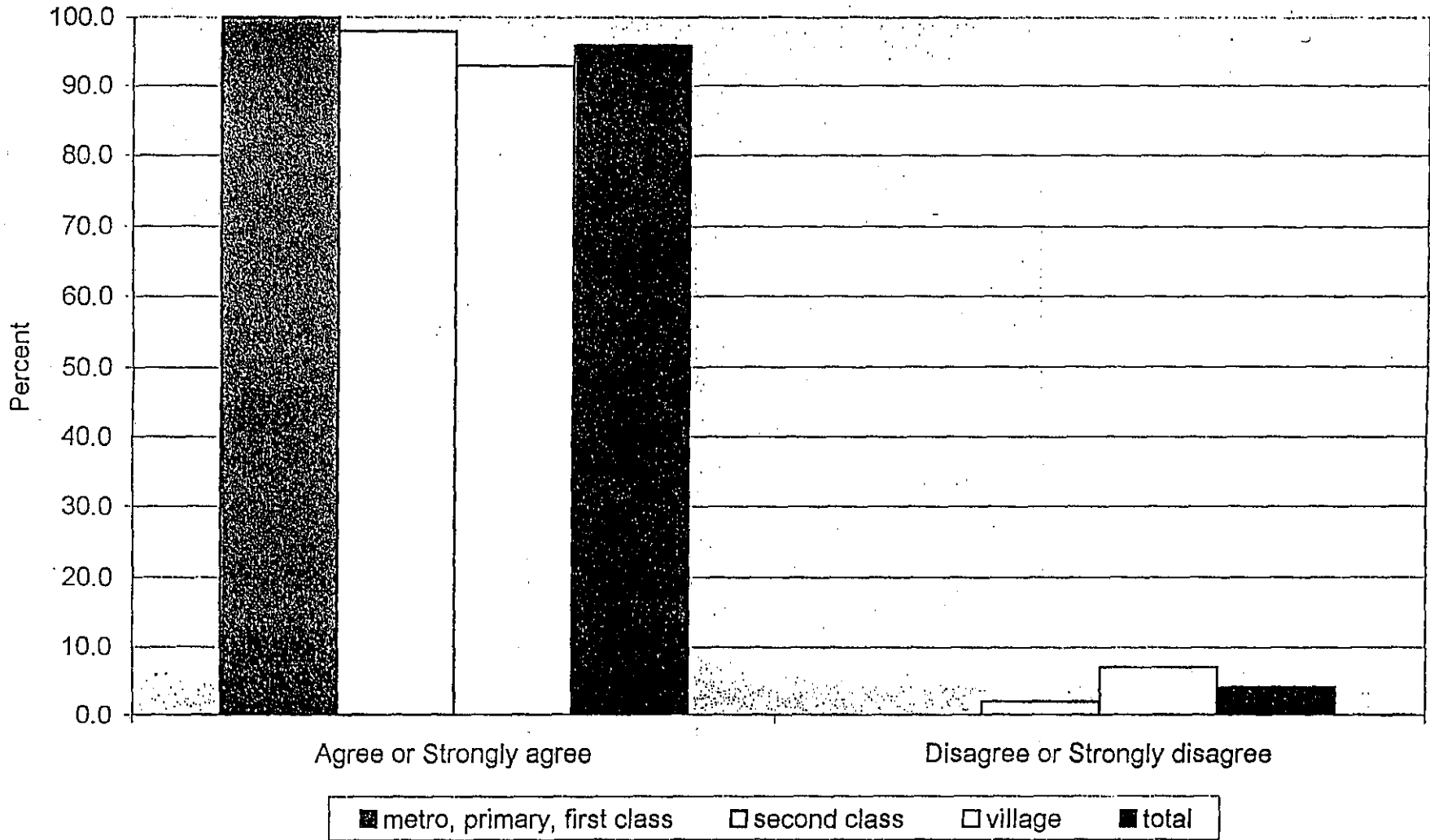
Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Gaming or Gambling Revenue

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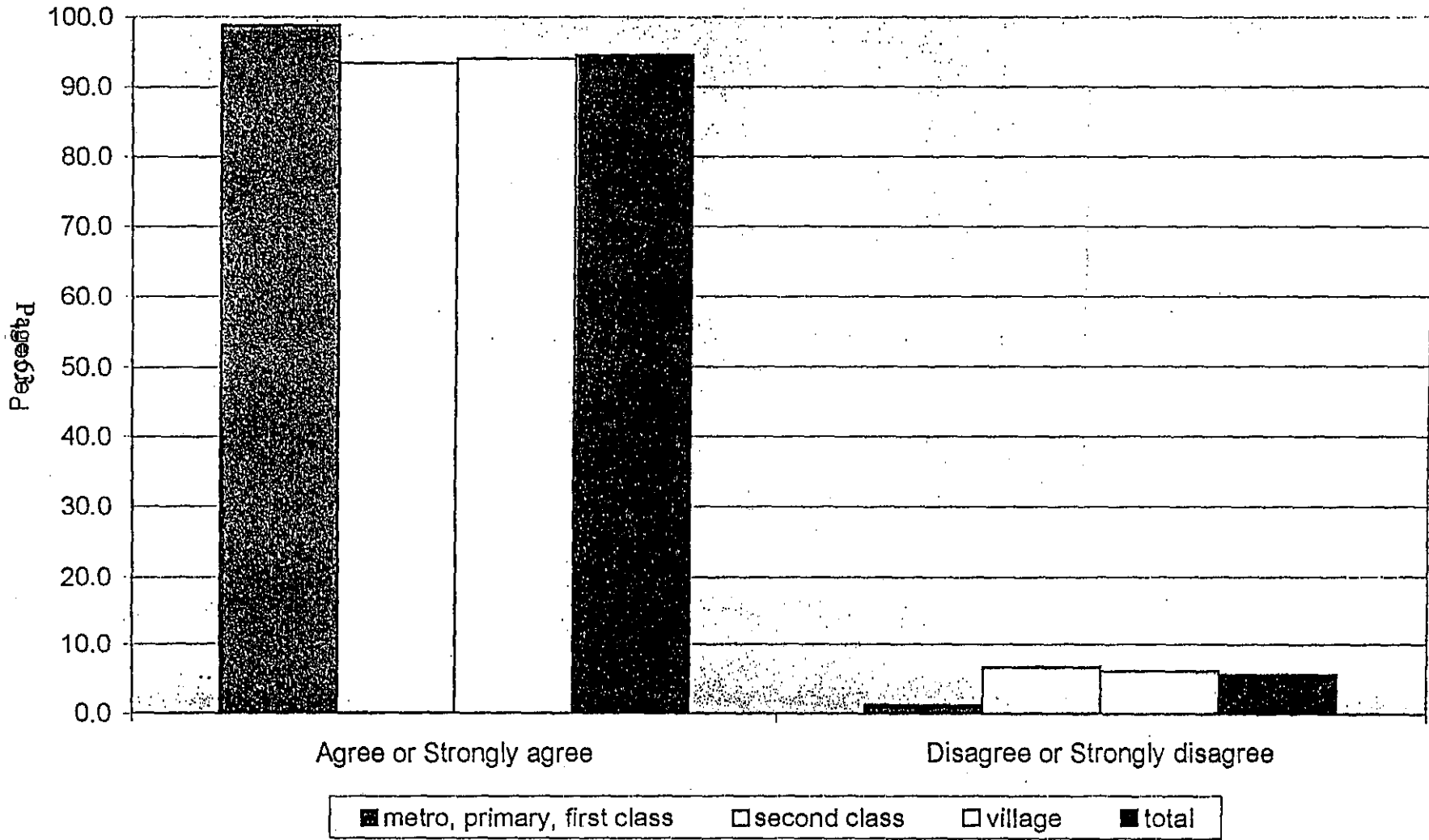


Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: User Fees or Charges Revenue

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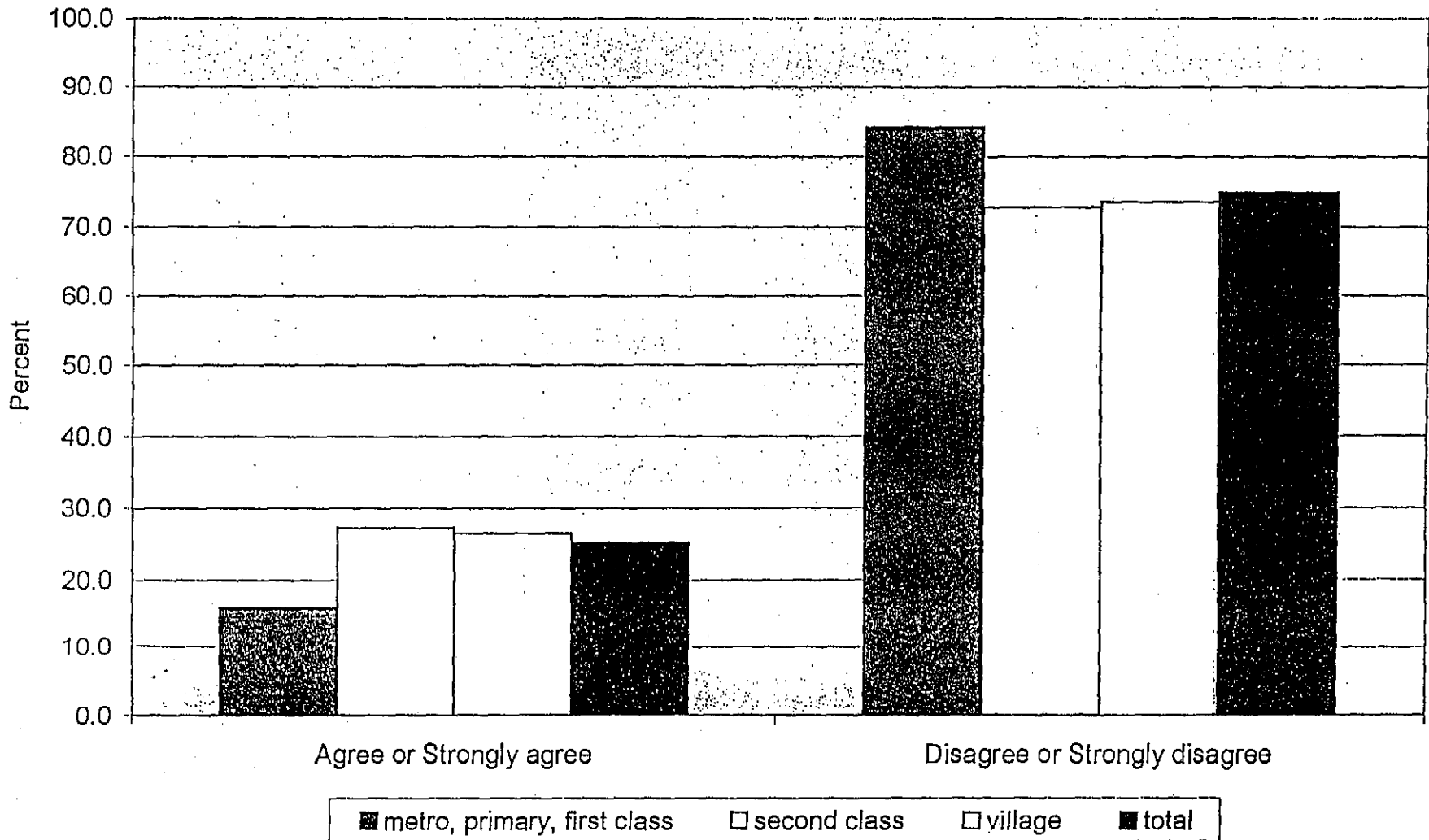


Municipalities Should be Permitted to Use: Sale of Municipal Services to Other Local Governments Revenue

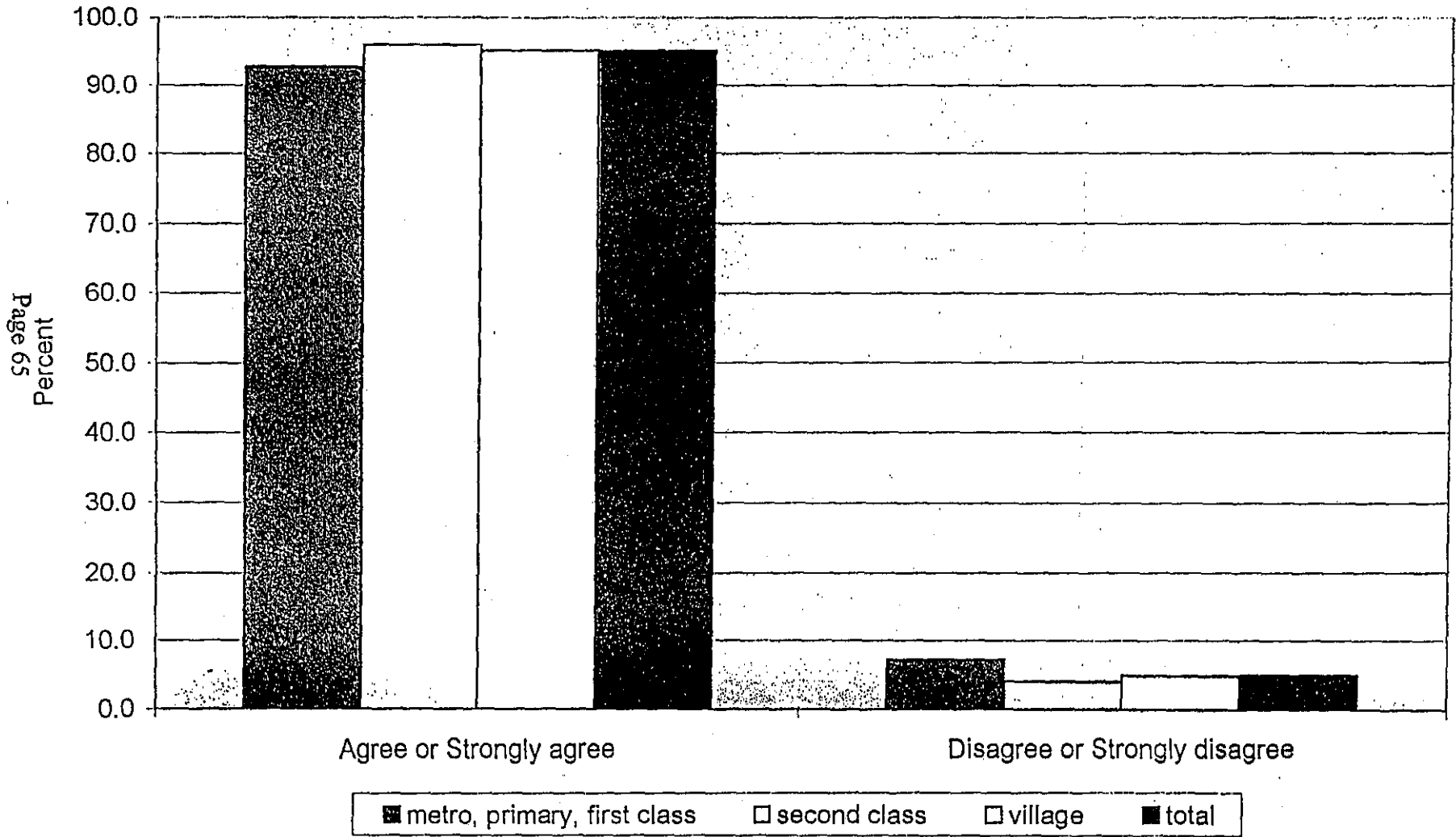


**Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by
Nebraska municipalities.**

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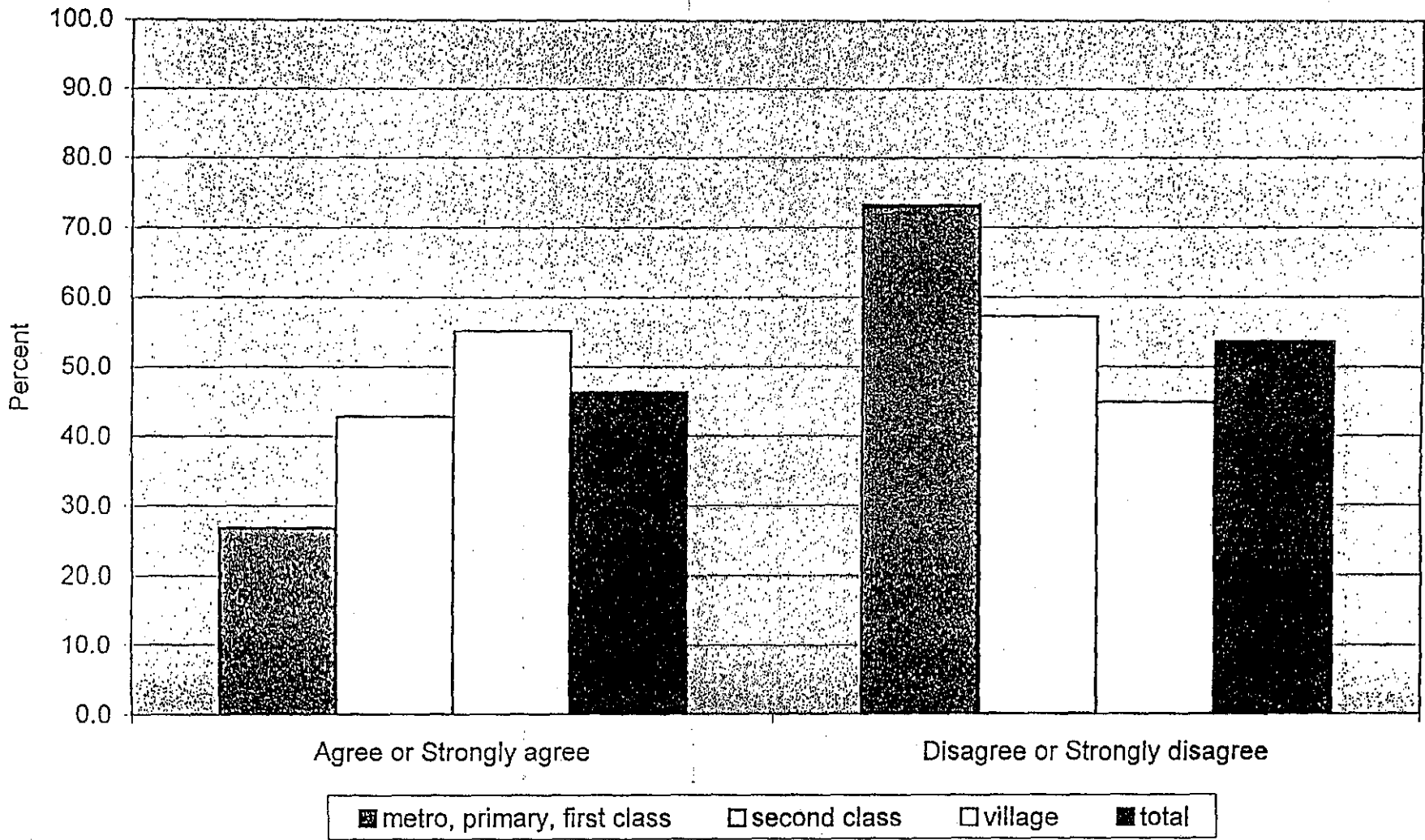


Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development.

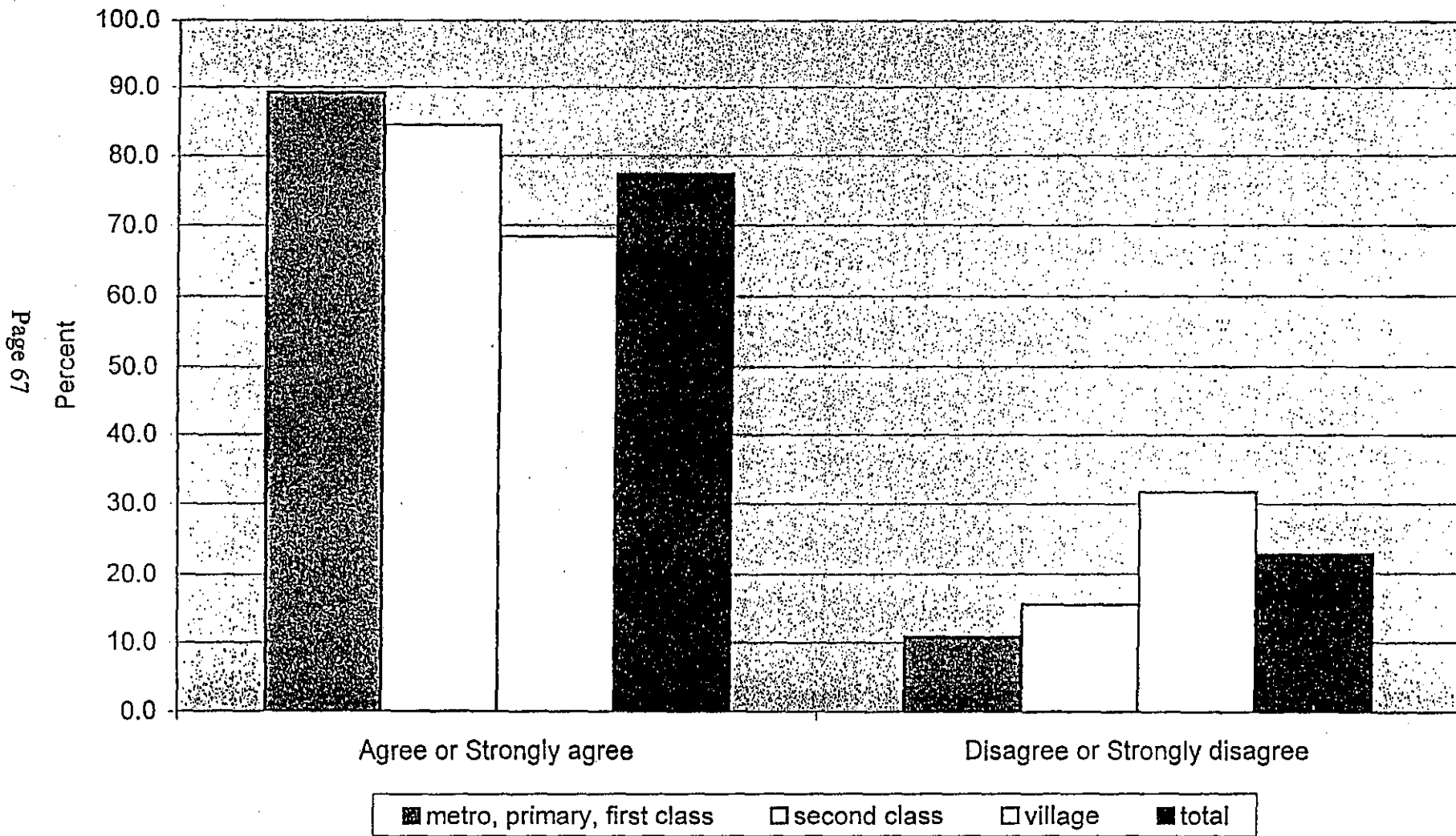


Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens.

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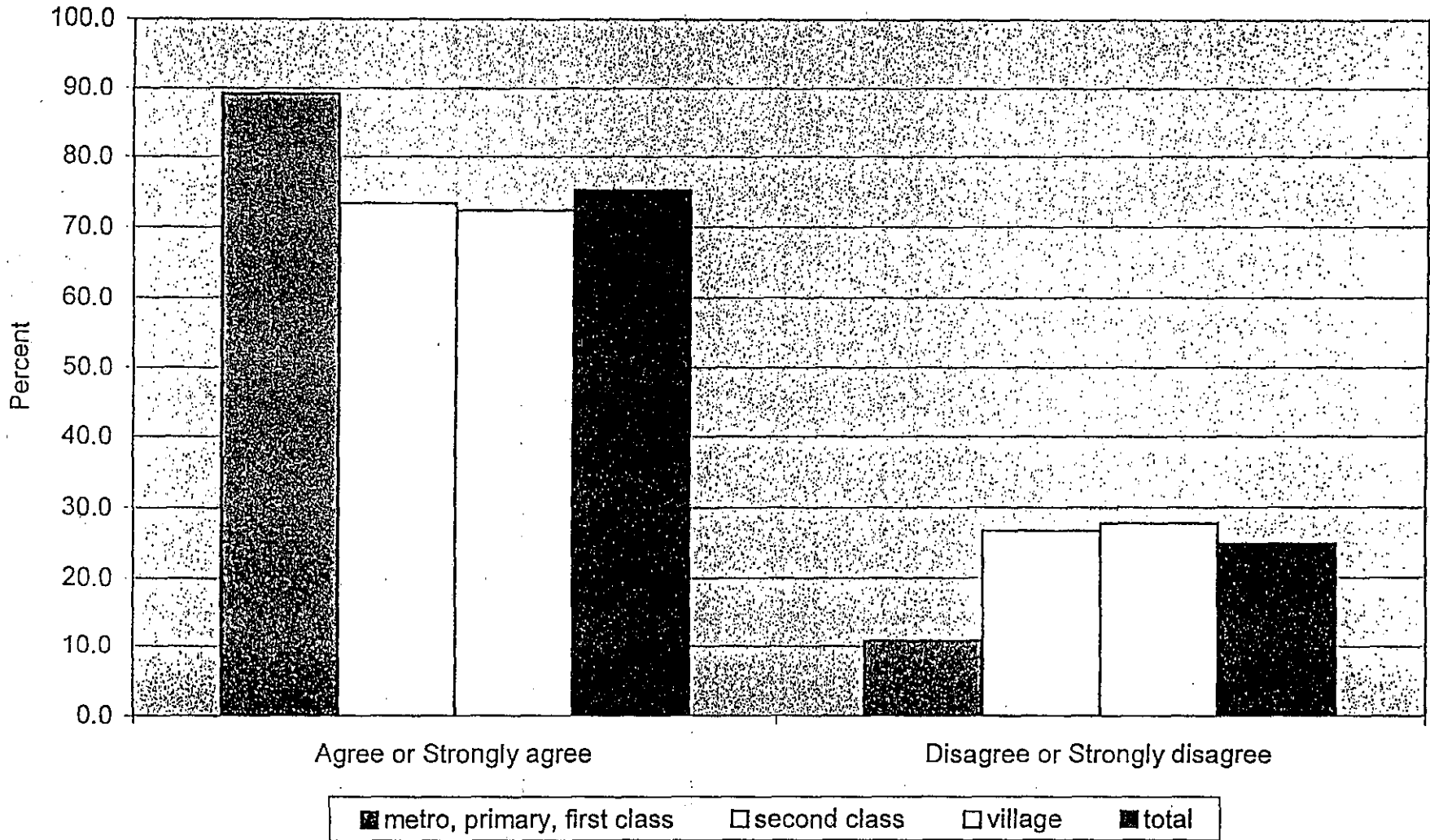


The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities.

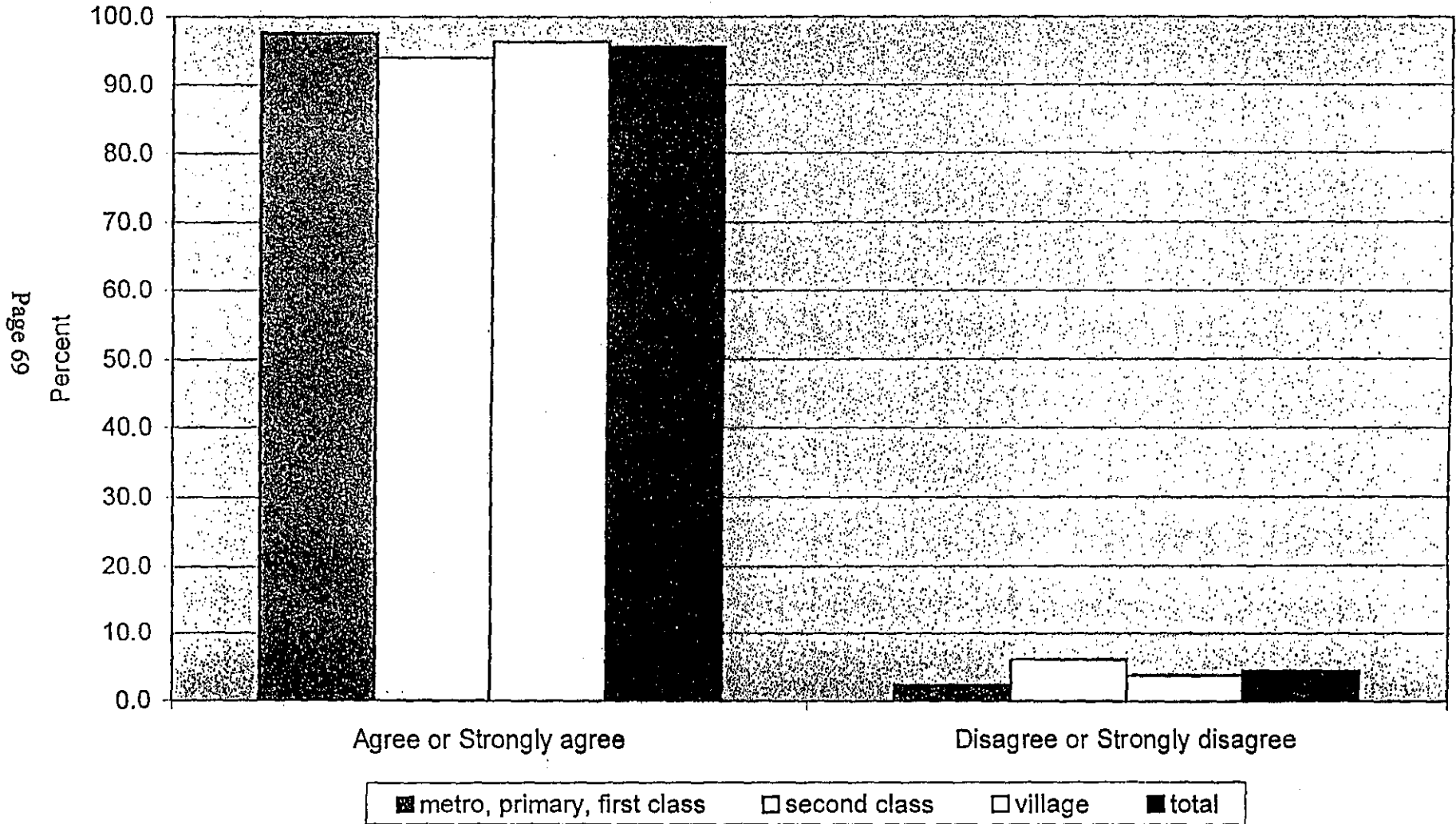


Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska.

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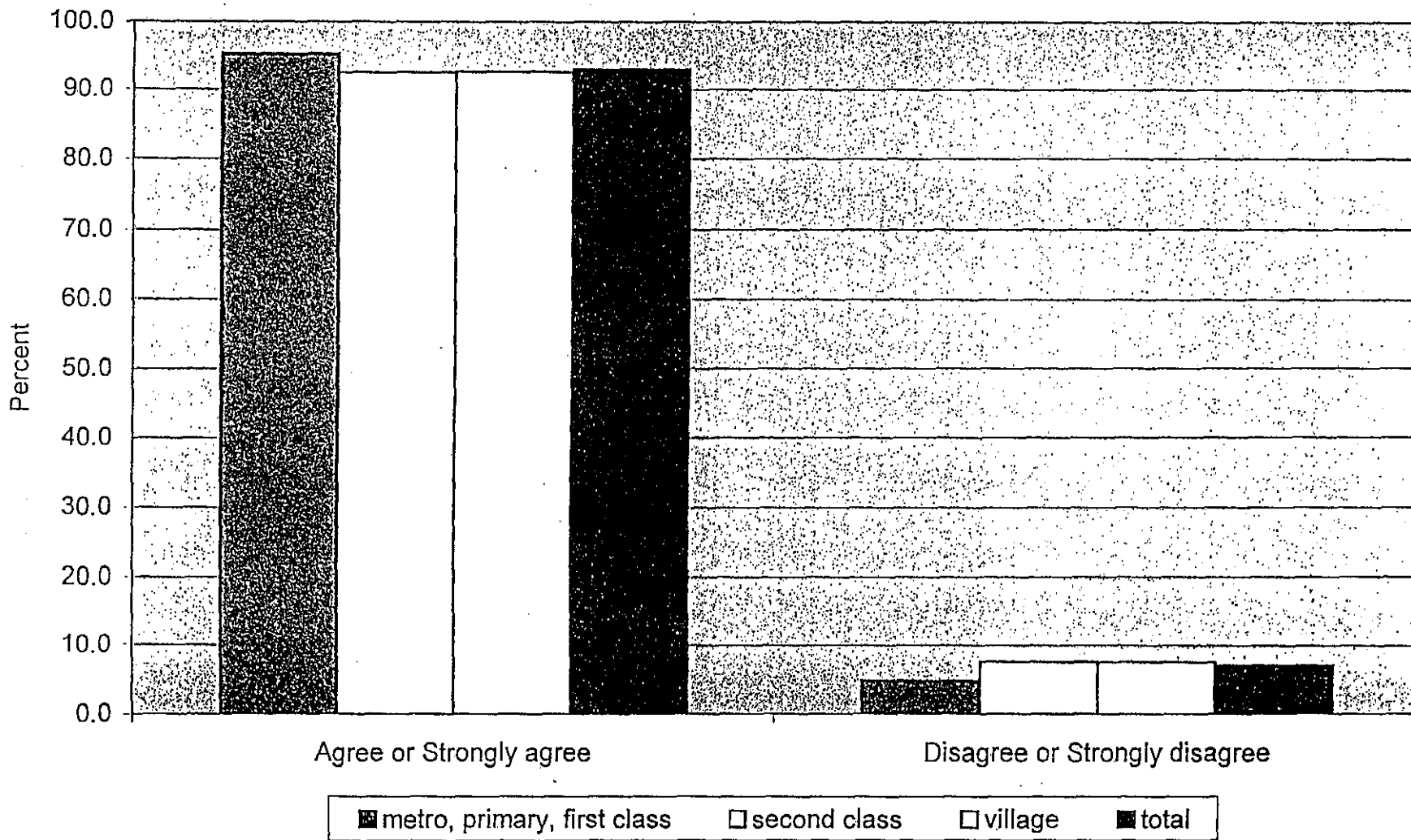


Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds.

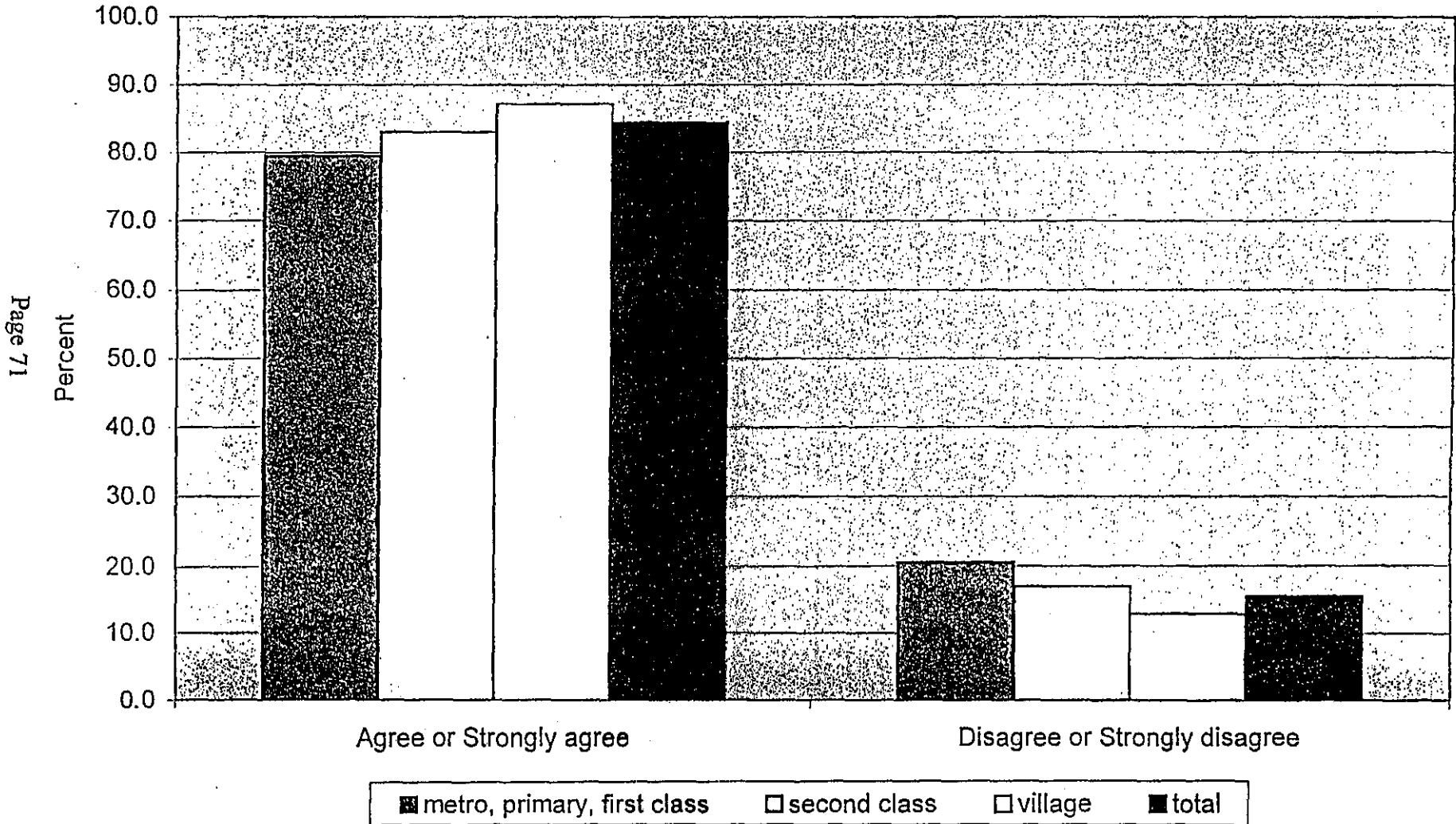


Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm.

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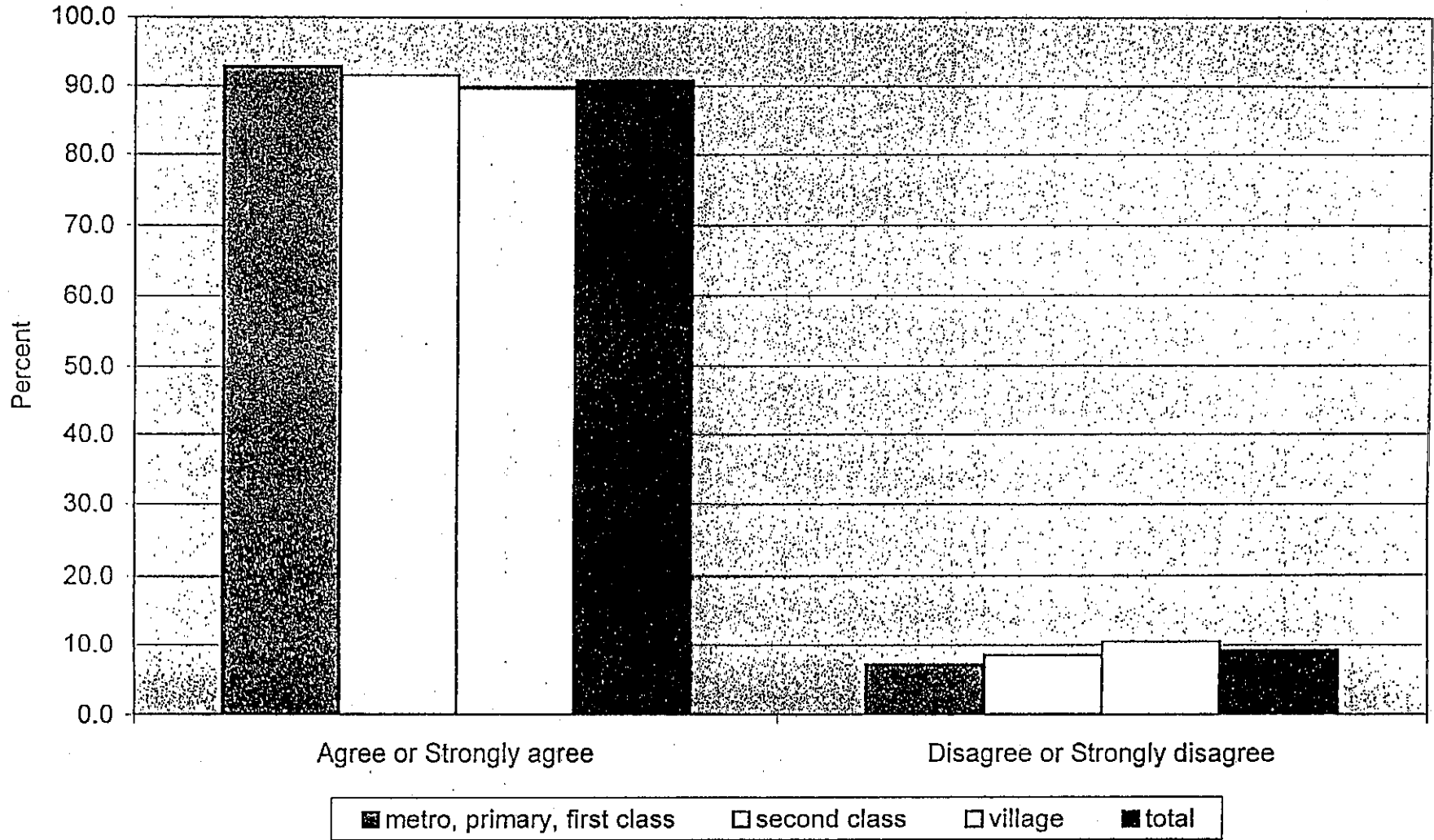


Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry.

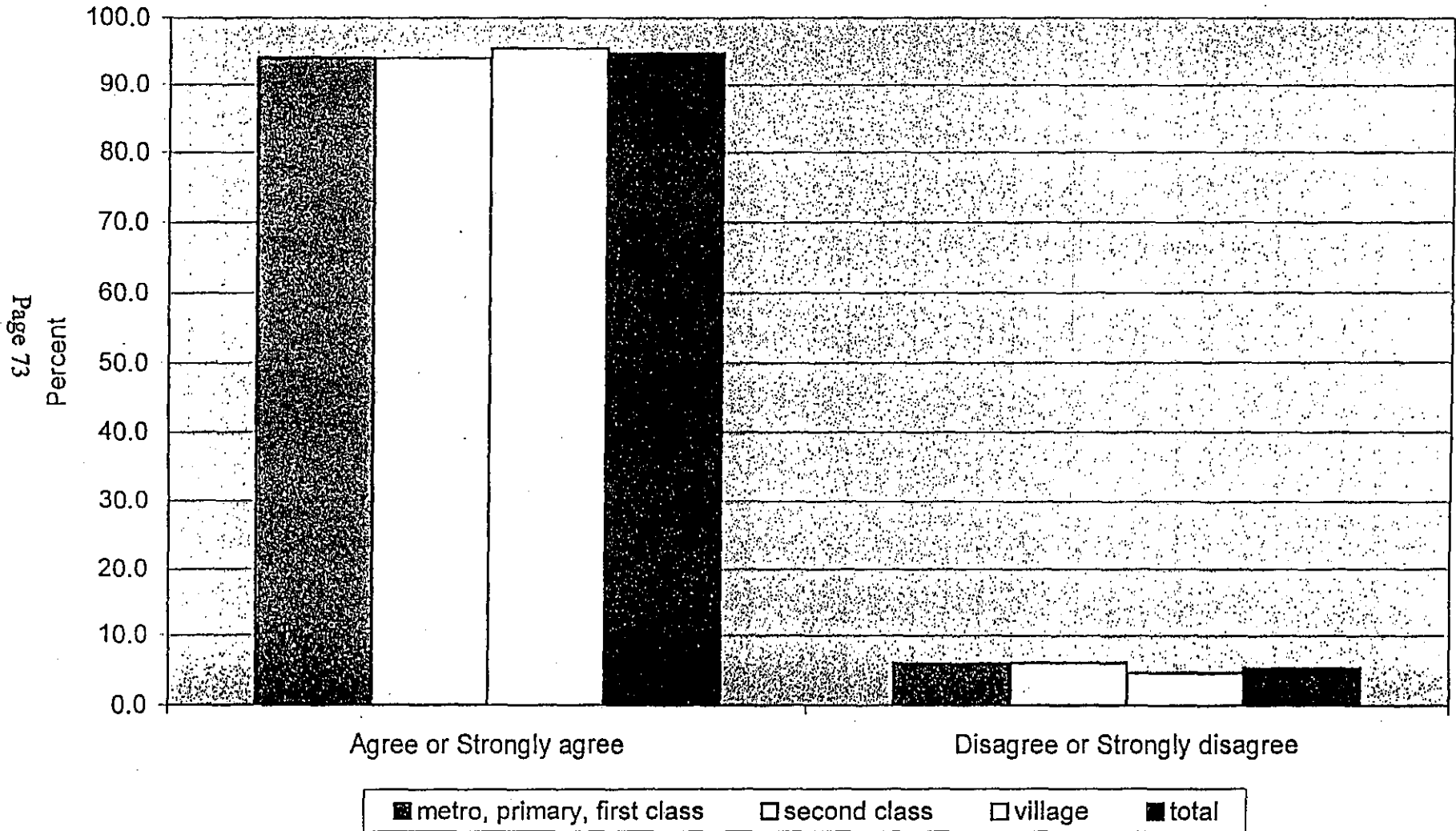


Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget.

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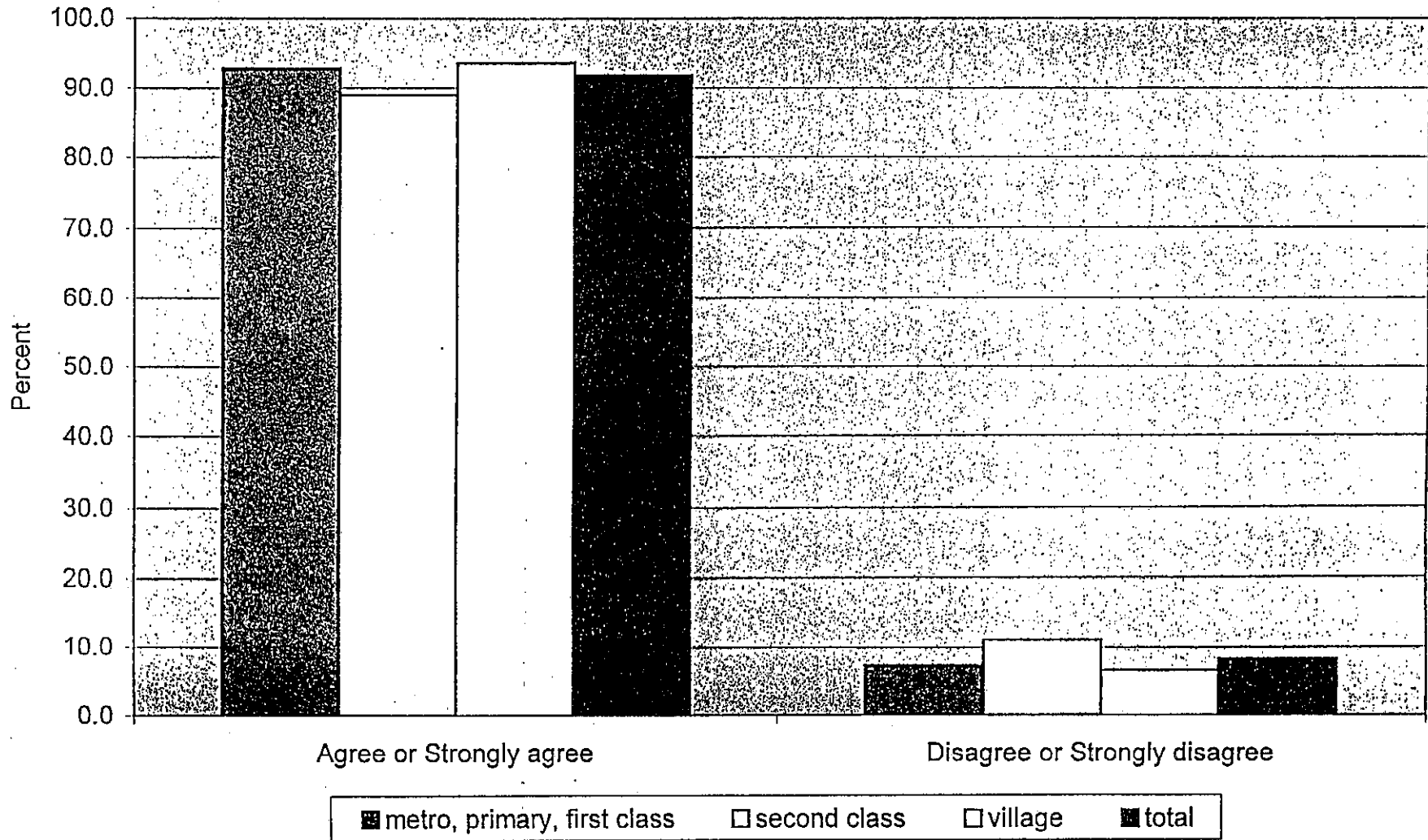


Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds.

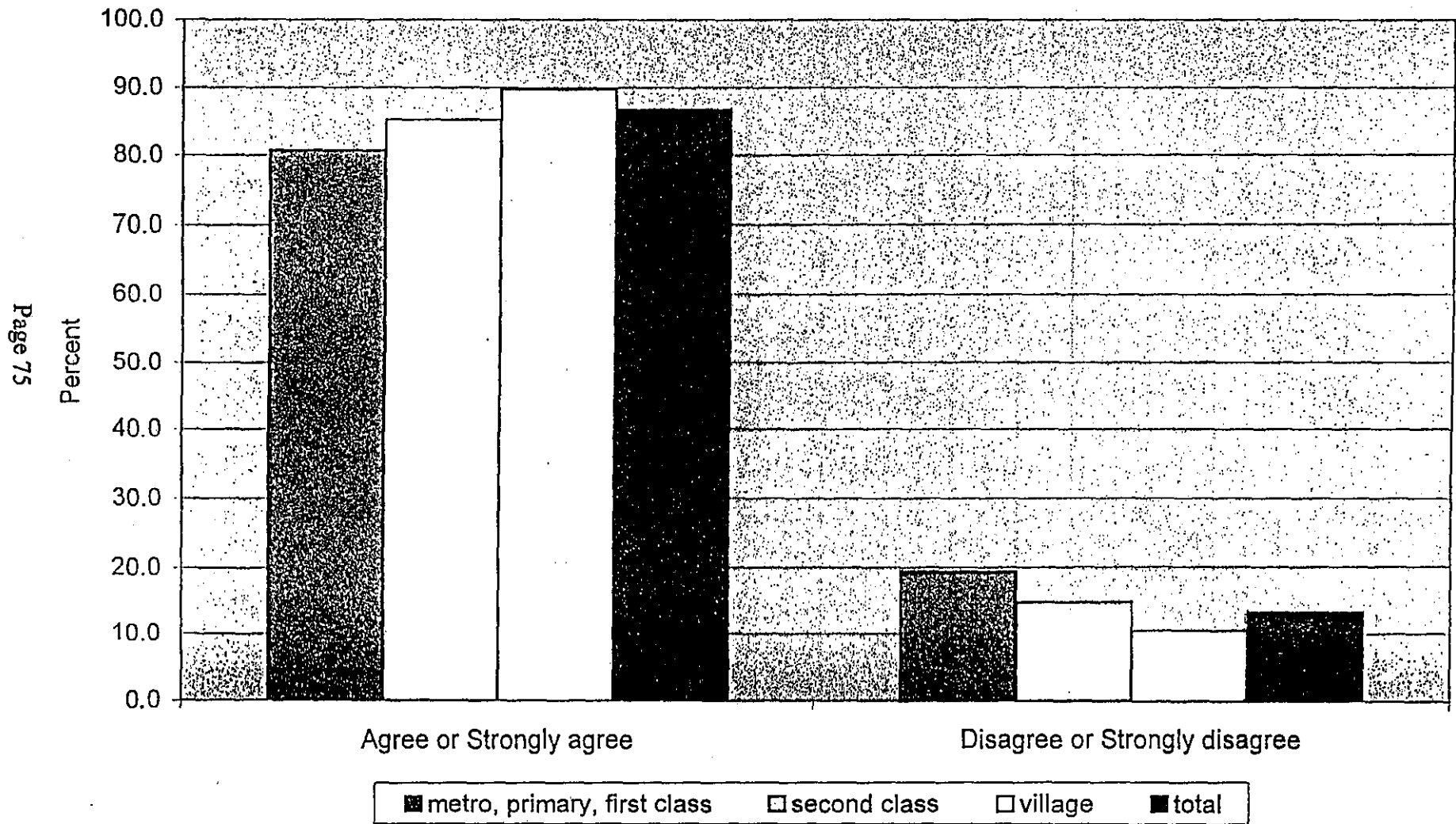


Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management.

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State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently.



Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Should be permitted to utilize property tax revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize property tax revenue	Strongly agree	Count	57	117	117	291
		% within city class	68.7%	58.5%	44.2%	53.1%
	Agree	Count	25	77	141	243
		% within city class	30.1%	38.5%	53.2%	44.3%
	Disagree	Count	1	6	5	12
		% within city class	1.2%	3.0%	1.9%	2.2%
	Strongly disagree	Count			2	2
		% within city class			.8%	.4%
	Total	Count	83	200	265	548
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Should be permitted to utilize sales tax revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize sales tax revenue	Strongly agree	Count	62	118	112	292
		% within city class	74.7%	59.3%	42.6%	53.6%
	Agree	Count	21	77	137	235
		% within city class	25.3%	38.7%	52.1%	43.1%
	Disagree	Count		4	10	14
		% within city class		2.0%	3.8%	2.6%
	Strongly disagree	Count			4	4
		% within city class			1.5%	.7%
	Total	Count	83	199	263	545
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Should be permitted to utilize income tax revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize income tax revenue	Strongly agree	Count	19	50	68	137
		% within city class	22.9%	25.6%	26.2%	25.5%
	Agree	Count	27	83	126	236
		% within city class	32.5%	42.6%	48.5%	43.9%
	Disagree	Count	31	52	52	135
		% within city class	37.3%	26.7%	20.0%	25.1%
	Strongly disagree	Count	6	10	14	30
		% within city class	7.2%	5.1%	5.4%	5.6%
Total	Count	83	195	260	538	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Should be permitted to utilize estate or inheritance tax revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize estate or inheritance tax revenue	Strongly agree	Count	15	48	66	129
		% within city class	18.1%	25.0%	25.5%	24.2%
	Agree	Count	24	72	98	194
		% within city class	28.9%	37.5%	37.8%	36.3%
	Disagree	Count	34	50	63	147
		% within city class	41.0%	26.0%	24.3%	27.5%
	Strongly disagree	Count	10	22	32	64
		% within city class	12.0%	11.5%	12.4%	12.0%
Total	Count	83	192	259	534	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Should be permitted to utilize business, commerce, and industry (licenses) revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize business, commerce, and industry (licenses) revenue	Strongly agree	Count	38	82	87	207
		% within city class	45.8%	42.1%	34.3%	38.9%
	Agree	Count	44	103	143	290
		% within city class	53.0%	52.8%	56.3%	54.5%
	Disagree	Count	1	8	22	31
		% within city class	1.2%	4.1%	8.7%	5.8%
	Strongly disagree	Count		2	2	4
		% within city class		1.0%	.8%	.8%
	Total	Count	83	195	254	532
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Should be permitted to utilize entertainment and tourism (room or ticket tax) revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize entertainment and tourism (room or ticket tax) revenue	Strongly agree	Count	45	77	77	199
		% within city class	54.2%	39.5%	30.7%	37.6%
	Agree	Count	37	101	148	286
		% within city class	44.6%	51.8%	59.0%	54.1%
	Disagree	Count	1	16	16	33
		% within city class	1.2%	8.2%	6.4%	6.2%
	Strongly disagree	Count		1	10	11
		% within city class		.5%	4.0%	2.1%
	Total	Count	83	195	251	529
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Should be permitted to utilize gaming or gambling revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize gaming or gambling revenue	Strongly agree	Count	38	76	78	192
		% within city class	45.8%	38.0%	30.8%	35.8%
	Agree	Count	30	89	131	250
		% within city class	36.1%	44.5%	51.8%	46.6%
	Disagree	Count	3	13	25	41
		% within city class	3.6%	6.5%	9.9%	7.6%
	Strongly disagree	Count	12	22	19	53
		% within city class	14.5%	11.0%	7.5%	9.9%
Total	Count	83	200	253	536	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Should be permitted to utilize user fees or charges revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize user fees or charges revenue	Strongly agree	Count	52	98	87	237
		% within city class	62.7%	49.7%	34.5%	44.5%
	Agree	Count	31	95	147	273
		% within city class	37.3%	48.2%	58.3%	51.3%
	Disagree	Count		4	14	18
		% within city class			2.0%	5.6%
	Strongly disagree	Count			4	4
		% within city class				1.6%
Total	Count	83	197	252	532	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Should be permitted to utilize sale of municipal services to other local governments revenue * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Should be permitted to utilize sale of municipal services to other local governments revenue	Strongly agree	Count	55	96	93	244
		% within city class	67.1%	49.2%	37.5%	46.5%
	Agree	Count	26	86	140	252
		% within city class	31.7%	44.1%	56.5%	48.0%
	Disagree	Count	1	12	11	24
		% within city class	1.2%	6.2%	4.4%	4.6%
	Strongly disagree	Count		1	4	5
		% within city class		.5%	1.6%	1.0%
Total	Count		82	195	248	525
	% within city class		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by Nebraska municipalities. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Caps, lids, or other limits should be placed on the amount of revenue raised by Nebraska municipalities.	Strongly agree	Count	4	6	10	20
		% within city class	4.9%	3.1%	3.8%	3.7%
	Agree	Count	9	47	59	115
		% within city class	11.0%	24.1%	22.6%	21.4%
	Disagree	Count	27	80	130	237
		% within city class	32.9%	41.0%	49.8%	44.1%
	Strongly disagree	Count	42	62	62	166
		% within city class	51.2%	31.8%	23.8%	30.9%
Total	Count		82	195	261	538
	% within city class		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Nebraska municipalities should be able to choose what actions are best for local economic development.	Strongly agree	Count	50	100	134	284
		% within city class	60.2%	50.3%	50.2%	51.7%
	Agree	Count	27	91	120	238
		% within city class	32.5%	45.7%	44.9%	43.4%
	Disagree	Count	3	5	7	15
		% within city class	3.6%	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%
Strongly disagree	Count	3	3	6	12	
	% within city class	3.6%	1.5%	2.2%	2.2%	
Total	Count	83	199	267	549	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Before using locally generated funds for development, Nebraska municipalities should be required to have a vote of the local citizens.	Strongly agree	Count	5	10	32	47
		% within city class	6.1%	5.0%	12.2%	8.6%
	Agree	Count	17	75	113	205
		% within city class	20.7%	37.7%	43.0%	37.7%
	Disagree	Count	42	91	101	234
		% within city class	51.2%	45.7%	38.4%	43.0%
Strongly disagree	Count	18	23	17	58	
	% within city class	22.0%	11.6%	6.5%	10.7%	
Total	Count	82	199	263	544	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
The state of Nebraska should require municipalities to audit annually all their financial activities.	Strongly agree	Count	37	56	38	131
		% within city class	44.6%	28.1%	14.3%	23.9%
	Agree	Count	37	112	143	292
		% within city class	44.6%	56.3%	54.0%	53.4%
	Disagree	Count	6	22	60	88
		% within city class	7.2%	11.1%	22.6%	16.1%
	Strongly disagree	Count	3	9	24	36
		% within city class	3.6%	4.5%	9.1%	6.6%
Total	Count	83	199	265	547	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Municipalities should be required to file their annual audits with the state of Nebraska.	Strongly agree	Count	35	41	29	105
		% within city class	42.2%	20.6%	10.9%	19.1%
	Agree	Count	39	105	164	308
		% within city class	47.0%	52.8%	61.4%	56.1%
	Disagree	Count	8	42	62	112
		% within city class	9.6%	21.1%	23.2%	20.4%
	Strongly disagree	Count	1	11	12	24
		% within city class	1.2%	5.5%	4.5%	4.4%
Total	Count	83	199	267	549	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Nebraska municipalities should be allowed to invest their funds.	Strongly agree	Count	49	88	108	245
		% within city class	59.0%	44.2%	40.6%	44.7%
	Agree	Count	32	99	148	279
		% within city class	38.6%	49.7%	55.6%	50.9%
	Disagree	Count	2	6	10	18
		% within city class	2.4%	3.0%	3.8%	3.3%
	Strongly disagree	Count		6		6
		% within city class		3.0%		1.1%
Total	Count	83	199	266	548	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Nebraska municipalities should be able to exercise control over the choice of investments or investment firm.	Strongly agree	Count	36	79	95	210
		% within city class	43.4%	39.9%	35.4%	38.3%
	Agree	Count	43	104	153	300
		% within city class	51.8%	52.5%	57.1%	54.6%
	Disagree	Count	4	13	19	36
		% within city class	4.8%	6.6%	7.1%	6.6%
	Strongly disagree	Count		2	1	3
		% within city class		1.0%	.4%	.5%
Total	Count	83	198	268	549	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry. * city class Crosstabulation

			city class			
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Nebraska municipalities should be able to decide the amount of debt they wish to carry.	Strongly agree	Count	26	40	66	132
		% within city class	31.3%	20.1%	25.2%	24.3%
	Agree	Count	40	125	162	327
		% within city class	48.2%	62.8%	61.8%	60.1%
	Disagree	Count	15	29	31	75
		% within city class	18.1%	14.6%	11.8%	13.8%
Strongly disagree	Count	2	5	3	10	
	% within city class	2.4%	2.5%	1.1%	1.8%	
Total	Count	83	199	262	544	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget. * city class Crosstabulation

			city class			
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Nebraska municipalities should be required to maintain a balanced budget.	Strongly agree	Count	36	57	69	162
		% within city class	43.4%	28.6%	25.7%	29.5%
	Agree	Count	41	125	171	337
		% within city class	49.4%	62.8%	63.8%	61.3%
	Disagree	Count	5	15	27	47
		% within city class	6.0%	7.5%	10.1%	8.5%
Strongly disagree	Count	1	2	1	4	
	% within city class	1.2%	1.0%	.4%	.7%	
Total	Count	83	199	268	550	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Nebraska municipalities should have discretion over the use of grant funds.	Strongly agree	Count	31	47	63	141
		% within city class	37.3%	23.7%	23.9%	25.9%
	Agree	Count	47	139	189	375
		% within city class	56.6%	70.2%	71.6%	68.8%
	Disagree	Count	5	12	12	29
		% within city class	6.0%	6.1%	4.5%	5.3%
Total	Count	83	198	264	545	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

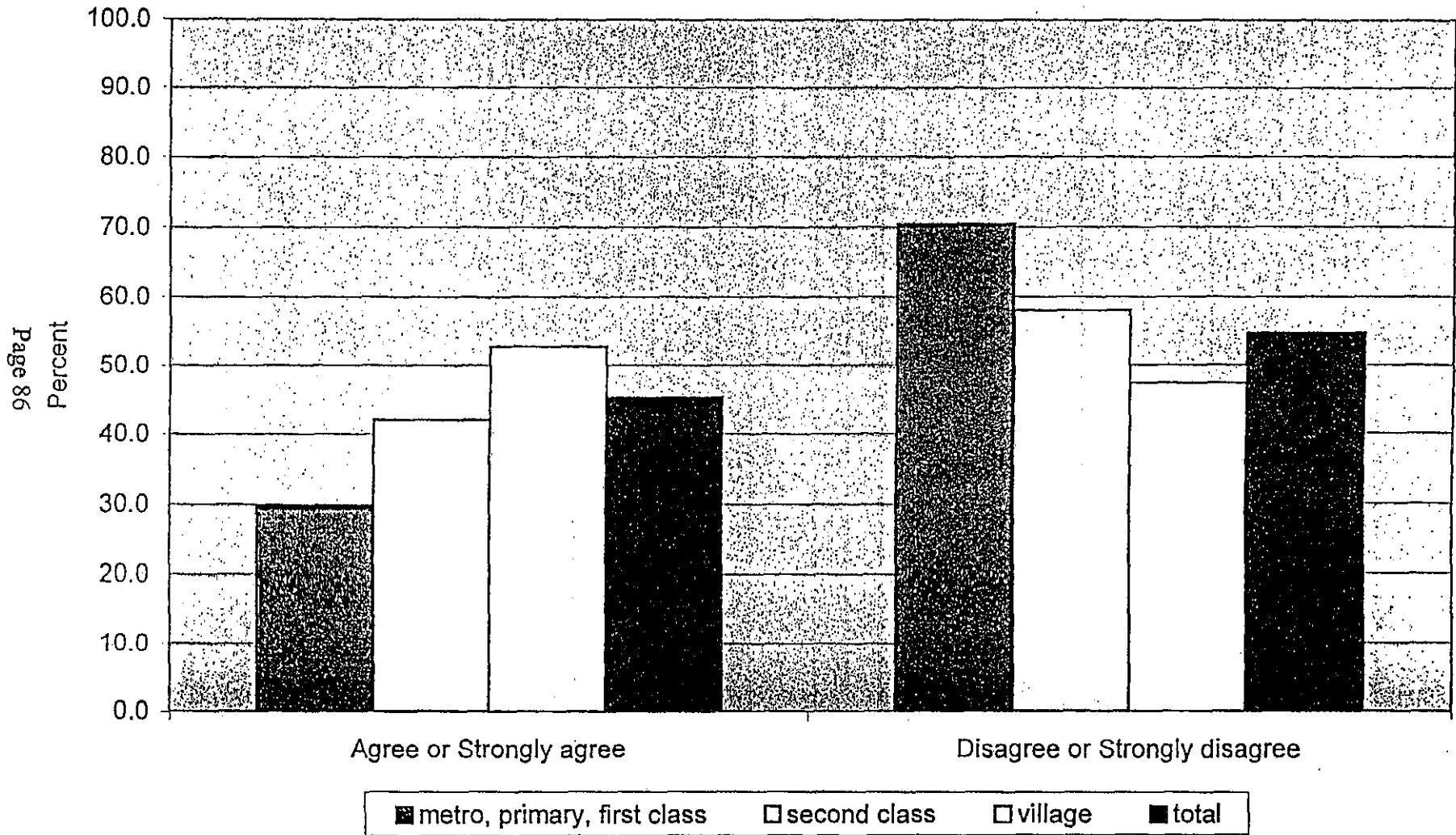
Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Nebraska municipalities should be able to establish their own systems of human resources management.	Strongly agree	Count	37	40	51	128
		% within city class	44.6%	20.2%	19.6%	23.7%
	Agree	Count	40	136	192	368
		% within city class	48.2%	68.7%	73.8%	68.0%
	Disagree	Count	6	22	17	45
		% within city class	7.2%	11.1%	6.5%	8.3%
Total	Count	83	198	260	541	
	% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently. * city class Crosstabulation

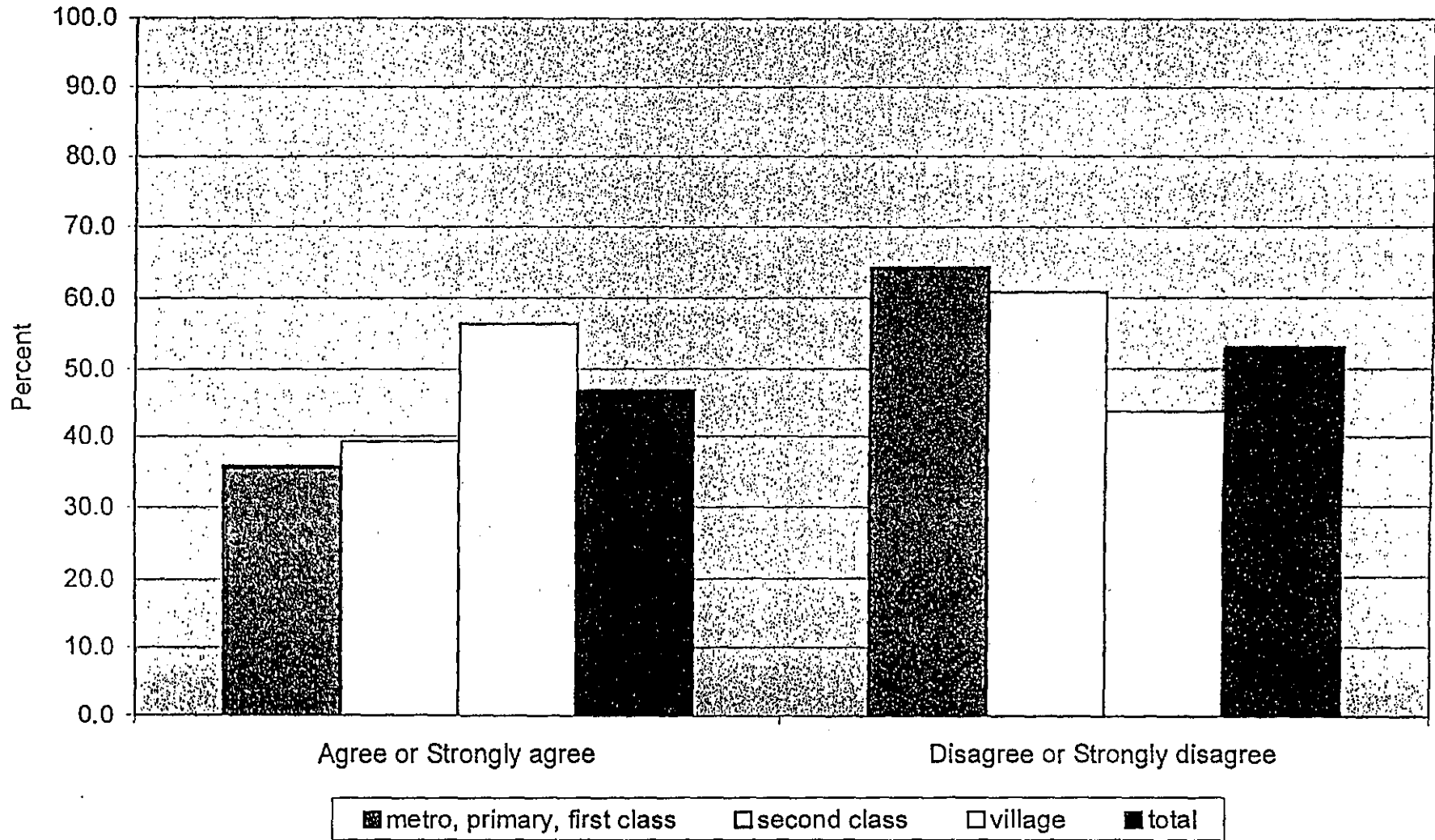
		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
State law should give Nebraska municipalities the option of being "home rule municipalities" which would allow them to operate more independently.	Strongly agree	Count	38	53	65	156
		% within city class	45.8%	27.0%	25.0%	28.9%
	Agree	Count	29	114	168	311
		% within city class	34.9%	58.2%	64.6%	57.7%
	Disagree	Count	14	26	25	65
		% within city class	16.9%	13.3%	9.6%	12.1%
	Strongly disagree	Count	2	3	2	7
		% within city class	2.4%	1.5%	.8%	1.3%
	Total	Count	83	196	260	539
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Nebraska state legislation
helps a municipality function in an efficient manner.**

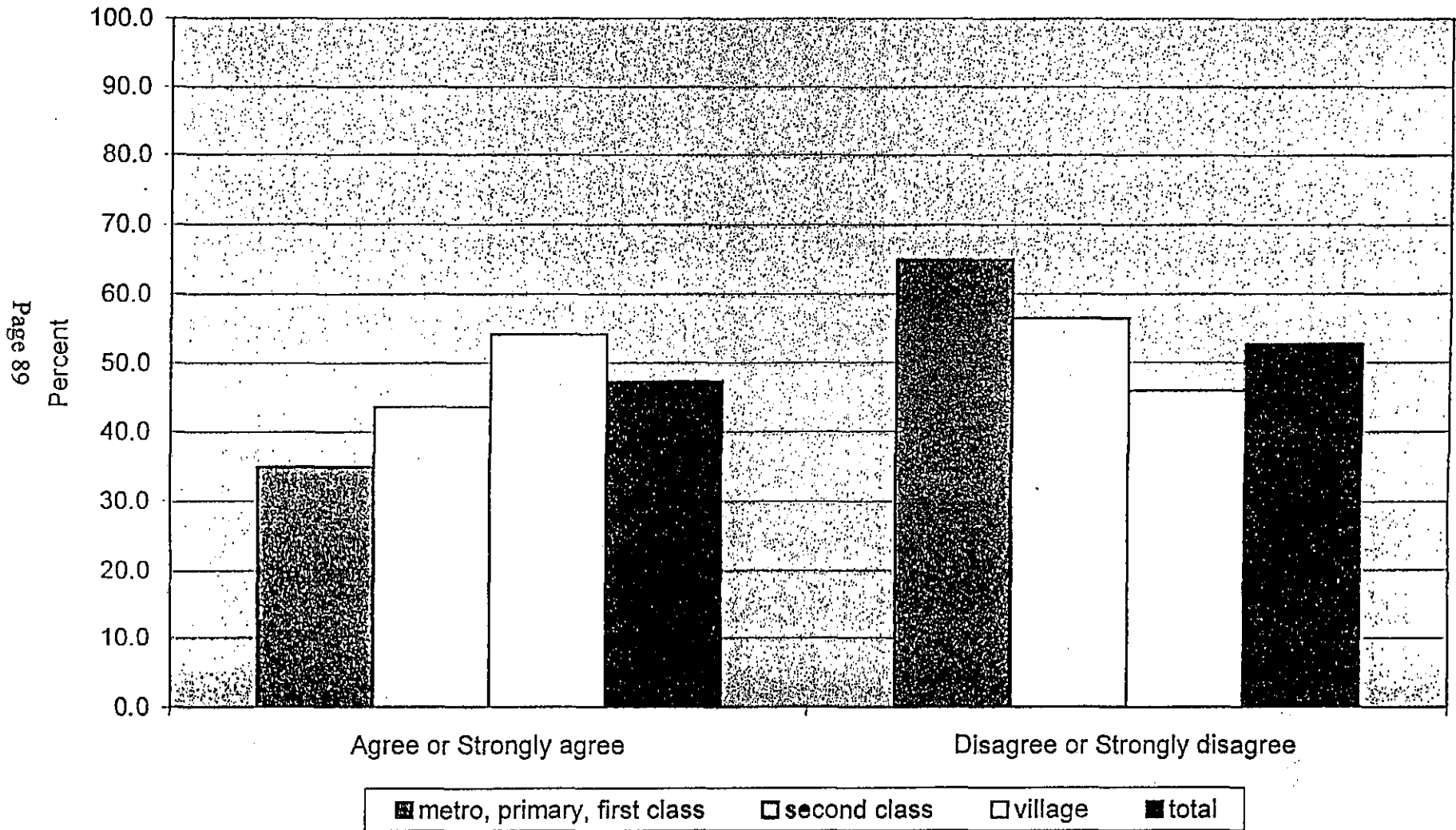


Nebraska state agencies and administrative regulations help a municipality function in an efficient manner.

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**Nebraska court decisions
help a municipality function in an efficient manner.**



Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Nebraska state legislation helps a municipality function in an efficient manner. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total	
Nebraska state legislation helps a municipality function in an efficient manner.	Strongly agree	Count	4	4	8	
		% within city class	2.0%	1.5%	1.5%	
	Agree	Count	24	80	134	238
		% within city class	29.6%	40.0%	51.1%	43.8%
	Disagree	Count	46	92	103	241
		% within city class	56.8%	46.0%	39.3%	44.4%
	Strongly disagree	Count	11	24	21	56
		% within city class	13.6%	12.0%	8.0%	10.3%
	Total	Count	81	200	262	543
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska state agencies and administrative regulations help a municipality function in an efficient manner. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total	
Nebraska state agencies and administrative regulations help a municipality function in an efficient manner.	Strongly agree	Count	4	3	7	
		% within city class	2.0%	1.1%	1.3%	
	Agree	Count	29	74	144	247
		% within city class	35.8%	37.2%	55.2%	45.7%
	Disagree	Count	40	94	91	225
		% within city class	49.4%	47.2%	34.9%	41.6%
	Strongly disagree	Count	12	27	23	62
		% within city class	14.8%	13.6%	8.8%	11.5%
	Total	Count	81	199	261	541
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Nebraska court decisions help a municipality function in an efficient manner. * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Nebraska court decisions help a municipality function in an efficient manner.	Strongly agree	Count	1	4	3	8
		% within city class	1.3%	2.1%	1.2%	1.6%
	Agree	Count	26	81	129	236
		% within city class	33.8%	41.5%	52.9%	45.7%
	Disagree	Count	32	83	91	206
		% within city class	41.6%	42.6%	37.3%	39.9%
	Strongly disagree	Count	18	27	21	66
		% within city class	23.4%	13.8%	8.6%	12.8%
	Total	Count	77	195	244	516
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

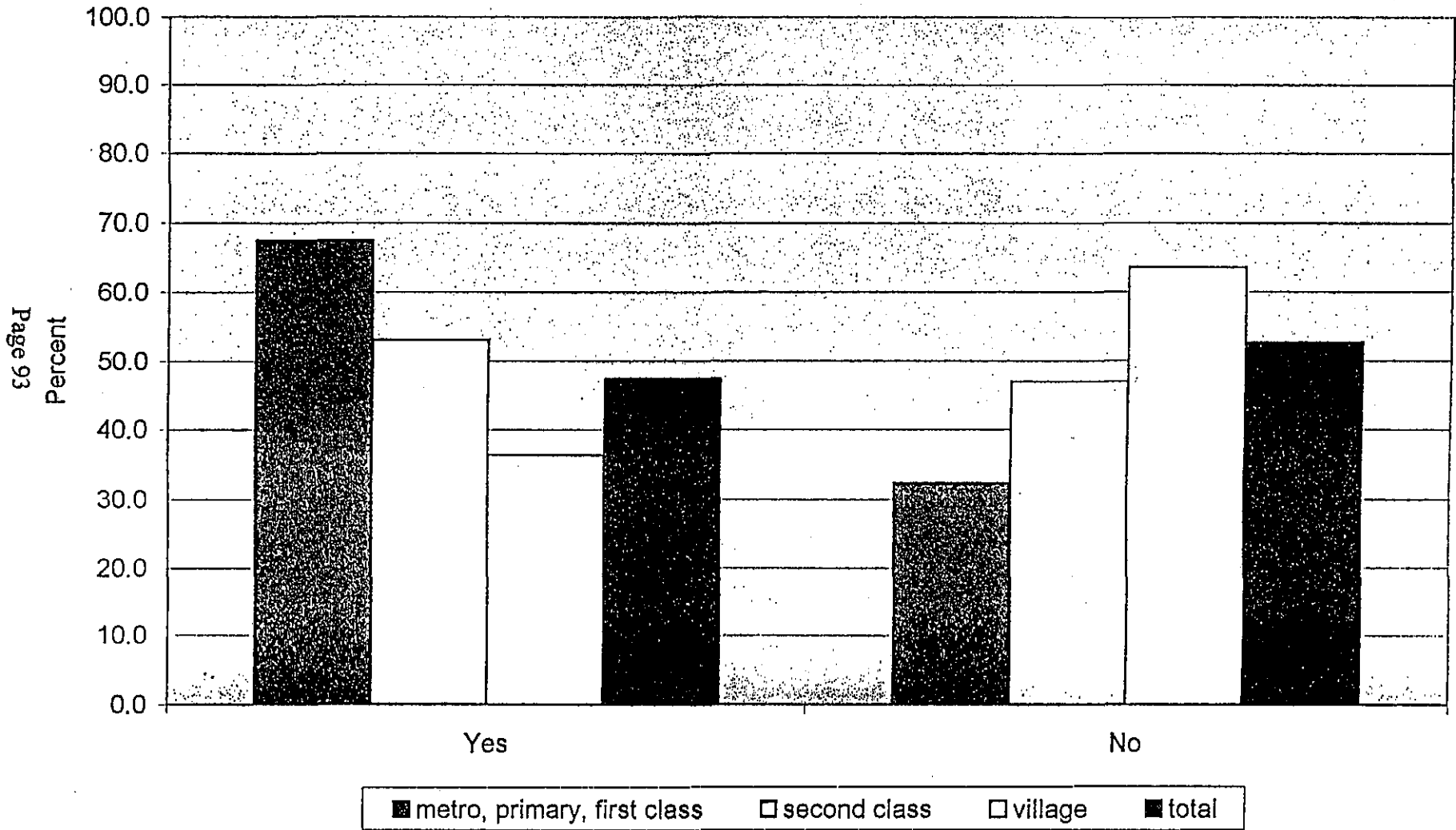
Q3d. If you disagreed with any of the above statements (about helping a municipality function in an efficient manner), what could Nebraska state government do to help a municipality function in a more efficient manner? By city class.

Comment	Metro, Primary, First Class	Second Class	Village	All Cities and Villages
	Percent*			
Give municipalities more authority	<i>33.3</i>	<i>35.6</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>27.3</i>
Home rule	<i>10.3</i>	2.3	1.1	3.2
Don't change forms, simplify budget filing process	2.6	0.0	6.4	3.2
Reduce paperwork, too much red tape	5.1	1.1	<i>10.6</i>	5.9
Too many rules, regulations	<i>7.7</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>10.9</i>
More training and technical assistance	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.3
Allow merger of local governments	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.9
East and west differences, statewide policies	0.0	3.4	2.1	2.3
One size fits all, different size towns	2.6	<i>23.0</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>14.5</i>
Uniform laws and regulations	2.6	3.4	3.2	3.2
More state and local cooperation	0.0	3.4	0.0	1.4
Uniform personnel rules	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.5
Help small communities, don't force school mergers	0.0	2.3	<i>11.7</i>	5.9
Interlocal cooperation	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.5
Disposing of real estate, condemnations of property	0.0	1.1	2.1	1.4
Zoning, easier to annex property	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.9
Expand tax base	2.6	0.0	1.1	0.9
Revenue sharing, state aid	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.9
Lids	5.1	2.3	3.2	3.2
Tax lids	<i>10.3</i>	1.1	9.6	6.4
Spending lids	7.7	2.3	4.3	4.1
Unfunded mandates	5.1	6.9	9.6	7.7
Bidding, purchasing, contracting requirements	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.9
More discretionary spending, transfer utility revenue	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.9
Court of Industrial Relations	<i>15.4</i>	2.3	0.0	3.6
Salary comparability	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.9
Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.5
Department of Environmental Quality	0.0	4.6	2.1	2.7
Landfills, trash	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.5
Water testing, waste water	0.0	4.6	9.6	5.9
Department of Health and Human Services	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.9
Department of Roads	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.5
CDBG grant application process	0.0	3.4	0.0	1.4
Liquor control	2.6	0.0	3.2	1.8
Fire Marshal	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.5
Issuing parking permits	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.5
Health insurance pools	0.0	1.1	2.1	1.4
Other	17.9	14.9	13.8	15.0
Number of municipalities responding	39	87	94	220

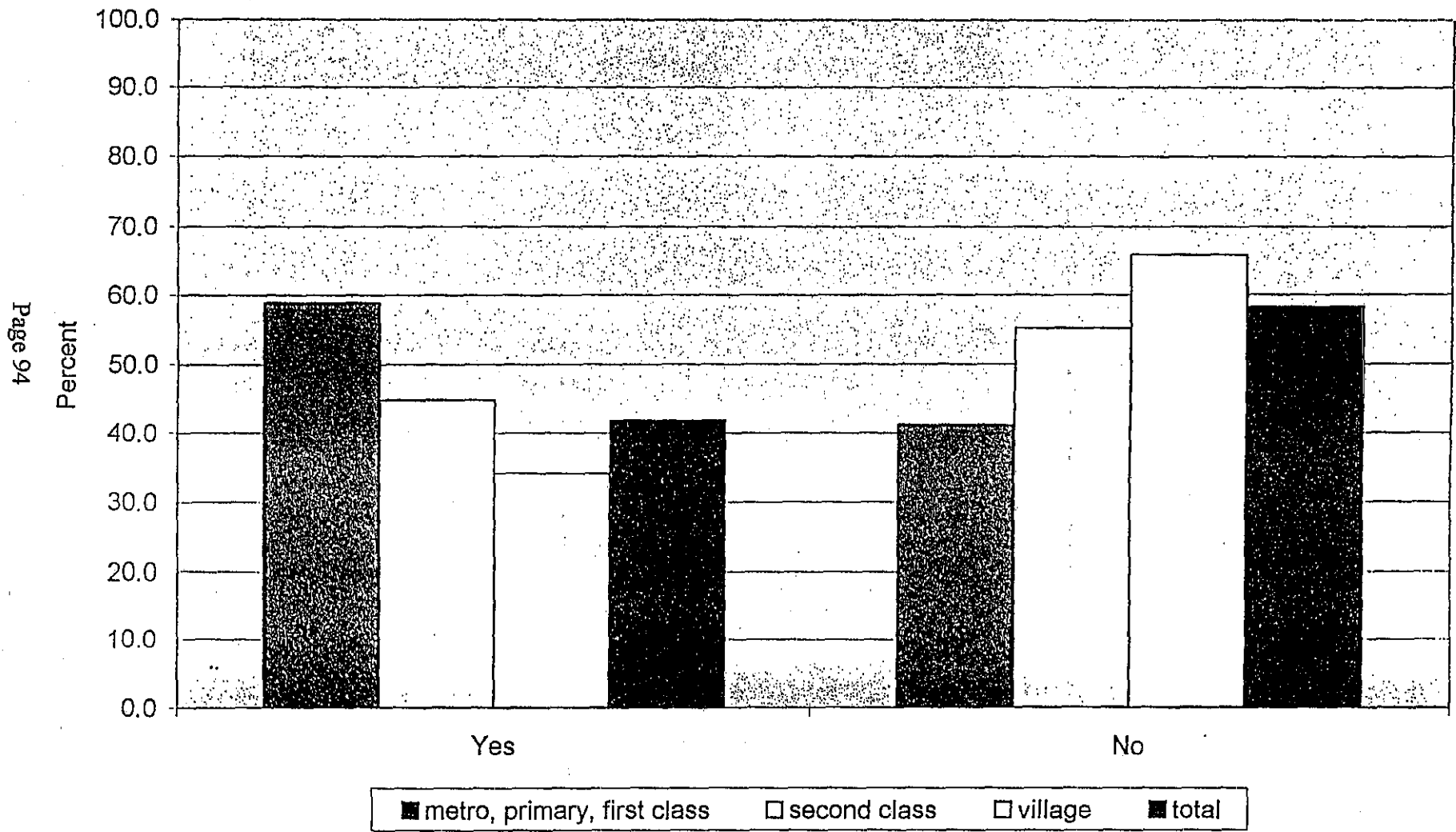
Note: comments made by 10 percent or more of the responding municipalities are shown in bold and italics.

*Percents are based on the number of municipalities responding to the question. They are not based on all municipalities in the survey. They will total to more than 100 percent because some municipalities gave more than one comment.

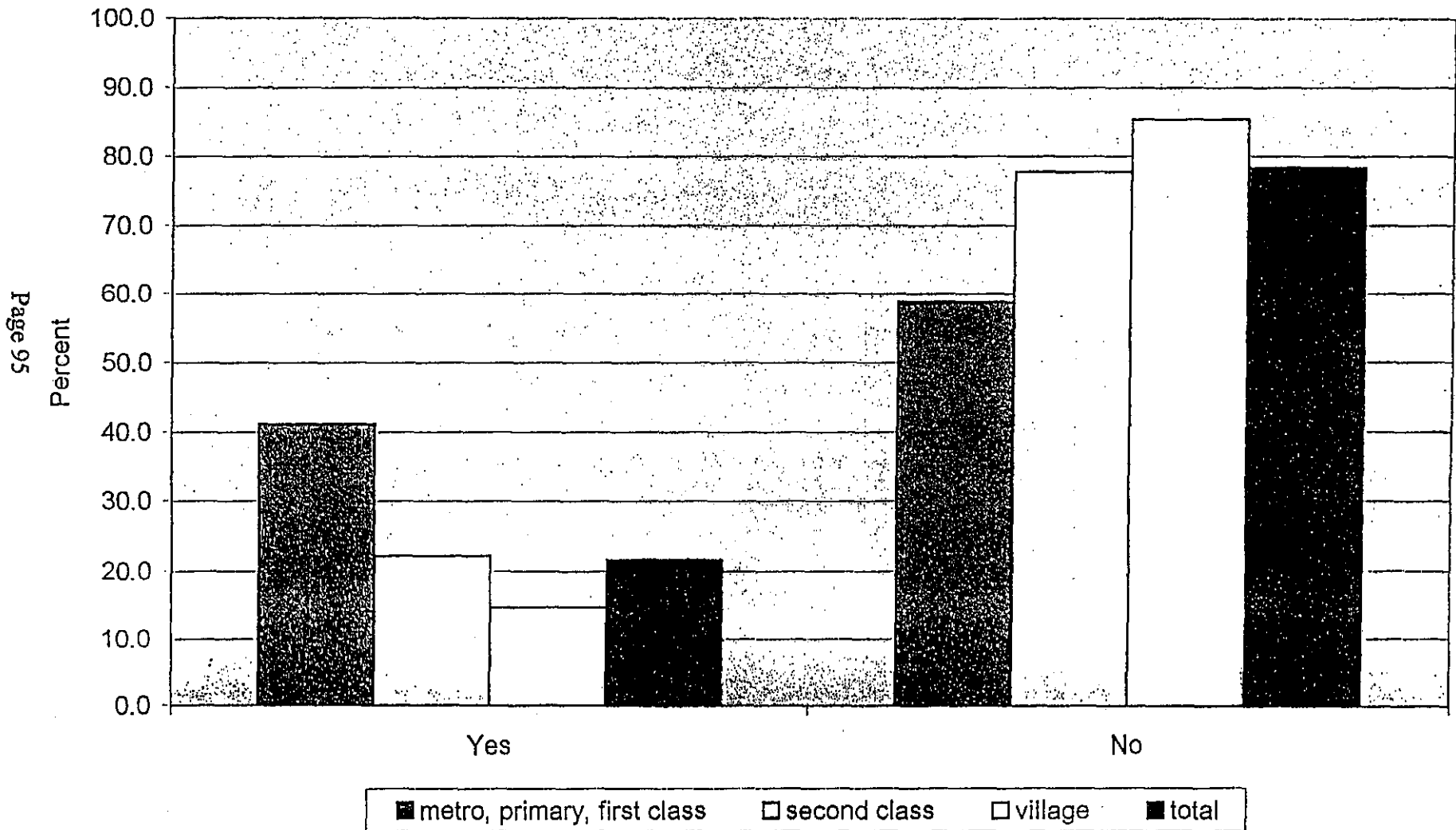
Is there specific state legislation that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?



Are there specific state agencies or administrative regulations that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?



Are there specific state court decisions that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?



Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Is there specific state legislation that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Is there specific state legislation that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?	Yes	Count	52	94	84	230
		% within city class	67.5%	53.1%	36.4%	47.4%
	No	Count	25	83	147	255
		% within city class	32.5%	46.9%	63.6%	52.6%
Total		Count	77	177	231	485
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Are there specific state agencies or administrative regulations that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Are there specific state agencies or administrative regulations that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?	Yes	Count	43	78	78	199
		% within city class	58.9%	44.8%	34.1%	41.8%
	No	Count	30	96	151	277
		% within city class	41.1%	55.2%	65.9%	58.2%
Total		Count	73	174	229	476
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Are there specific state court decisions that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				
			metro, primary, first class	second class	village	Total
Are there specific state court decisions that you find to be a particular barrier to efficiency?	Yes	Count	28	38	31	97
		% within city class	41.2%	22.2%	14.7%	21.6%
	No	Count	40	133	180	353
		% within city class	58.8%	77.8%	85.3%	78.4%
Total		Count	68	171	211	450
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Q4d. If yes to any of the above (particular barriers to efficiency), please explain briefly. By city class.

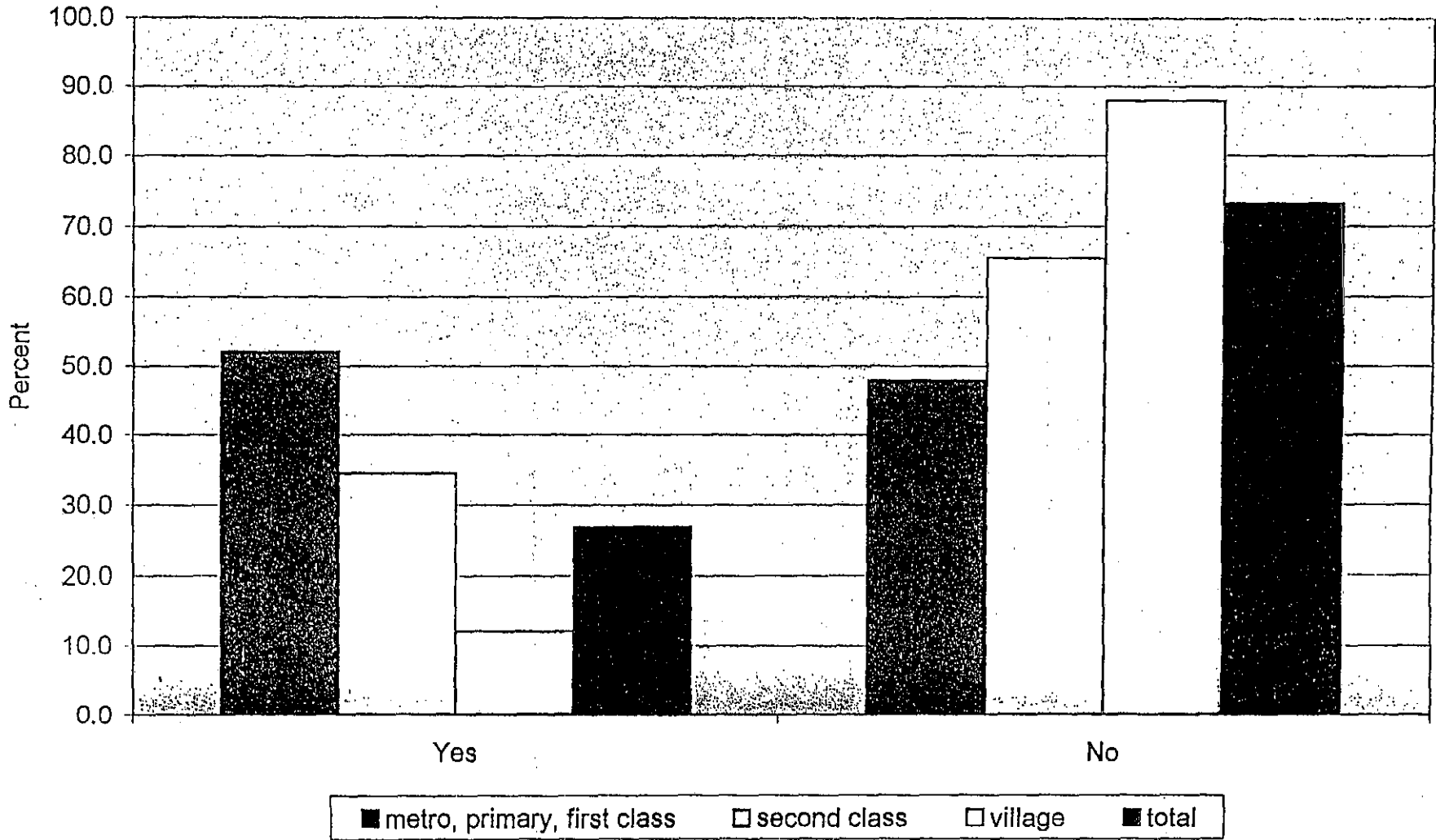
Comment	Métro, Primary, First Class	Second Class	Village	All Cities and Villages
	Percent*			
Give municipalities more authority	0.0	3.4	2.9	2.5
Home rule	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.5
Don't change forms, simplify budget filing process	4.5	6.9	<i>13.2</i>	8.5
Reduce paperwork, too much red tape	0.0	2.3	2.9	2.0
Too many rules, regulations	0.0	4.6	8.8	5.0
More training and technical assistance	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.5
One size fits all, different size towns	2.3	5.7	2.9	4.0
Uniform laws and regulations	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.5
More state and local cooperation	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.5
Uniform personnel rules	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.5
Help small communities, don't force school mergers	0.0	3.4	7.4	4.0
Interlocal cooperation	0.0	1.1	1.5	1.0
Disposing of real estate, condemnations of property	2.3	5.7	1.5	3.5
Zoning, easier to annex property	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.5
Expand tax base	2.3	1.1	1.5	1.5
Revenue sharing, state aid	0.0	2.3	2.9	2.0
Lids	<i>20.5</i>	<i>18.4</i>	8.8	<i>15.6</i>
Tax lids	4.5	<i>11.5</i>	8.8	9.0
Spending lids	9.1	6.9	<i>10.3</i>	8.5
Unfunded mandates	2.3	3.4	7.4	4.5
Bidding, purchasing, contracting requirements	0.0	4.6	0.0	2.0
More discretionary spending, transfer utility revenue	2.3	5.7	1.5	3.5
Tax Increment Financing	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.5
Court of Industrial Relations	<i>31.8</i>	8.0	1.5	<i>11.1</i>
Salary comparability	<i>11.4</i>	1.1	0.0	3.0
Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission	4.5	0.0	0.0	1.0
Department of Environmental Quality	<i>20.5</i>	9.2	<i>13.2</i>	<i>13.1</i>
Landfills, trash	9.1	6.9	1.5	5.5
Water testing, waste water	6.8	<i>13.8</i>	<i>23.5</i>	<i>15.6</i>
Department of Health and Human Services	6.8	2.3	<i>10.3</i>	6.0
Department of Roads	6.8	2.3	1.5	3.0
Department of Economic Development	2.3	0.0	1.5	1.0
CDBG grant application process	6.8	1.1	1.5	2.5
Liquor control	<i>13.6</i>	4.6	5.9	7.0
Fire Marshal	2.3	2.3	1.5	2.0
Issuing parking permits	0.0	1.1	1.5	1.0
Law enforcement training and other issues	0.0	0.0	2.9	1.0
Public Service Commission	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.5
Health insurance pools	2.3	8.0	0.0	4.0
Telecommunications, Internet	6.8	1.1	0.0	2.0
County-wide law enforcement	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.0
Other	22.7	17.2	13.2	17.1
Number of municipalities responding	44	87	68	199

Note: comments made by 10 percent or more of the responding municipalities are shown in bold and italics.

*Percents are based on the number of municipalities responding to the question. They are not based on all municipalities in the survey. They will total to more than 100 percent because some municipalities gave more than one comment.

Are there activities that your municipality would like to engage in but is not authorized to do so by state law?

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Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

Are there activities that your municipality would like to engage in but are not authorized to do so by state law? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
Are there activities that your municipality would like to engage in but are not authorized to do so by state law?	Yes	Count	37	60	26	123
		% within city class	52.1%	34.5%	12.1%	26.8%
	No	Count	34	114	188	336
		% within city class	47.9%	65.5%	87.9%	73.2%
Total		Count	71	174	214	459
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

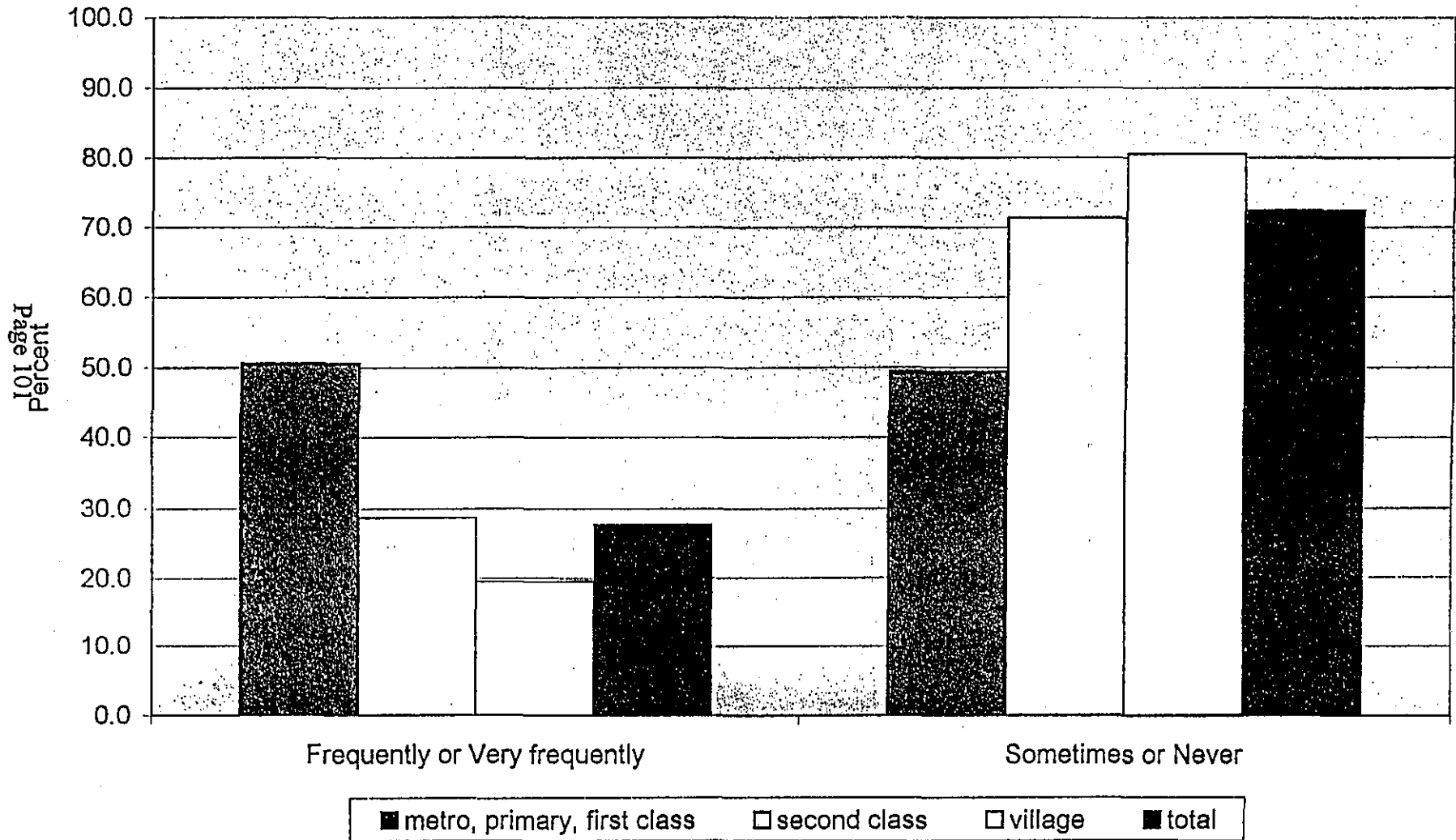
Q5a. Are here activities that your municipality would like to engage in but are not authorized to do so by state law? If yes, what are these activities? By city class.

Comment	Metro, Primary, First Class	Second Class	Village	All Cities and Villages
	Percent*			
Give municipalities more authority	2.9	5.7	9.1	5.5
Home rule	2.9	1.9	0.0	1.8
One size fits all, different size towns	2.9	0.0	4.5	1.8
More state and local cooperation	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.9
Uniform personnel rules	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.9
Help small communities, don't force school mergers	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.9
Disposing of real estate, condemnations of property	0.0	1.9	4.5	1.8
Expand tax base	0.0	1.9	4.5	1.8
Revenue sharing, state aid	0.0	3.8	0.0	1.8
Lids	0.0	1.9	4.5	1.8
Bidding, purchasing, contracting requirements	0.0	3.8	0.0	1.8
More discretionary spending, transfer utility revenue	0.0	9.4	0.0	4.6
Tax Increment Financing	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Expand fees for service	2.9	3.8	4.5	3.7
Court of Industrial Relations	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Salary comparability	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Department of Environmental Quality	0.0	0.0	9.1	1.8
Landfills, trash	0.0	5.7	9.1	4.6
Water testing, waste water	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.9
Department of Economic Development	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.9
CDBG grant application process	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Liquor control	5.9	0.0	0.0	1.8
Law enforcement training and other issues	0.0	1.9	4.5	1.8
Public Service Commission	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Health insurance pools	0.0	20.8	4.5	11.0
Gambling, gaming	5.9	5.7	18.2	8.3
Cable TV	35.3	30.2	4.5	26.6
Telecommunications, Internet	26.5	22.6	9.1	21.1
Development of industrial area, economic development	11.8	3.8	4.5	6.4
Self insurance	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Expand investment opportunities	2.9	1.9	4.5	2.8
County-wide law enforcement	5.9	1.9	0.0	2.8
Natural gas	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Employee recognition expenditures	2.9	5.7	0.0	3.7
Other	5.9	5.7	13.6	7.3
Number of municipalities responding	34	53	22	109

Note: comments made by 10 percent or more of the responding municipalities are shown in bold and italics.

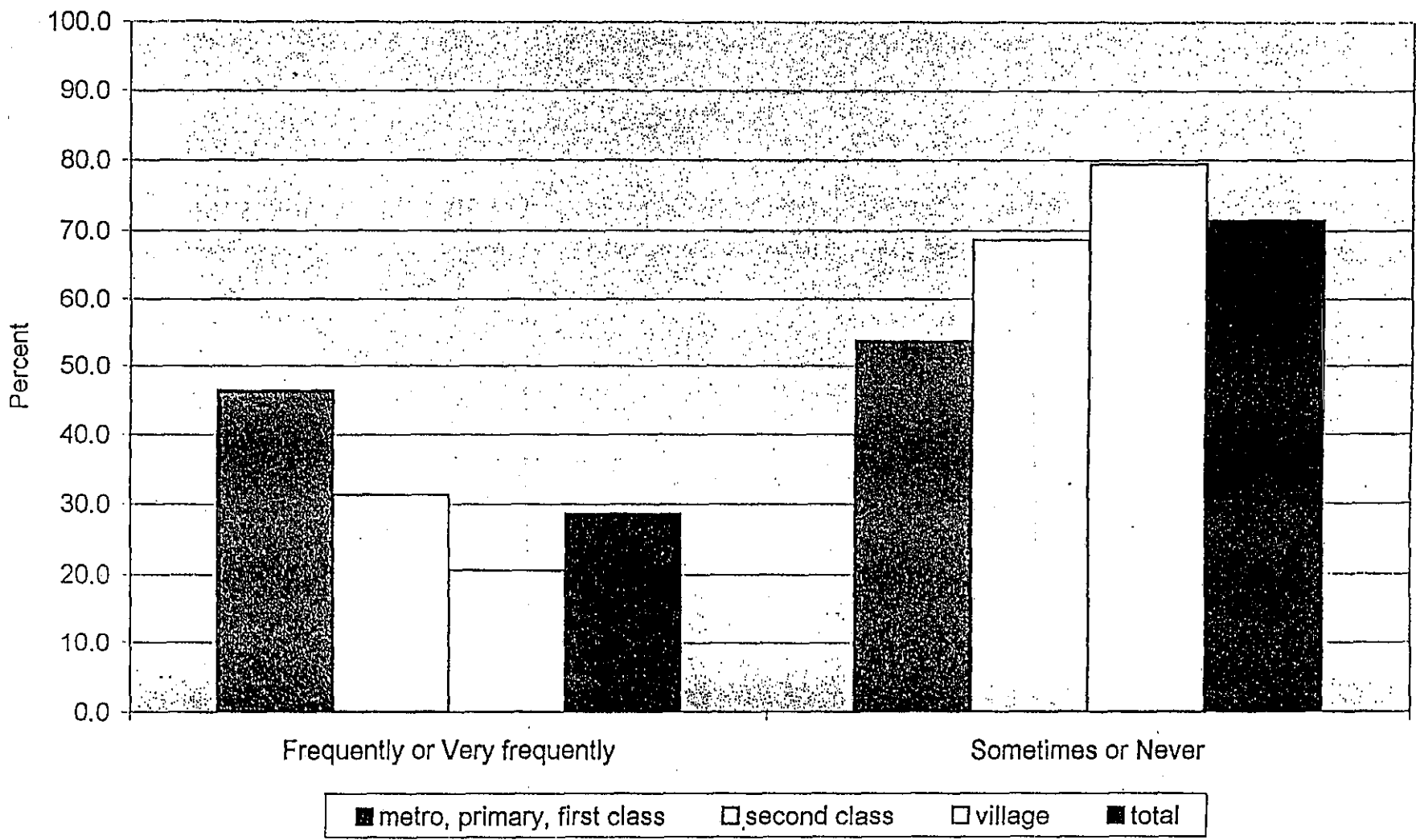
*Percents are based on the number of municipalities responding to the question. They are not based on all municipalities in the survey. They will total to more than 100 percent because some municipalities gave more than one comment.

How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state legislation that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?

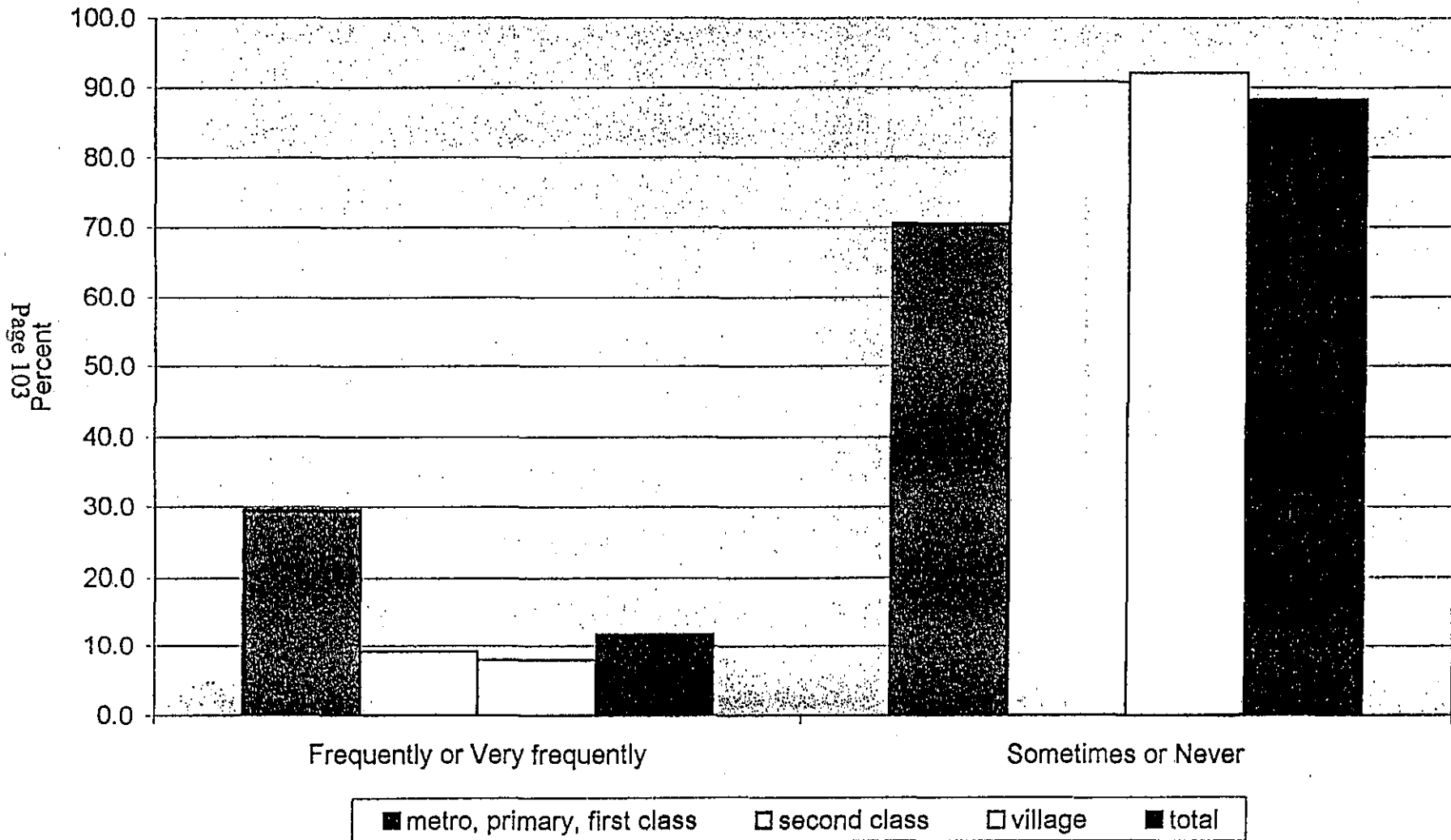


How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state agencies or administrative regulations that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?

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How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state court decisions that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?



Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state legislation that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state legislation that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?	Very frequently	Count	12	12	12	36
		% within city class	14.8%	6.3%	4.8%	6.9%
	Frequently	Count	29	43	37	109
		% within city class	35.8%	22.4%	14.7%	20.8%
	Sometimes	Count	36	123	154	313
		% within city class	44.4%	64.1%	61.1%	59.6%
	Never	Count	4	14	49	67
		% within city class	4.9%	7.3%	19.4%	12.8%
	Total	Count	81	192	252	525
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state agencies or administrative regulations that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state agencies or administrative regulations that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?	Very frequently	Count	11	13	15	39
		% within city class	13.4%	6.9%	6.0%	7.5%
	Frequently	Count	27	46	36	109
		% within city class	32.9%	24.5%	14.5%	21.0%
	Sometimes	Count	41	118	151	310
		% within city class	50.0%	62.8%	60.9%	59.8%
	Never	Count	3	11	46	60
		% within city class	3.7%	5.9%	18.5%	11.6%
	Total	Count	82	188	248	518
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state court decisions that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
How frequently in the past have you encountered barriers by state court decisions that prevented, slowed down, or altered actions of your municipality?	Very frequently	Count	7	3	5	15
		% within city class	9.0%	1.6%	2.1%	3.0%
	Frequently	Count	16	14	14	44
		% within city class	20.5%	7.6%	5.8%	8.7%
	Sometimes	Count	51	107	116	274
		% within city class	65.4%	57.8%	48.3%	54.5%
	Never	Count	4	61	105	170
		% within city class	5.1%	33.0%	43.8%	33.8%
	Total	Count	78	185	240	503
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Q7. Please share any comments or views you have about the discretionary authority that currently is available to Nebraska municipalities. By city class.

Comment	Metro, Primary, First Class	Second Class	Village	All Cities and Villages
	Percent*			
Give municipalities more authority	26.7	37.5	15.8	28.8
Home rule	6.7	3.1	0.0	3.0
Don't change forms, simplify budget filing process	0.0	9.4	5.3	6.1
Too many rules, regulations	6.7	3.1	0.0	3.0
One size fits all, different size towns	0.0	3.1	15.8	6.1
Uniform laws and regulations	0.0	3.1	0.0	1.5
Help small communities, don't force school mergers	0.0	9.4	31.6	13.6
Interlocal cooperation	0.0	3.1	5.3	3.0
Disposing of real estate, condemnations of property	0.0	3.1	10.5	4.5
Zoning, easier to annex property	6.7	0.0	0.0	1.5
Expand tax base	6.7	3.1	0.0	3.0
Revenue sharing, state aid	13.3	3.1	0.0	4.5
Lids	0.0	6.3	0.0	3.0
Tax lids	13.3	9.4	0.0	7.6
Spending lids	6.7	3.1	0.0	3.0
Unfunded mandates	0.0	3.1	0.0	1.5
Bidding, purchasing, contracting requirements	0.0	0.0	5.3	1.5
More discretionary spending, transfer utility revenue	6.7	3.1	5.3	4.5
Expand fees for service	0.0	0.0	5.3	1.5
Landfills, trash	0.0	9.4	0.0	4.5
Water testing, waste water	0.0	6.3	15.8	7.6
CDBG grant application process	0.0	3.1	10.5	4.5
Liquor control	6.7	0.0	0.0	1.5
Law enforcement training and other issues	0.0	3.1	5.3	3.0
Development of industrial area, economic development	6.7	3.1	0.0	3.0
Other	33.3	9.4	26.3	19.7
Number of municipalities responding	15	32	19	66

Note: comments made by 10 percent or more of the responding municipalities are shown in bold and italics.

*Percents are based on the number of municipalities responding to the question. They are not based on all municipalities in the survey. They will total to more than 100 percent because some municipalities gave more than one comment.

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

What is your highest level of education? * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
What is your highest level of education?	Less than 12 years of high school	Count			4	4
		% within city class			1.5%	.7%
	High school diploma or GED	Count	6	40	63	109
		% within city class	7.4%	20.0%	24.0%	20.1%
	Some college	Count	17	62	107	186
		% within city class	21.0%	31.0%	40.8%	34.3%
	A 4-year degree	Count	16	30	30	76
		% within city class	19.8%	15.0%	11.5%	14.0%
	Some graduate school	Count	10	17	14	41
		% within city class	12.3%	8.5%	5.3%	7.6%
	An advanced degree (Master's, Law, Ph.D., etc.)	Count	32	51	44	127
		% within city class	39.5%	25.5%	16.8%	23.4%
Total		Count	81	200	262	543
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

form of government * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
form of government	city council	Count		2		2
		% within city class			1.0%	.4%
	city manager	Count	23	4		27
		% within city class	27.7%	2.0%		4.8%
	commission	Count	2			2
		% within city class	2.4%			.4%
	home rule	Count	3			3
		% within city class	3.6%			.5%
	mayor/council	Count	55	196		251
		% within city class	66.3%	97.0%		45.0%
	village board	Count			273	273
		% within city class			100.0%	48.9%
Total		Count	83	202	273	558
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nebraska Municipal Survey 1999, Summary by City Class

region of the state * city class Crosstabulation

		city class				Total
		metro, primary, first class	second class	village		
region of the state	North west	Count	10	19	14	43
		% within city class	12.0%	9.4%	5.1%	7.7%
	North central	Count		25	34	59
		% within city class		12.4%	12.5%	10.6%
	South west	Count	15	18	40	73
		% within city class	18.1%	8.9%	14.7%	13.1%
	South central	Count	15	29	43	87
		% within city class	18.1%	14.4%	15.8%	15.6%
	North east	Count	15	60	39	114
		% within city class	18.1%	29.7%	14.3%	20.4%
	South east	Count	11	39	78	128
		% within city class	13.3%	19.3%	28.6%	22.9%
	Lincoln metro	Count	3	5	7	15
		% within city class	3.6%	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%
	Omaha metro	Count	14	7	18	39
		% within city class	16.9%	3.5%	6.6%	7.0%
Total		Count	83	202	273	558
		% within city class	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Q3d. If you disagreed with any of the above statements (about helping a municipality function in an efficient manner), what could Nebraska state government do to help a municipality function in a more efficient manner?

Metro, Primary, and First Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. Stay out of way - give authority to get things done.
2. Home rule charter. Restore property tax base - remove all exempt property. Refine salary comparability legislation. CIR now has too much "wobble" room to change policy. Trust local elected officials
3. All relate to a city's inability to control the personnel service costs because of CIR requirements, rules, regulations, and court case law.
4. Share revenues; quit forcing cities, counties and schools to rely so heavily on property tax.
5. One example - every year the process to submit forms for budget submission change, and every year staff wastes time on the changes.
6. A municipality is a local government function - not one that needs a lot of oversight by Lincoln.
7. Stop treating municipalities as if they were children! Some legislators feel their purpose is to regulate local government instead of running state government.
8. Lids raise taxes. Inconsistency of state rule is terrible.
9. On any given piece of legislation, someone may well disagree. The question/statements above should be measured with relative scale, i.e. in #3a. I would rank this as 2.4.
10. First, remember that local governments' first priorities are democracy, equity & integrity. Efficiency is important, but often is contradictory to democracy, so efficiency must take a second priority position. Neb. state government could offer training/ technical assistance to localities. There is a real void in this state. Spending lids have forced us to make inefficient financial decisions in order to comply (i.e. use of debt).
11. Enable a "home rule" provision for local (city, county, village) governments.

12. If mandates are produced by legislation or regulatory agencies, funding for these should be done by the requiring agency.
13. Establish constitutional home rule for city governments. Abolish your arcane Industrial Relations Board. Abolish county government. Adopt the Alaska borough (municipal) system.
14. The state has adopted a very "unfair" system of state aid. There is a huge disparity in state aid, primarily the municipal equalization fund (LB 1177). There are "penalties" and loss of state aid for cities keeping property taxes low and "rewards" to spendthrifts. Terrible legislation!
15. Reduce the required amount of paperwork; documentation for grants, budgets, etc.
16. Pass CIR legislation that would allow comparisons between like communities.

Council Chair

1. More control to municipalities.
2. Except in liquor control.
3. The Court of Industrial Relations is not being consistent, & is costing the taxpayers money.

City Attorney

1. a. The Legislature seems to want to micro-manage.
b. Some state agencies are bogged down in bureaucracy and seem unable to move.
2. Treat municipalities as independent entities, whose taxing and spending will be subject to the ultimate authority of the voters. Permit them to determine the destiny of the city, without meddling from the auditor's office, lids, & countless administrative regulations.
3. Efficiency is, justifiability, sacrificed to protect the interest of the citizenry. The Legislature and the courts generally do hinder efficiency, but with the higher purpose of protecting citizens' property & well-being.
4. Stop passing laws that control what a city does.
5. Stop needless interference.
6. Since all authority comes from state, the issue is how local interest should be addressed i.e., can locality decide or is the Legislature and the programs & laws promulgated by the Legislature the source of all knowledge.

7. 1. Get rid of the restricted revenue lid. 2. Restrict filing w/the Neb. Equal Opportunity Commission. 3. Same w/the CIR.
8. Give more local control in almost all matters.

Mayor

1. Statutorily grant authority for merger of local government to vote of the people.
2. The Legislature's attempts to control local spending as a way of silencing the outcry of taxpayers while they increase spending. The Legislature continues to create more red tape in filling out lid forms. CIR inconsistencies.
3. When passing regulations - get rid of others. Too many rules on the books. City government is continuously bogged down in administrative paperwork.
4. a. Not all state legislation helps municipality, i.e. the lid bill.
b. Some state agencies & their regulations help us in preparation - others seem to challenge our ability to complete a task - intelligently - to meet the deadlines.
c. NE court decisions are something we rely on when we are facing decision-making where we look for a precedent - but at times it makes things more difficult to circumvent problems we might otherwise not have faced.

Police Chief

1. Stop trying to impose statewide policy to issues which are especially local. Avoid unfunded mandates to local government.
2. The lid bill has prohibited municipalities from functioning efficiently. We are forced to go lease purchase options to buy vehicles that normally would have been a general fund expense. The lids force cities/counties to pay interest and spread their purchase of equipment over several years. The net result is more cost to the taxpayer. While municipalities are forced to operate under a lid, the cost of doing business keeps going up, uniforms, wages, etc. all rise. We are forced to cut services. Local citizens should hold local elected officials accountable, not the state.
3. Right now the bigger limit is the ability to generate revenue and spend because of lids. Municipalities who have done a good job on their own are punished uniformly by these. Some credits and flexibility should be allowed, or even a growing community will be stifled.
4. Allow the citizens of community to control, they are the closest to problems/needs, and they are the ones paying for the services.
5. c. Court decisions must not be allowed to replace representative government.

6. Home rule.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. "Double payment" of Nat'l Guard employees - both by state tax dollars and local tax dollars. This is not required for private business, why local governments?
2. Stop micromanaging municipalities. Give us broad authority in all areas. The rule should be - if it's not prohibited, we can do it. Now, if it is not permitted, you can't do it.
3. Give the local government more local control to operate as citizens see fit.

Second Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. We cannot engage in an activity unless we have the statutory authority to do so. An issue might come up that is very commonsense and non-controversial, but we cannot act because we do not have authority. To get authority will likely take at least 1-2 years, even if it's a no-brainer. Plus, one senator can hold up the entire legislative agenda, preventing any new authority, regardless of how critical it is.
2. Simplify things, particularly the CDBG grants. Shouldn't need to hire a consultant to write a grant. The bidding requirements, particularly for the planning grants, slow the process down, and in some cases cost more if a consultant isn't familiar with your town. (The product may not be as good either.)
3. Let local officials do the job – don't let Omaha & a small special interest decide all state policy. Lift most regulations, eliminate the CIR & give us home rule - also stop all lids & budget restrictions.
4. The amount of paperwork and research needed to complete a CDBG Grant application is quite burdensome. Also, if a CDBG grant is received, the administration of the grant is also quite time consuming.
5. Need to allow municipalities to pool with others to provide more economical health insurance for employees. Some of the testing required for water and wastewater are not necessary. There's too much a "one size fits all" policy.
6. Let local elected officials exercise more control.
7. The Unicameral tries to adopt laws that fit all cities - cities are all different – one-size-fits-all solutions don't work. Let each city - thru home rule - decide what is best. Only one member of the Unicameral is elected by the voters of the city - all of the city council members are elected by voters of this city.
8. Eliminate unnecessary or onerous reporting requirements; shift focus from being "police" to being "advisors" & "assisters".
9. There is argument for both sides on all three of these. Some things are better and more efficient for us, and other things make it more difficult for cities. Sometimes control would be better at local levels, not state or federal.
10. The Nebraska state government should allow the elected bodies of the local government decide what is in the best interest of the municipality.
11. If municipalities were allowed to govern themselves, a significantly large amount of time could be allocated to local interests. Nebraska's Unicameral should adopt a

reverse philosophy - allow municipalities the latitude to do anything that is not prohibited by legislation.

12. Let the local governing body govern. They have to answer to the local community that elects them. Every municipality has different issues and priorities. A "one size fits all" mentality by the Legislature just doesn't work!
13. I think Nebraska has too much control over municipal budgeting & financing. There is too little thought given to the huge differences between 1st and 2nd class cities & villages. They cannot all be treated the same, especially in western Nebraska. Too many state laws deal with matters regarding the eastern part of the state or a large municipality and are not going to work in western Nebraska or the smaller entities.
14. Loosen laws, rules and regulations to allow communities more discretion and flexibility when dealing with issues. Also allow a more cooperative atmosphere between state agencies and local governments.
15. 1. Big money & lobbyist drive legislative outcome - most generally. 2. Unfunded mandate issues are still occurring.

Council Chair

1. The one size fits all just doesn't work, there must be greater flexibility options for individual communities.
2. Remove lids.
3. Some court decisions are made without sometimes knowing what special mandates will cost to smaller municipalities.
4. This is a very small town (1,350 people), and with talking to other small town officials, they have the same problems we have. Everything is too regulated! And it seems to me that if something does not change, all you're going to do is squeeze the small town out of experience. Do you have to have your fingers in everything?
5. Know your municipalities!
6. Listen to the people that the decisions affect.
7. a. Unfunded mandates.
8. Mandates rules/regulations without consumer or municipality input (state). State agencies don't take consideration of industry. We need Nebraska to grow industrially.
9. Passing unfunded mandates.

10. Seems like too many regulations - seem to be protecting their jobs.
11. The state agencies need to work closer with the communities in development plans. The CDBG material funds are a deterrent for our community.
12. The Nebraska state government would do well to let local government function independently from state government. Many times the state makes laws that cannot apply to all municipalities equally. Having legislative sessions every other year for a period of six months would be a good start.
13. Some state agencies have too much authority which try to regulate municipalities.
14. Court of Industrial Relations.

City Attorney

1. Less regulation.
2. Keep the Legislature from making more new laws every year.
3. State government permits agencies to send unelected persons into a municipality empowered to order changes that an electorate would never approve, similar to an unfunded mandate. This process removes decision making from the voters (and taxpayers) and leaves the power in the Fire Marshal's Office, DEQ, Dept. of HHS, and this list is by no means exhaustive. Certainly we have enough federal entanglements to satisfy the apparent zeal for control that abounds. Most of these are good ideas gone explosive in scope and application. For example, the State Auditor has ruled that you can't have a holiday dinner for city employees without inclusion of the meal on the employee's W-2. The mere bookkeeping that requires is more expensive than the meal itself and certainly form over substance. The legislation is not often the problem since it is created by elected officials, the Senators. The agency and administrative regulations are, in fact, the problem because there is no accountability to an elected person when such regulations are over-broad or exceed the intent of the Legislature. It is simply too expensive to argue the scope of legislation and gendered regulation in front of the Supreme Court.
4. They need to understand that smaller communities do not have the personnel, resources or need to perform many functions the way larger cities handle them.
5. The state should fund all mandatory requirements placed on a city by state law or state agencies.
6.
 - b. Lead/copper testing rules.
 - c. Court decisions on trash haulers.
 - a. Requirement of disposing of real estate by auction is very cumbersome.

7. The Legislature often best serves the public when it is not in session. We seem to get way too many laws.
8. So long as villages and cities of the second class exist, outside regulation must consider financial ability to comply.
9. I do not believe that decisions of 49 legislations, most of whom have no idea of the problems in small cities, should dictate how much money is necessary to carry on functions of local government. If local governments are too extravagant, they can be replaced by the local voters.
10. Limit the number of bills each senator may introduce to 1 per legislative session.
11. Provide local training events on a regular basis for elected officials in villages and cities of the second class so that mayors, council members, chairman, and trustees will more clearly understand how to properly perform their duties and exercise authority. Most officials in small towns do not have the time nor inclination to attend League of Municipality events which are usually held during business hours and require considerable driving time for the people who should be attending.
12. DEQ and one representative of Dept. of Roads has treated my municipality badly - uncooperative and openly hostile.
13. Get the Supreme Court out of the business of trying to control and detect how property should be valued for taxation.

Mayor

1. Allow more discretionary control locally.
2. Have better control over the DEQ. They should work with municipalities, not against them!
3. Let them take care of their own business & do their own things.
4. Allow local municipalities have control of their own interests.
5. DEQ regulations too restricting.
6. a-b, I believe there should be enough legislation and regulations to keep all municipalities functioning as a team. Municipalities should be given opportunities to encourage and utilize local resources to their advantage according to local citizen approval and support.
c. Our courts should make more decisions based on strengthening community authority and supporting community effort.

7. Small towns shouldn't have to follow all the rules & regs. that larger towns do.
8. Allow more local control.
9. We need less control over waste & water issues.
10. Every city is unique. We are much different from Lincoln or Norfolk.
11. Look closer at all the issues to allow better control.
12. The state should stop trying to control local elected officials. We are accountable on a daily basis to local taxpayers. Either that or come out here and let them elect all the members of the Unicameral - not just be a small percentage of voters for 1 district.
13. Leave municipal functions to the individual municipalities.
14. Give assurance, stay out of control.
15. Some decisions are too vague.
16. Let local governments control themselves. Let citizens decide if they are doing a good job.
17. A wide gap in needs between urban & rural.
18. City government is managed by local people who are elected by its population. Somehow I can't believe that all cities or villages are exactly alike or have the same wants and needs. General laws were once the rule, however, now everything is specific.
19. There is a vast difference between cities, municipalities & villages. The smaller towns & villages distribution of state funds. Have to follow sewer loader. Regulations that eventually cost more than the state allow us in travels.
20. We have found that the eastern part of the state usually receives consideration before the western part. (Western part being west of North Platte) We are struggling like small cities. We are so close to a larger city that it is very hard to keep our business here.

Police Chief

1. Stay out of our business and let us live the way we want to. Most of the state regulations are a joke and exist solely for the purpose of giving somebody a job. Things we have to do for "safety" actually don't help and only are "feel good" regulations.

2. a. They should really look at what efforts their actions will have on those down the line. They don't seem to pay attention to the long run effects.
b. Most do a fine job. However, the ALR form is prime example of not understanding needs and effects on their actions.
3. Send dollars with new mandates, state should pay for training or equipment.
4. The state needs to look at smaller communities, also. Everything is for Omaha & Lincoln.
5. I think most municipalities have quality people running them and not have to be told by the state of Nebraska how to.
6. Involve local government in the decision making process.
7. Better educate legislators. Change to a two-house Legislature.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. Let municipalities determine what is best, rather than mandating. Actions that are good for Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island may not be good for the smaller communities. Local conditions vary.
2. Clearer instruction from govt.; better training - better explanations of laws & regulations.
3. Legislation comes after the fact and addresses large communities rather than small communities.
4. Advertising and/or posting 3 weeks in a row sometimes slow down progress. The interpretations of regulations by certain state agencies make it very difficult to comply. I believe there needs to be an avenue to show that a "one size fits all" is not the best way, or the only way to operate.
5. State agencies need to be more in sync with each other.
6. Don't put lids on governments. Legislators have no knowledge of what they are doing with lids.
7. For the most part, local officials are more aware of the best way to efficiently operate their municipalities because they are more knowledgeable about local concerns.
8. Court decisions need to be more uniform in their decisions.
9. Allow more local control.

10. There is little way for local governments it seems. Everything is too regulated with too much "red tape".
11. There is too much regulation by state govt. I believe the people at the local level be permitted the flexibility to determine what is best for their communities. After all, they are the ones who live there and are in a better position to know what is good for their community as opposed to someone living 200 miles away.
12. Every municipality varies so one law cannot do justice to all - too broad.
13. The governments can only be as efficient as the community & city council allow.
14. A lot of legislation doesn't help smaller towns and villages.
15. NIMBY - hog lots.
16. Don't try to be a "Father Knows Best".
17. It seems many laws passed by the Legislature, administered by state agencies, favor the larger cities and the eastern part of the state.
18. Better local control.

Villages

Administrator or Manager

1. Appointments of administrators, clerks, treasurers should have language changed to hired same as all other employees. Councils & boards of trustees misuse the term 'appointment' to reflect personality issues & reason to not appoint. Personality is the excuse used by boards & councils when they refuse to abide by the rules, & there is no other means to dismiss the "appointed adm/clk/tr". Group health insurance, pensions etc. should be consistent across the state to all communities. Observed is communities which pay no health insurance or provide pension, or very lopsided (i.e. 2% IRA match/ 5% 457 plan; 100% family insurance coverage/ 0 insurance(very wrong)). Public wants private industry to pay but not have public employees covered. State laws contradict each other; several cause increased costs; or create smaller communities to hire specialized/certified people which aren't affordable to have on staff year round, i.e. to force a village to procure for an engineer where a 1st class/prim/metro. has an on-staff engineer is silly. Same at board of plumbing examiners etc. Law allowing dismissal of appointed officials (i.e. administrator, clerk, treas.) due to personality conflict needs corrected. Personality becomes issue when council & mayor/chairman wish to avoid law & place liability on community. These statutes should be changed to eliminate word appointed to hired as all other employees - eliminate misuse of law by boards.
2. Reduce amount of paperwork - publication of notices, public hearings, etc., that are required.
3. Local control is so important. The community should be able to decide what services they want and are willing to be taxed for. If they want to be taxed extra to save up for capital improvements, they should have local control to make that decision - every community feels differently and has different needs.

Council Chair

1. Boards need to understand they are directly answerable to the clerk & must abide by laws - this is not clearly stated by law. NDEQ & NHHS need to understand costs associated with administrative orders: correlate funding; publishing criteria needs to be streamlined & hearing notices consistent; small communities need a law which allows the appointment of engineers rather than procurement for projects do to the fact large cities have an engineer on staff & small can't afford.
2. Get more involved with smaller villages, to help economy & build.
3. State requirements are too strict in some cases.
4. Eliminate purchasing & contracting requirements, allow cities to generate excess revenue & spend it where it best meets city needs.

5. Remove spending lid.
6. Let us do what the people in our municipalities elected us to do. We know better what we need to do than you do. The "big brother" mentality has to stop.
7. If something is mandated, and a town does not have funding for their legislation, then the state needs to provide it.
8. Should help munis out a bit, keep them on track. Munis have hard time finding and/or educating people to play roles in community.
9. Get rid of lids, filing budgets with very small villages (under 500 population). Also too much testing of waste water for small villages, etc.
10. The village of Manley's lagoon are in violation of DEQ, however, we have been unable to receive any sort of grant or assistance. The village does have the resources to add an additional lagoon, as well as to pay for the rehabilitation of the 2 existing lagoons without putting a burden on those few residences that we have. Our town accountant said we would have to triple taxes in order to pay for the new lagoon, we can't afford it.
11. We feel we should not be comparable to cities of larger population regarding state regulations.
12. Clearly allow municipalities to do more together, for example, health ins. pools, etc.
13. The courts interfere with municipalities in that their decisions are not always the same from case to case.
14. Involved too much.
15. Have less rules for the smaller municipalities & regulations.
16. Not such an overload of paperwork.
17. Stronger restrictions on junk cars, etc. within city limits - need more teeth in law and easier access to enforce - small towns are hampered in growth because of these unsightly lots. We need help to clean up our communities of junk cars & clutter of all kinds - we have found no state laws with enough "teeth" to make the clean up permanent. Cost of existing laws is prohibitive for small towns.
18. Cut out some of the requirements about testing water system.
19. I feel courts are far too liberal to the criminals!

20. It seems small rural communities and the frontier communities are always battling legislation and state agencies as the "rules" always favor the cities and large corporations located in the large cities. Legislature wants to "close" all schools under 250 students, thus eliminating the #1 employer of small communities. Many communities feel legislators want to eliminate all communities under 5,000.
21. State operated and funded testing labs do municipalities' water tests, but villages still have to pay high cost of water test. State should pay the cost of all required tests.
22. Too much red tape.
23. Cut out some of the red tape with water/sewer systems.
24. Develop less "one size fits all" laws. What works for large towns does not always work for small towns.
25. We need equal representation between western & eastern Nebr. The eastern 1/5 dictates to the rest of the state.
26. Become more efficient.
27. Court decisions in some parts of the state don't apply to all regions.
28. Stop forcing small town schools to unify. This destroys town spirit, and towns slowly die. Stop passing metropolitan legislation.
29. Adjourn for 10 years.
30. Speed court actions when it is brought by city against violators.
31. Butt out.
32. The state of Nebraska doesn't pay attention to small villages.
33. More freedom to set tax rates for the funds required.
34. Allow to have more local control.

City Attorney

1. Allow local authority to act without interference.
2. The statutes on city or village should be thoroughly rewritten and modernized - create a "municipal code"; as it were, applicable to all non-home rule cities.
3. Get smart.

4. Sale of municipal property overly burdensome.
5. State agency and administrative regulations create a bureaucratic delay and expense which many times are simply not effective to the efficient operation of a municipality at the local level.
6. Free training updates on legislative and court decisions that affect the municipality.
7. Regulations are not generally for the purpose of efficient management.
8. Suggest: statutes, consider revising out-dated language & index to make it easier for clerks & other non-lawyers to find information about municipalities in statute books.
9. Give more discretion to local govts. to spend grants & aid funds as needed.
10. Need to balance effectiveness vs. efficiency. A little common sense would help. One size doesn't always fit all. More input from all size municipalities before passage would help, some municipalities & subdivisions lack political clout to be heard.
11. 1) Allow flexibility in law enforcement requirements esp. for villages. 2) Allow or permit but not require many mandates. 3) Figure out that what's good for Omaha & Lincoln does not even work for villages. None of the economic development tools do one thing for towns/villages.
12. Remove state mandates lids, caps. Allow local revenue to be used locally. Depart from the heavy reliance on property taxes.
13. Liquor licensing should be locally controlled. Court decisions have frustrated this effort constantly over the last 10 years.
14. Simplify budget forms. Reduce testing and reporting requirements. Make it easier to annex property into municipality.

Police Chief

1. Agree with 3a, 3b, and 3c most of the time but not 100%.
2. Laws should interact or be more conducive to each other too many conflicts among current laws.
3. Stay out of a town's business.
4. The courts should investigate more, before a decision is made.

5. Quit sending so much paper work to local government - they don't have a clue at the state as to what is going on locally, and they should keep their noses out of our business.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. Quit giving us "busy work". We are always short-handed; we don't have the resources for personnel like the state offices. The state needs to become more efficient.
2. Too many costly regulations.
3. Allow the municipality to make decisions for its community. Each municipality is different, how does the state know what is best for the municipalities?
4. Some of the requirements imposed on villages make keeping taxes down or general expenses down difficult.
5. Make budgets more simple. Stop tax lids.
6. All of these can work for or against.
7. NE state government places such restraints on small communities, & these will eventually close down all small towns (50-300 population).
8. Give village their own deciding.
9. Let smaller entities have more control. The water for example - all the requirements use up a lot of finances, & the smaller places just don't have the financial resources.
10. Much of the time we are given unfunded mandates & are expected to do without ... funding.
11. Let municipalities govern its own self (i.e. liquor licensing, zoning, etc.).
12. Stop unfunded mandates - especially water testing, etc.
13. Federal, state mandates can be a big problem. What works - or may be necessary for a large municipality does not work and sometimes hurts smaller communities.
14. The regulation on water testing etc. become quite expensive for small towns to afford.
15. Budget lids & caps need to be addressed not governed. When state mandates rules they should provide funds for its enforcement.
16. Don't make reports so complicated.

17. Too many mandates like sewer regulations & water testing. Regulations & fees for both are creating financial problems for small communities.
18. Be less involved.
19. State Legislature should remove caps and lid limits. They cause towns to raise all rates charged to pay for what state says we must do! State agencies say you have a problem. But don't give help to correct problem, why?
20. Not such an overload of paperwork.
21. Give more local control on liquor licenses. Cut some of the red tape for handicapped parking permits.
22. Our budget for a small village is a real mess, and we need a CPA to make out a budget. The lid also is a problem. They ask for more information each year.
23. They can help municipalities by not placing lids or limits on the amount of revenue we should be getting.
24. Don't legislate rules for municipalities that the state itself can't live with. You have legislated open meeting laws, budget notice requirements which are fine. Now let them work. When people complain at the state level about taxation, refer them back home to follow the process you set up. It will encourage more local environment & education opportunities.
25. The state government needs to address the needs of smaller municipalities on a separate basis - don't always throw us in the same categories as large cities! We can still be run efficient without some rules & regs.
26. Let them make their own decisions. They know their own needs better than anyone else.
27. The state Legislature needs to understand tax lids. One way or another the money will come out of people's pockets either by taxes or increasing user fees to make up the difference.
28. Small communities know what is best for their particular community. A community 7 miles down the road may have totally different needs and visions for the future. A "one size fits all" policy holds back many communities from growing because they have to spend money on mandated laws.
29. Listen to all the info you received instead of someone "justifying" a job by just mailing out multiple forms to take up village people's time answering.

30. Give more decision making & financial responsibility back to local elected boards & councils, and let local taxpayers decide what is the best for themselves - one size does not fit all. One rule cannot apply to all size government entities.
31. Simplify budget! Less paper work & regulations each year.
32. Let the Unicameral meet every 10 years and then only to repeal a bunch of laws. They write up so many laws how in the world can anyone ever know what they are so they can be obeyed.
33. They seem to forget that small municipalities such as ours struggle to meet lid limits and still maintain services our residents desire. Plus the unfunded mandates are also hard to meet.
34. Get them more control. What is good for one community may not be good for another.
35. Revert ownership of real property to city when cost of cleaning up (demolition and removal cost of condemned buildings) is far greater than value of property.
36. Giving a municipality "home rule" would lend to not abiding with laws to protect themselves and citizens. Paper work flooding our system.
37. Leave more decisions up to local people. They can make a better decision on local basis.
38. Stop making changes every year. Get fiscal year & budget year together. Get things less complicated for small villages.

Q4d. If yes to any of the above (particular barriers to efficiency), please explain briefly.

Metro, Primary, and First Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. CIR
2. 4a. CIR legislation or lack of specifics, lids/comparability laws.
4b – NDOR.
3. All three relate to the Commission of Industrial Relations which, through state legislation, controls the salaries, wages, future benefits and other forms of compensation for our employees.
4. a. Lack of charters for 1st class cities.
b. State Auditor's budget submission process.
5. Allow additional sales tax in lieu of property tax if voted on by taxpayers.
6. CIR and comparability statute, NDEQ regulations and staff turnover.
7. a. All one size fits all legislation. All we need to protect citizens from local govt. legislation.
b. Admin. landfill regs. Wage comparability with no definitions or way of determining whom we are to be comparable to!
8. Lids, huge change in \$. Lids raise taxes not lower them. Pooling insurance prohibited.
9. NDEQ, CIR.
10. Lid bills, DEQ.
11. Yes, CIR method of determining wages. This requires that we spend & operate as bureaucratic bean counters in devising compensation plans. Efficiency & service delivery would improve if we could use pure incentive/performance based pay systems.
12. a. Budget caps legislation.
b. Dept of Environmental Quality.
13. Remove library certification and accreditation role of the State Library Commission, their current role is negative and punitive.

14. Constant attack and revisions to TIF legislation. Constant revisions to CDBG Programs. Penalties for efficiency and conservatism. DEQ compliance & other regulation are pricing communities out of the landfill business. Water testing now has "zero tolerance" to bacteria forcing communities to chlorinate. LB 775 reporting to municipalities needs to be improved.
15. CDBG grants - paperwork, certification. Guidelines are limited.

Council Chair

1. Tax lid.
2. No local control over liquor regulation.
3. CIR, lid laws.
4. CIR ruling against the city.

City Attorney

1. a. Waiting period on foreclosure of special assessments puts a 3 year delay on cost recovery for condemnation of buildings.
b. DEQ & DOR seem to encourage a feast for consultants and engineers.
2. b. Equal Opportunity Commission, Dept. of Environmental Control, CIR.
3. a. One size fits all lid levy.
b. NDEQ landfill regulations, & groundwater control areas.
4. Rules of the road court decisions that don't properly recognize home rule charter authority.
5. Court: liquor decisions - re issuing licenses.
Legislature: chase law - strict police liability. Taking away cities' ability to receive revenue for the use of public right of way - telecommunications.
6. a. Civil service requirements slow down the hiring process.
b. Apply & administer landfill rules against private fills in same manner as public. The Public Service Commission should be disenfranchised. Let them register as a lobbyist to promote those they are to regulate.
c. But the Legislature could change, i.e. liquor laws.

Mayor

1. Commission on Industrial Relations comparability.

2. Telecommunications.
3. Liquor Commission grants licenses. Cities need to grant and police establishments with full power to fine, censor or close the operation. The city knows what is the best for them.
4. a. Lid bills. Budget "time" deadlines which require city & county cooperation to accomplish. It's when county is rushed to set levies & city needs. Lots of last minute stress.
5. Flood plain regulations should be amended: 1) eliminate 1 foot freeboard requirement, 2) allow conditional below grade crawlspace construction, 3) provide for easier local map amendments, 4) provide for fed/state funding for firm map updates, and 5) update child care regulations.
6. 2 1/2 % spending lid, LB271 - property tax payment by government, NDEQ, CIR.

Police Chief

1. 2% growth lid penalties previous "good management" practices.
2. b. Tax lids in general are counterproductive and do nothing to settle the real tax issues. A lid on local spending without a similar lid on state government makes no sense.
3. a. lids - also 29.2262.02.
b. CIR - NEOC - Liquor Commission.
c. CIR, decisions re local control of liquor licenses.
4. Nebraska is the only state that has a law prohibiting the use of parolees or probationers for informants. We are severely hampered in our ability to pursue drug crimes by this statute. State statute and the Public Service Commission currently prohibit any government ownership of telephone transmission lines, including joint public private partnerships. Several cities could invest in their futures by partnering with telcos to provide the highest speed Internet access available, thus moving us away from a totally agri-based economy.
5. a. HHS - too much of a bureaucracy.
c. Mandatory in-custody death grand juries, Law enforcement agencies responsible for 3rd party injuries during pursuits.
6. Lids, financial controls.
7. a. Unfunded mandates.

- b. Nebr. Dept. of Health and Human Services is overburdened with internal confusion, conflicting regulations, and lack of internal control of personnel. Poor accountability.
- 8. a. Lid statutes, juvenile justice statutes and some economic development law hinders.
b. Health & Human Service is a cumbersome & plodding organization that rules and regulates itself into an inefficiency.
c. Those that assume the role of the legislative branch.
- 9. We changed the ones which were barriers.

Clerk/Treasurer

- 1. Commission on Industrial Regulation decisions. No local control over liquor license regulations. "Militaristic" employees of the Division of Dairies & Food who regulate food stands at celebrations.
- 2. CIR.
- 3. a. For example - fire pension statutes, the restrictions. Council approval required to pay bills.
b. DED can sometimes be very inflexible in admin of federal grants.
- 4. DEQ - licensing procedures for wells, landfills, etc. DED - grant administration - applications. DOR - project funding - design

Second Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. a. Property tax lid bill.
b. Health & Human Services
2. 4b. The state budget forms, particularly the lid restrictions can contradict their original intent by forcing you to raise the bond taxes to comply with the lid restriction. On the Federal level, the EPA enforcing the copper levels in water is ridiculous. They can't prove that copper in water is detrimental. If it is, it should be handled through the building permit process and not through municipal treatment of water.
3. a. Lid laws, income restrictions and catering to special (local) interest.
b. DEQ, Department of Revenue.
c. CIR.
4. a. Budget dates are difficult to meet, due to info not available from county assessor's office. Handicap permits issued by state agency, rather than city. Cumbersome liquor laws. Unclear laws for residency requirements for candidates. Recall laws too liberal.
b. Dept. of Roads is the "king" of red tape & regs. - projects take forever to move forward (10 years).
5. Health insurance pooling restrictions.
6. a. Need to be able to have pools for hospital insurance or to group with other agencies.
c. Too many regulations are "one size fits all". I believe that municipalities should operate under a balanced budget, but I don't believe that elected officials have enough authority under the strict lid laws to provide what an individual community may need on a year-to-year basis.
7. Lids and caps on spending, not allowing to have insurance pool.
8. 4a. Lid laws & Dillon's Rule (opposite to home rule).
4b. CIR.
4c. Tingle was an example.
9. L10 law.
10. Safe water drinking act and associated costs. Testing of water for unheard of contaminants. Mosquito lawsuit in western NE.
11. Barriers are property tax lid and spending lids. The Legislature should not try to lump all municipalities into one group. Each municipality has to address their needs as they see will best fit their ability to raise revenues.

12. State legislation regarding tax lids are completely ineffective and only create problems for municipalities. Local governing bodies are taxpayers too and also answer to constituents. I find the administration requirements to be absurd. Training for grant administrators is ineffective and creates inefficiency. I found CIR regulations to be a huge barrier.
13. Municipal equalization fund is a joke. You shouldn't penalize communities that have better efficiency or different ways of raising money than property tax.
14. I would like to see required city sales tax for all entities which would help in decreasing property taxes - like 1%. Just like a state sales tax. The budget is too complicated & causes misunderstandings between local government & the public. It is made for bigger entities.
15. DEQ.
16. No state laws preventing occupants to live in Housing Authority (cockroaches, etc).
17. Lids.
18. Some expenditure legislation which prohibits commingling of some fund types for community improvement. Not enough cooperation because of laws or dept. policy prevents use of equipment or expertise of state agencies by local governments.
19. 1. Integrated Solid Waste Act. 2. Water & solid waste.

Council Chair

1. Regarding the inability of communities to use community owned utilities dollars for operation or enhancements, why should a community with money in the "bank" have to pass a sales tax to meet operational or improvement expenses? We don't need more money, we need access to what we have.
2. Regulatory agencies. State enforcement of restrictive legislative indulgent codes hampers small cities and produces only massive paperwork, great expense and frustration for local employees and administrators.
3. Lids.
4. Too many to list in the small space provided.
5. Water regs.
6. a. Water - waste water regulation.
b. Lean on industry with out thinking.

7. Mandates, landfill, backflow.
8. Big city reps governing out-state Nebr.
9. Landfill regulations very out of line.
10. CDBG matching funds.
11. We have considered combining law enforcement but have not been able to figure out a good efficient way to attain this goal because of the definition of each department role in the community.
12. Lid bill; Court of Industrial Relations.

City Attorney

1. Small villages have no way to enforce local ordinances. State and county won't help unless violations are against state or county law.
2. 1. Procedures to sell property - especially personal property. Procedure to buy property. Lid statute. 2. State audits.
3. At will status.
4. The legislation requiring an architect and an engineer for every piddly project that a municipality may choose to complete usually doubles the cost of all small projects. This municipality recently built a public restroom in the park that ended up costing \$40,000.00. Nearly half of that expense was for other than materials and labor. Additionally, the limit requiring bidding should be raised. Additionally, authority to run other businesses, other than clinics, nursing homes, etc. should be increased to allow economic development, management of industrial tracts, etc. The specific agencies and administrative regulations that are barriers to efficiency are tremendously long. After 25 or more years of experience, I simply cannot find a situation where local government attempted to do the wrong thing and was corrected by a state agency. Usually, local government is trying to please its own electorate and themselves, know what the municipality needs and are given a barrier by someone who tells you how you can tear down a building, where you can put the rubble, how many sprinkler systems ought to be in an inhabited building and the like. The obvious question is how many local governments want to intentionally pollute their earth or slay their electors.
5. DEQ is a barrier to efficiency. Too arbitrary.
6. a. Unfunded mandates. b. State Fire Marshal's office – they, by law, are required to condemn buildings and assist with the process of removing fire-related problems, but they say it is up to the city and refuse to help.

7. Court of Industrial Relations' decisions which do not consider revenues or lids. Liquor licenses issues.
8. Decisions which limit right of municipality to regulate trash haulers within municipality.
9. DEQ.
10. Statutes, rules, and regs. of Dept. of Water Resources make it way too difficult to provide water to municipality.
11. Purchasing, auditor requirements, sale of real estate.
12. State control over local budget.
13. Bidding requirements on most small municipal projects makes it very difficult to get the best deal, as the contractor must be sure his initial bid is high enough to cover contingencies. Usually a better deal could be achieved by negotiation and flexibility. We also need to streamline the process for nuisance abatement procedures, as many small towns are becoming very blighted, but local officials are intimidated by the "red tape" required to force cleanup and delay in getting it achieved.
14. The tax regulation on values & limits on tax fund requests.
15. a. Restrictions on sale of real estate.....
b. DEQ – timid, rule-bound bureaucracy.

Mayor

1. Unfunded mandates - if we needed programs, we would administer them ourselves. Environmental mandates & testing - come on, many levels are not realistic.
2. We could operate telecommunications system more efficiently.
3. Budget time lines.
4. DEQ water requirement, copper, etc.
5. My main beef is the CIR and their unpredictable decisions on formulas to determine comparable wages.
6. a. Lid regulations.
b. Federal requirements through state regulating agencies.
c. Liquor license regulations.
7. Lids, revenue, recall petitions.

8. The state should let cities form pools, etc. for health insurance & other benefits.
9. Regulations dealing with landfills and licensing of transfer stations.
10. CIR, zoning, tax lids, law enforcement consolidation (must still have a sheriff), CRA. Courts - CIR, Tingle Case (law enforcement).
11. State mandates useless testing of water and waste.
12. Everything has gotten too political and not based on actual fact or need.
13. Too much control.
14. a. There is legislation that will not allow cooperation between cities, counties, schools/boards, etc.
b. Many rules in DEQ that cause inefficiency.
15. The lid bill is inequitable - larger municipalities vs. smaller.
16. We are scheduled for roadwork on 19th Ave. in our town. The Dept. of Roads kept moving our project back, & it took about 4-5 years longer to get this accomplished than we had previously been told. There were some projects back east that were moved up. This just doesn't happen only with Dept. of Roads but other depts. and agencies.

Police Chief

1. It would be nice if for just one year I could do my job without carrying all of these "monkeys" on my back. What works one day is said to be bad the next. An example would be all that is involved in arresting a drunk driver. There are so many hoops to jump through it takes almost 2 hours to process one drunk.
2. Not allowing cities to recoup their costs in issuing traffic citations. NE constitution forbids cities to recover costs.
3. c. Forfeiture decision concerning double jeopardy in punishing drug dealers & taking their property.
a. Need to enact "public intoxication" legislation. Make it a crime again. Tougher illegal alien laws, where they are deported just for being here, plus levy heavy fines on employers of illegals. Don't forewarn employers of an impending inspection or raid.
State Legislature needs to address 4c.
4. EMS: to be certified EMT, 140 hours needs to be completed.
5. State lid.

6. Not allowing the transfer of excess funds from one area to another, i.e. profits from sale of electricity to police budget.
7. Spending cap.
8. As a police officer I see cases thrown out do to a technicality.
9. Lids, leniency to criminals.
10. Many have hurt the small towns; most decisions are based on big towns.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. a. Spending cap forces small municipalities to cut services.
2. Department of Environmental Quality – it's their way or the wrong way. Sometimes it takes a very long time for plans to be approved by the State Fire Marshal. However, I believe that is due to staff shortages.
3. The current budgeting process actually encourages excess spending because it causes municipalities to raise their budgeted amounts in years they might not have if it were not for the fear of not being able to make adjustments in the future.
4. HHS - water testing.
5. a. Tax lids - limits take away from local control some bidding requirements.
c. Liquor licenses.
6. Legislation on municipal levy rates.
7. Local utility fund transfer should be a local decision, not restricted fund for lid purposes.
8. Municipalities need to be able to have a health insurance pool.
9. Health insurance pooling restrictions.
10. a. Levy limits and spending caps are a barrier to efficiency. Although, they may work fine for some municipalities, they are detrimental to others. There needs to be a happy medium.
b. Recently we have had problems with bad water samples (coliform detected). It has taken approximately a week to get each sample result back. It is difficult to be efficient in clearing up the problem with this slow response time.
11. Budget procedures, lids, health ins groups.

12. Hog confinement, state water.
13. Not allowing cities to levy for taxes as they see fit.
14. Too many rules & regs. to take our time.
15. b. Recent change in type of list used to test for coliform bacteria in water.
 - a. Pulling unused equalization funds into MIRF (where the use is far more restrictive than that of the equalization funds).

Villages

Administrator or Manager

1. Hearing/publication notice periods should be consistent not varied 30 days, 10 days, 7 days. Publication of minutes, ordinances etc., should be lengthened due to counties where only newspaper is produced 1 or 2 weekly. Timelines difficult when certain days needed omitted. Budget & hearing dates relative to FY are non-relative at certification dates. NDOR prolonged 1 & 6 year plans. DEQ, DED, NHHS administrative orders, compliance & inefficient regulatory date sequences. Rural fire districts & community FD should be one. Eliminate merger laws cause they cause control problems of "I". By legislation, FD districts should be taxed as 1 unit like a school district cause the rural & city must cover this large area - abuse has taken place where a rural district does not fund its share & leaves it on the city. If one authority taxed like school, those heavily developed areas would be paying the proportionate share. To solve the budget issue then would be to leave the authority to the community budget as a separate budget/lid levy issue - very simple & would bring balancing unity.
Good example:
rural district 132 mil valuation, .032 debt & operating/ \$100 valuation
city 26 mil valuation, .25 debt .07 operating = .32/\$100 valuation.
Disproportionate levies to valuation because of high development which can not be annexed due to distance limitations & poor infrastructure of roads by developers. Developer issues now improved in county zoning but doesn't correct past problems created. Secondly poor management by rural districts not including growth in lid calculations to use restricted as needed.
2. Public hearings, notices.
3. Spending lids -tax lids - restricted funds disallow local choice of when, how much.

Council Chair

1. The new tax levy limit bills.

2. Residential electrical inspection requirements. Formulation of water districts by municipalities should be allowed w/o excess baggage, i.e. interlocals, etc.
3. b. DEQ.
4. Whenever you send us regs. & decisions that require a lawyer to interpret, you are not doing us a favor or being efficient. We resent it when you tell us to be efficient, but you're not. We see an unfair double standard. And unfunded mandates! Don't get me started.
5. Water issues, amount of tax dollars to villages.
6. Health and Human Service drinking water dept.
7. Several years ago we received a \$250,000 block grant to do street improvements, that we matched with \$250,000 of local funds. We have since done around \$120,000 worth of similar improvements without a grant & found out cost per block of new asphalt overlay was less 1/2 of the cost per block with our grant project. Engineering, administration & unnecessary improvements to meet grant guidelines totaled more than grant benefits.
8. There are many small villages in Nebraska that are having the same lagoon problem as we are, however, you are told to correct the problem, when you can't afford it, but you cannot get any type of help to help pay for & solve the problem at hand. It's left on the small town or village to come-up-with-the money. I don't see why all the tax money this state receives cannot be used to help the smaller villages. If it were a state park or trail, I know we would receive help, so where are priorities at, loosing a town or building another park. We need help from someone & assistance. We cannot just do it on our own.
9. We've been faced with any of these situations as a village.
10. Lids - if state mandates, they should also provide funds. Try to work with not control & demand.
11. The lids put on us are nothing but a big Joke. There are so many ways to get around them and we're all pretty conservative so we don't overspend anyhow.
12. The spending lid.
13. Some of the requirements for testing the water system.
14. Dept. of Health.
15. Any of the costly mandates or regulations that create unfair economic development advantages that directly or indirectly force consolidations, that eliminate or prevent

basic common practice services in the small rural communities. Local control is 'not' state mandates requiring local entities to be squeezed until they close the local services.

16. Lid law.
17. 1% tax lid.
18. It is a burden for small villages to hire or train certified law enforcement. Small villages cannot afford the wages it takes to keep law officers in town. I think it would be more efficient to have a 2 or 3 day school that is required each year for part time officers and have them report to the county sheriff or state patrol. Water testing has become an added burden and will be worse if we are required to test for more materials and lower levels. If you have good water records, the testing should be lessened.
19. Annual audits. Changing of ordinances costs villages a lot of money. The Department of Environmental Quality is out of control.
20. 4b. Water samples sent to state lab are more expensive than samples submitted to local labs. The cost of sampling is a problem for small villages.
21. Lid limits.
22. I would like to see the DEQ take more measures to assure water quality when hog confinements & other potential sources of contamination are present.
23. Water regs.

City Attorney

1. DEQ, Health & Human Service, Water Quality.
2. a. Lid laws, Commission on Industrial Relations.
b. DEQ, liquor commission.
c. Maple v city of Omaha.
3. Amend 17-505 from \$100.00 to \$ 1000.00 per day. This statute hasn't been changed since 1929.
4. Liquor - no local control, mandates on time to respond. DEQ - any type of permit is extremely slow.
5. Reporting requirements for local operations and other informational reporting requests not necessary for the local functions.

6. Again interference generally lessens efficiency although it is not necessary bad.
7. Budget limitations guarantee that all of the money will be spent each year. No incentive to save or spend according to need.
8. a. Water testing & dump requirements - abhorrent in small towns & villages.
b. DEQ & State Auditor.
c. Too numerous to cite.
9. Unfunded state mandates, HHS, DMV.
10. Liquor license laws.
11. Municipal budget forms are difficult to understand by the employees and governing boards. They have reached the point where professional help has to be hired to complete the forms. This is an expense a small village cannot afford
12. b. Budgets are, at best, difficult to complete and practically meaningless to board members.
a. Lids for spending have, in effect, created spending floors. Municipalities tax as much as possible under the lid with little or no consideration to needs.

Police Chief

1. 4a & 4b - any unfunded legislation and/or regulation is a barrier. Any action that the majority of people within the municipality do not agree with is a barrier.
2. Spending lids are enforced when state cannot balance or cut budget.
3. The facts are not always clear before a decision is made.
4. Water testing and associated paper work.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. Budget dates.
2. a. Being we're responsible to the people of the community, & those people are on the board, all of the state restrictions on budgeting & auditing are actually a waste of time & dollars to fulfill.
c. Court decision recommendation has made our attorney very hesitant to condemn property.
3. Nude dancing.
4. Water regulation & testing constantly.

5. Same as 3d above.
6. Too many laws aimed at large places that smaller places have to conform to, & they can't afford it. Soon it won't be "Nebraska the good life;" it will be only "Nebraska the large life". How about small schools? All are having to close!!!
7. I am not all that sure of what is specific. However, I am sure you will receive many specifics.
 - c. Tax refunds to railroads, utilities, etc.
8. HHS - water testing.
9. Grants & loans on water projects; in order to get these monies, certain regulations, like raising rates are mandated. This needs to be left to local control.
10. Lid limits and tax caps. Dept. of Health - water
11. DEQ is controlled by a board that has a lot to gain by allowing hog confinements & doing operations. We have been told that one of the board members owns a lot of hog confinements.
12.
 - a. The handling of handicapped parking permits - it was much more efficient when issued from the clerk's office of the municipality.
 - b. The Liquor Commission for the granting of liquor licenses; the town administration knows the person applying and if another license is of an advantage for our area. I realize that a small community could better govern the above regulations, where a large community could not. They wouldn't know everyone and would not have the system to check the person's record.
13. The lid law has made work difficult in some villages.
14. 1114 - this has made it difficult for villages to fulfill their needs, especially streets & general maintenance required such as salaries for maintenance, parks, other hired employees. I think the cut was too drastic.
15. Our budget must be filed before our fiscal year is over. You have made using exact figures impossible. If you are going to replace property taxes with non-equalization funding in part, make the figures more reliable. Change the timeline for payments to something better than after budgets are filed!
16. The cost of water testing is outrageous for small villages! And now the tests are even more sensitive, & our water system is getting older. We need more monies to help pay for all this, or the state should reduce rates according to size of municipality.
17. The current budget form is too difficult for the average clerk/treasurer to complete. This results in higher costs to small towns that cannot afford it.

18. Tax & levy lids.
19. Ordinances needing to be read 3 times at same meetings to be passed.
20. The lid law. Why can't it be the choice of the people what their property tax is? They vote and elect officials to make these decisions, plus they have the right to attend meetings & budget hearings to help guide these decisions. How can the state dictate \$ when utilities, etc. keep going up? How does the state leg know what is good for each community in Nebraska?
21. Too many laws, state officials don't even know what the laws are.
22. Our law enforcement is contracted w/ the county. We pay a lot for what we feel is little coverage. We would like to see the constable bill pushed forward.
23. We have people moving here from Colorado & Kansas because they want to live safely in a small community. Our pool, parks, etc. are a good asset to our community, but with lid limits, it may be hard to provide these services in the near future.
24. Sanitation requirements for small towns.
25. Too much time is allotted from the time notice is given to when a city can begin to act.
26. Forms not being in layman terms so as to answer inquires correctly.

Q5a. Are here activities that your municipality would like to engage in but are not authorized to do so by state law? If yes, what are these activities?

Metro, Primary, and First Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. Yes, we would like to own and operate our cable television facilities.
2. Ownership & development of industrial area.
3. Various, e.g. control of speeds on state highways within city.
4. Property insurance, self insurance.
5. Acquire land for industrial park and financial support of ED without necessity for LB840.
6. Cable TV - fiber (use of NPPD's fiber system).
7. Professional, county-wide law enforcement with appointed staff. Telecommunications jointly with private sector.
8. Cable television, telecommunications.
9. Cable provider.
10. Cable TV, Internet, own industrial parks.
11. 1. Economic development. 2. Fees for service charges. 3. Human resource compensation and management (CIR).
12. Operate or regulate cable TV.
13. Cable TV & natural gas distribution.
14. CDBG grants - income level guidelines are restrictive.

Council Chair

1. Increased gambling.
2. Local can only recommend on liquor denials.
3. Cable TV.

City Attorney

1. Gaming.
2. Cable TV.
3. Some would like to invest in more volatile & risky investments.
4. An example is red light cameras.
5. There are those issues the public expects the cities to be able to do, but there is a prohibition. I can't articulate anything right now.
6. Ownership and operation of CATV & telecom facilities & services.
7. Regulation and issuance of liquor licenses.

Mayor

1. Home rule.
2. Telecommunications.
3. All municipalities are different.
4. Revolving loan programs for TIF districts, establishing TIF districts & capturing new taxes generated by all new development in district, not limited to each approved TIF project. This would provide opportunity to create large enough funding source to make major infrastructure improvements.

Police Chief

1. Public-private partnering with telephone companies to provide state of the art e-commerce capability to our business. We have an online company here that is now doing business worldwide and are tied to antiquated T-1 phone lines. If we could get them fiber optic, we could help them double the size of their business overnight, but we are prevented from doing so by the Public Service Commission.
2. 1. Provide cable TV service to citizens. 2. County-wide law enforcement.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. Some of the specific activities deemed unauthorized by the Accountability & Disclosure Commission: flowers for a city employee's funeral! Meal reimbursement for "in-town" city business. Mileage rate different than IRS regulations.

Activities your municipality would like to engage in.

2. Telecommunications, cable TV.
3. Telecommunication services.
4. Telecommunications utilities.

Second Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. Purchase health insurance jointly with other communities.
2. Pooling with other entities to get lower health insurance premiums.
3. Home rule, investments, ownership of cable TV, phone system, investment of funds.
4. Pooling health insurance purchasing with other cities.
5. Expenditures for economic development.
6. Insurance pool for health.
7. Telecommunications.
8. Telecommunication for one.
9. Telecommunications, possibly cable TV.
10. I would like to see performance evaluations off limits (& stated so) to mayor & council except for the administrator. It gets so complicated as everyone has different ideas as to how evaluations should be completed. Also the mayor & council do not work with employees on a daily basis. Council duties need to be set out more clearly so that "micro-managing" is out. It seems everyone I talk to has this same problem being able to use "limited" city funds to sponsor chamber functions or donate to a good cause - to be able to help sponsor local "aid" benefits, etc.
11. Cable TV, telephone.
12. Cable TV service.

Council Chair

1. See above regarding expenditure of city money owned utility dollars.
2. Property tax rebate! Current lid laws stifle productive reductions in property taxes. Lids are a restriction to efficiently run municipalities.
3. Broad band Internet service.
4. Help local business with tax exemptions.
5. Operate cable co.

City Attorney

1. Help encourage business immigration with governmental incentives such as reduced/free sewer, water, solid waste.
2. Own a telecommunication license, especially cable TV. Local government should be able to do anything not prohibited by statute.
3. Fiber optic communications.
4. City dump, burn dump.
5. Operation of business other than medical facilities to raise revenue. Creation of public works without burdensome engineering costs.
6. Cable TV.
7. Allow municipalities to offer their own cable TV franchises.
8. 1. Buying products or services w/o formal bidding - limit should be raised to \$50,000.
2. Municipality should be able to develop residential bldg. lots for sale.
9. Cable television services.
10. Telephone, cable TV.
11. Gambling.
12. Create sinking funds for ambulance, fire trucks and other large expenditures. Some purposes are specifically allowed by statute, but other purposes are not specifically allowed, even though their purpose seems equally as important.

Mayor

1. Property tax rebates.
2. Cable TV.
3. 1. Recognition of exceptional citizen and employee efforts. 2. Acceptable dumps for non-contaminating solid wastes such as construction & demolition materials. 3. Recognize crime victim rights over criminal rights.
4. Control our cable television & electronic communication.
5. Gambling.

6. Health insurance pool, cable TV ownership, phone ownership.
7. Health insurance.
8. More freedom to meet the needs.
10. Health insurances coop between city and county.
11. Policing our community by officers not certified should be 2 year instead of 1. They get certificate and leave because of pay. Can't complain about that except they are using small communities & leaving for bigger communities. It is a constant problem. The state sort of forces this problem. We can't fully fund a program to keep officers.

Police Chief

1. Being able to provide awards to exceptional employees (plaques, certificates, monies, etc.) by using public funds.
2. The option of having local police contract to police county-wide if so desired.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. Cable TV.
2. Employee recognition functions.
3. Not personally, but some municipalities need ability to provide cable TV & other communication services for computers since service not available locally.
4. Cable TV.
5. Have a landfill and incinerator. Set up street district w/out having to go through that whole process in statute. Purchase bonds for improvements w/out having to worry about budget constraints.
6. Pooling of health insurance for municipalities.
7. State health insurance for all municipal employees.
8. I would like municipalities to pool together for health insurance. The majority of muni's have BC/BS as a carrier. I would like to see us in a pool together so that we may gain some bargaining power. Our health insurance premium increased 34% this year. Since we started the plan 4 years ago, the premium has increased approximately 90%. The county is a member of a group made up of other Nebraska counties, and their increase was limited to 9% due to the efforts and strength of their pool.

9. Group health insurance with other cities. Some disposal of property.
10. It needs to have a recreation center for the kids, but we don't have the funds to meet, even to match a grant. But in a small community there isn't anything for the kids to do to keep them out of trouble.
11. Possibly local income tax & gambling tax.
12. Services not provided by private sector. Business operation for profit.

Villages

Administrator or Manager

1. Due to the delay of \$ spent versus obligated funds deters communities from improving infrastructure health issues which are regulated by other agencies (i.e. DED \$ for sewer plant; 2nd admin order for water; can't apply for \$ assistance till \$ spent versus obligated thus 3rd problem undetermined streets sinking). Planning must be allowed, & if community spends \$ before release of funds those local \$ spent don't count toward match thus increasing costs. Cross-matching funds DEQ/DED etc. not allowed. This is a hardship for small villages & 2nd class cities where the debt ratio/capita becomes overly burdensome.
2. Telecommunications.

Council Chair

1. Buy & sell real estate without restrictions.
2. Increase tax base to support village services (street repair, etc.).
3. Not sure, but probably.
4. Paying board members for work they do.
5. We need low income housing but do not have a grocery store.
6. Budget limitations - only local govt. knows what they need & can afford.
7. Purchase health insurance collectively.
8. Bingo.
9. The low-to-moderate income levels on grants & funds hurt small communities. We must use our entire village to apply for funds. Cities such as Omaha, Lincoln, etc. can section off a small part of their city and apply.
10. Expanded gaming/gambling activities.

City Attorney

1. Linkage fees or development fees to help fund the cost of new development.
2. Want to work more directly in economic & business development efforts but can't.
3. Have a local law enforcement marshal w/out full training. Local dump.

Latest Legislature: water but using DEQ to enforce. What is this?

4. Controlling their own budget.
5. Gambling – possibly.

Clerk Treasurer

1. Invest in more aggressive investments and not be limited to bank CDs and savings. I'm not saying municipalities should play the stock market but perhaps mutual funds.
2. 1. Telecommunications, cable. Alltel does not allow all services to rural residents (i.e. voicemail). I was told it could not be done in Fairmont as switching equipment was only in York and would have to dial a York (long distance) number to get my messages. If this was a municipal owned system, the possibility might exist to offer this type of system. Profit to shareholders is not all that important.
3. Controlling the polluting of our water table.
4. Burning of paper, leaves, etc. I realize that in larger communities w/large populations, SMOKE is not good. Here it seems to be no bother, except now that things are so dry?!
5. Gambling, we are losing too much revenue to neighboring states.

Q7. Please share any comments or views you have about the discretionary authority that currently is available to Nebraska municipalities.

Metro, Primary, and First Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. Expand sales tax base to reduce property tax. Increase municipal sales tax rate to 2% (will decrease reliance on property tax).
2. There is very little discretionary authority available to cities.
3. Home rule would enable us to be more responsive locally. Just looking at the issuance of governance, we have only 3 fixed options- mayor/council form, city manager form, commissions. We have no legal authority to "tweak" the system to fit our needs. Use of revenue - state has too much discretion in how locals can spend local revenue - i.e. motor vehicle fee must be used for streets, MIRF cannot be used for streets.
4. There is far too little discretionary authority given to local elected officials.
5. Some common sense built into laws would be more helpful. Very little state aid is returned to cities in comparison to other government entities. Quit penalizing progressive communities.

Council Chair

1. Municipalities have no local control at all on liquor license.

City Attorney

1. In general, it seems that cities with professional managers are able to function quite well.
2. I recognize authority of municipalities devolves from the state.
3. Because of the geometric increase of "special interest" legislation on both federal & state levels, the ability of local govt. to meet the needs of the citizens is vanishing.

Mayor

1. 1. Flood plan regulations need to be reviewed. 2. Community childcare regulations are not adequate and conflict with local zoning standards, need to be up-dated.

Police Chief

1. Too much grant money is siphoned off at the state level. The money needs to go directly to the agencies.
2. Roads/highway improvements.
3. I feel that our municipalities have a great deal of discretionary authority in our state. I don't know that we need more. What we need is a sense of local responsibility, i.e. remove the spending/taxing lid and let each community regulate their tax base. I think state regulations should be in place for certain elements of local government, e.g. civil service, retirement, etc., but I would like to see a range of acceptability. This would allow each municipality to decide for themselves how to govern, within a "scope" of regulatory oversight.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. Citizens should be able to decide how to fund and carry out development activities. Let the local people decide how they are taxed locally.

Second Class Cities

Administrator or Manager

1. 6a. Lid bill on property taxes.
6b. Water testing fees - landfill regulation, copper law & other water testing regulations.
2. Nebraska has no authority - look to Kansas for examples & let local officials govern. The state Legislature should worry about itself. Local govt. is a joke because state law does not allow local elected or appointed officials to make most decisions.
3. b. State Treasurer's office deposited grant funds (\$200,000) into wrong account at another bank. Waiting +4 weeks for a request for funds to pay a contractor.
4. Nebraska municipalities are too restricted, let the locally elected officials make the decisions impacting their community ... it is they who must face the local taxpayer every day. Let them (officials) be accountable.
5. The state Legislature seems to act as the "Big Brother", knowing what's best for municipalities. Cities have elected officials who should have the ability to do what they believe is best. They are closer to the populous & have a better idea of local needs & wants. The state Legislature spends too much time trying to cure symptoms rather than disease.
6. Municipalities should have the authority to set the property tax rate that will best serve the citizens. The local elected and appointed officials are more aware of the needs of their municipality than the state Legislature.
7. The legislators seem to have convinced themselves that municipalities are incapable of governing their own communities. If local voters elect council members, it is the responsibility of the local voter to make their voices heard locally. The State should not decide what is best for local communities.
8. I think the budget has become so complex the past few years no layman can understand it, with having to be in compliance with the lid levy form & also the lid computation form instead of just a flat lid. I also wish the state would require all entities with a mayor/council form of government to have the head person as "administrator" - not some being that some such as mine or whatever. I feel there are too many restrictions about how you can spend money - I agree there needs to be tight auditing but as long as each entity keeps "strict" records of expenditures, we could loosen up regs. a little.
9. Solid waste program.

Council Chair

1. For the most part, the laws on the books are in the best interest of the municipalities. If we feel they are not, we can use the League of Municipalities to lobby the legislators for a change.
2. What discretionary authority. Actions locally are extensively mandated. States should back off, & federal decisions should return to states their own discretionary decisions.
3. Budget process should be made simpler to understand.
4. Seems like the development group is hard to please. Takes too long for them to make up their minds - nobody wants to commit themselves & say yes, go for it!
5. We have several condemned buildings in our city that are near impossible to dispose of. Cost prohibitive because of burning and landfill regulations.

City Attorney

1. For efficiency, local government should be able to do anything not prohibited by statutes.
2. It would seem that municipalities have very little discretionary authority when budget limits and lids barely permit a city to provide basic services. Without the ability to provide services comparable to Lincoln and Omaha, small towns will continue to lose population and tax base.
3. Government is too splintered. To cap wells in a wellhead protection area, co-ordination is complex among the various entities with partial jurisdiction. Repairing a municipal building can involve compliance with the ADA, engineers and architects, waste disposal issues, fire marshals, historical society, bids and bonds. Clerks in smaller communities are ill equipped to weave their way through the maze.
4. Too much restriction on ability to obtain funds for municipalities with little valuation.
5. We need to offer incentives for increased pooling of resources by municipalities in services that are offered. A system of grants to facilitate combining essential services and relief from budget and levy caps during the period of readjustment would probably be helpful. We need to be proactive in dealing with deregulation of electric power to be sure that the smaller municipalities understand and are prepared for future changes.

Mayor

1. Local control should be returned, from Washington on down. How can they or the state create all encompassing legislation with no alternatives? Give cities a voice in state decisions, don't condescend.
2. Municipalities should be allowed to act as needed without having to post advance notices and run advertisement.
3. Municipalities are different. We have different strengths, resources, and goals. "One size fits all" can discourage local incentive.
4. State govt. wants too much control - let local officials govern locally.
5. Very little discretionary authority exists. If the state Unicameral hasn't passed a law allowing the city to do something, then we can't. It is not a good system.
6. Every year, change in city government financial reporting - lids, etc.
7. Policing.

Police Chief

1. There aren't enough to discuss - everything is controlled.
2. Our local economy is depressed. We have several closed businesses. We need direction & financial help to draw & keep businesses. The chamber, development authority & city council do little or nothing to encourage growth.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. a. Requirements of engineers on certain projects. b. Water regulation.
2. I find very little that I consider discretionary - I would like to see home rule.
3. Just as I said before. The small communities are losing out to the bigger cities in the state for the funding & aid to help the communities to stay alive and not die.
4. Some of the unfunded mandates that are required for municipalities are a heavy burden to small communities.

Villages

Council Chair

1. Grant applications are slowed by the 90% spending rule - this hinders & extends projects which are vital or of administrative orders which one can't control. Signed contracts are obligated & spent - funds delay increases costs & sometimes forces overruns & project delays which then cost taxpayers.
2. Water testing bills are skyrocketing. Difficult for small towns with the required testing.
3. We have a burned out house that we cannot get cleaned up - the state health dept should be able to help as it is a child hazard & mouse & rat nest. Animal control is of concern to the governing body.
4. Regarding survey: question #1, hard to answer as I feel many legislators are trying very hard to do the "best right thing". However, the majority of legislators being from Lincoln to Omaha and yes, the fishhook across Nebraska, has allowed for unfair advantages to the larger cities. This is seen in economic development, attacks on small schools, Federal Balance Budget Act on small hospitals, large corporate advantages, etc. And where small communities have no paid or very minimally paid (volunteers) boards, it makes it very tough to keep up. This is not the state's fault but can be devastating to a community.
5. Grant money seems to be restricted to the administrative part of projects rather than the "hardware" side too often. Specs also are possibly too tight.

City Attorney

1. I am unsure as to what you mean by "discretionary authority" I would venture to guess that whatever is meant, municipalities have too much. A city can do the best job for its citizens and economy by clarifying and moderating its land use policy and codes, maintaining its infrastructure, providing sound basic services. Municipalities should not (a) bid for industries, (b) participate in gaming, (c) underwrite sports facilities (that they won't control).
2. Villages like ours have a good deal of discretionary authority but limited resources and expertise to deal with many of issues we face. More intergovernmental cooperation is the obvious solution to me. But our board reveres local control and wants us to go it alone most of the time.
3. It seems we have very little discretionary authority. CDBG grant programs favor larger communities, and smaller communities are stuck with the trouble and expense of laws, rules and regulations designed for others.

4. Small villages have virtually none. There have been many things which would have been done - sales of property, fund raising re-development - but too many snags cropped up & fervor died. Sorry but nothing real specific jumps out except law enforcement.
5. Village boards need broad discretionary authority to do their jobs.

Clerk/Treasurer

1. This is a small village unable to participate in some of these activities due to regulations. No full time employees & high total assessed valuations preclude block grants, etc.
2. I am new to this position - my experience is limited.
3. I feel that since municipalities are given their power by the state, the Legislature feels they have final say in what municipalities can do. If that is the case, the next time I have a dog complaint, I'll tell the person to call Senator Coordsen's Office.
4. Common sense should be used, as all villages & cities have different needs, & rules & laws do not fit all & may cause a burden to some.
5. Our water testing has become a real burden and an expense.
6. They are always changing what needs to be done to file a budget. Adding the work of auditing our 457 plan.
7. The water tests are good examples. Municipalities should be left to the decision making of the local people. State government - legislative and administrative - has closed our small schools, taken away local authority and wants to do the same with the small towns.
8. Municipalities are divided into categories according to size (village, 2nd class, 1st class). What holds true for a village of 1000 may not for a village under 160.