

centum upon the assessable basis of such County, and to issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness for the same, in such sums and payable at such times as may be prescribed; provided that any bond issue or borrowing of money in any one year in excess of one-fourth of one per cent. of the assessable basis shall be submitted to the voters of the county for approval under regulations to be prescribed.

(R) *County Officers.*

To provide for the appointment and removal of all County officers except those whose appointment or election is provided for by the Constitution or Public General Law, and to establish a merit system, if deemed desirable, in connection with the appointment of all County officials and employees not elected or appointed under the Constitution and the Public General Laws; to fix the qualifications and term of office of such County executive authority as may be established, and to fix its compensation.

(S) *Protection of County Credit.*

To prevent the credit of the County in any manner being given or loaned to or in aid of any individual, association or corporation.

(T) *Amendment of County Charter.*

To pass any ordinance facilitating the amendment of the County Charter by vote of the electors of the County and agreeable to Article XIX of the Constitution.

The foregoing or other enumeration of powers in this Article shall not be held to limit the power of the County Council, in addition thereto, to pass all ordinances, resolutions or by-laws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article or the laws of the State, as may be proper in executing and enforcing any of the powers enumerated in this section or elsewhere in this Article, as well as such ordinances as may be deemed expedient in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of the County.

Provided, that the powers herein granted shall only be exercised to the extent that the same are not provided for by Public General Law; provided, however, that no power to legislate shall be given with reference to licensing, regulating, prohibiting or submitting to local option, the manufacture or sale of malt or spirituous liquors.

1918, ch. 456, sec. 4.

4. Any judicial declaration of the invalidity or unconstitutionality of any clause or power herein set forth shall not be construed to declare invalid any other part of this Article or of this Article as a whole.