

**Foreign scientific consultant's review of the PhD thesis
by Tatyana Nikolayevna Pupysheva titled "Institutional Conditions for the
Formation of a System of Self-Government in Rural Districts," submitted for the
degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
in the specialty 8D04103 "State and Local Government"**

The importance of examining institutional factors in establishing a self-governing system in rural regions stems from the necessity to transition from a centralized governance model to a more inclusive approach to local development. Presently, the effectiveness of public policy depends on local communities' capacity to manage local issues, which requires a well-defined legal and organizational framework.

For the Republic of Kazakhstan, this issue is particularly significant within the context of the country's political modernization initiatives led by its authorities. The subject gains further importance in the Rural Development Program for 2023–2027, which regards self-governance as a means to modernize infrastructure and improve living standards in rural regions. This necessitates adequate institutional support, including financial independence and expanded authority for local self-government entities. In the absence of appropriate institutional conditions, rural districts may remain merely administrative units rather than evolve into proactive contributors to economic growth. Consequently, it is imperative to analyze institutional barriers and develop recommendations to surmount them, thereby ensuring the sustainability of Kazakhstan's political system.

In this context, the dissertation by Tatyana Nikolayevna Pupysheva, titled "Institutional Conditions for the Formation of a System of Self-Government in Rural Districts," is crucial in establishing the theoretical and methodological framework of local self-governance.

The author clearly states the research objective, systematically organizes the goals, and provides well-supported responses to the research questions, thereby emphasizing the methodical nature of the study.

The dissertation presents a clear, consistent, and logical structure. It shows breadth and universality by using a comparative-prognostic analytical approach to the research problem.

The dissertation's content matches its title, and its structure follows a logical flow in addressing the research objectives and presenting the findings. This supports the main goal of developing theoretical, methodological, and practical recommendations to improve the self-governance system in rural districts of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The study uses a variety of modern economic research methods, including systems thinking, traditional scientific techniques combined with economic analysis, economic-statistical approaches, graphical methods, as well as PEST and

SWOT tools. This allows the author to firmly support proposals for improving the local self-government system in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The scientific provisions, conclusions, and recommendations in the dissertation are based on systematic analysis results, suitable analytical and forecasting calculations, and statistical data, all thoroughly supported by the candidate.

The scientific novelty of this research lies in the conceptual validation and advancement of practical mechanisms to transform the institutional environment of rural self-governance in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The following findings highlight a notable level of scientific innovation: strengthening the research's theoretical and methodological framework by combining classical theories of local self-government with modern public administration paradigms, thereby enabling the adaptation of core principles of municipalism to changing public management systems; developing a methodological approach for the study of local self-government grounded in an adapted "multi-layered model" (in accordance with M. Saunders' methodology), which enables an analysis of the diversity of principles, factors, and models of local self-government; establishing a comprehensive set of institutional measures and a proposed model for the organizational structure of local self-governance bodies within rural districts, incorporating local ombudsmen and representative bodies (Keneses); with the objective of strengthening the foundations of local self-governance, ensuring a balanced relationship between the executive and legislative branches, and enhancing public oversight; proposing economic measures and advocacy tools for budgets that support the fiscal sustainability of rural districts, thereby serving as a basis for local self-governance; and developing strategies to increase civic participation through proactive government initiatives bodies, thereby increasing the engagement of local communities in self-governance processes within rural districts.

The validity of the scientific provisions, conclusions, and recommendations is verified through their practical application. The dissertation's main findings and proposals are applicable in real-world settings and can support the development of the local self-government system in Kazakhstan. Specifically, they can be considered and utilized in the legislative process and in creating, refining, and implementing strategies, programs, and concepts related to public and local governance.

Therefore, after a thorough review of T. N. Pupysheva's dissertation, it is justified to conclude that all scientific assertions, conclusions, and recommendations are well-founded, reliable, and logically derived from a comprehensive analysis.

Throughout the research, Tatyana Nikolayevna Pupysheva demonstrated her expertise as a highly qualified specialist in the development of effective self-governance systems in rural districts. She can identify issues and propose suitable solutions. The process highlighted her creative and practical approach, along with a solid understanding of the theoretical framework.

Having considered the aforementioned, it can be concluded that the dissertation submitted by doctoral candidate T. N. Pupysheva on the topic “Institutional Conditions for the Formation of a System of Self-Government in Rural Districts” constitutes an independent and comprehensive scholarly work. This work satisfies the criteria for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and is suitable for approval for defense in order to confer the PhD in the specialty 8D04103 “State and Local Government”.

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