



# Where Local Government is and going!

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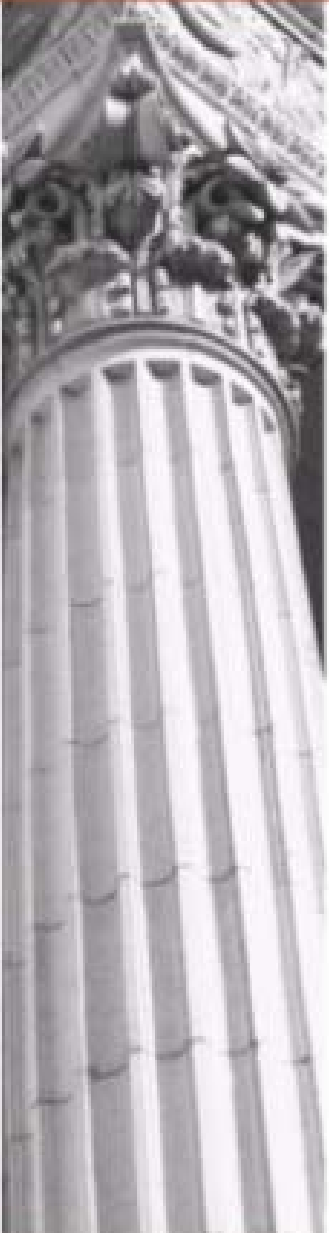
**May 13, 2013**



## Citizens Research Council of Michigan

- Founded in 1916
- Statewide
- Nonpartisan
- Private not-for-profit
- Promotes sound policy for state and local governments through factual research
- Relies on charitable contributions from Michigan foundations, businesses, organizations, and individuals





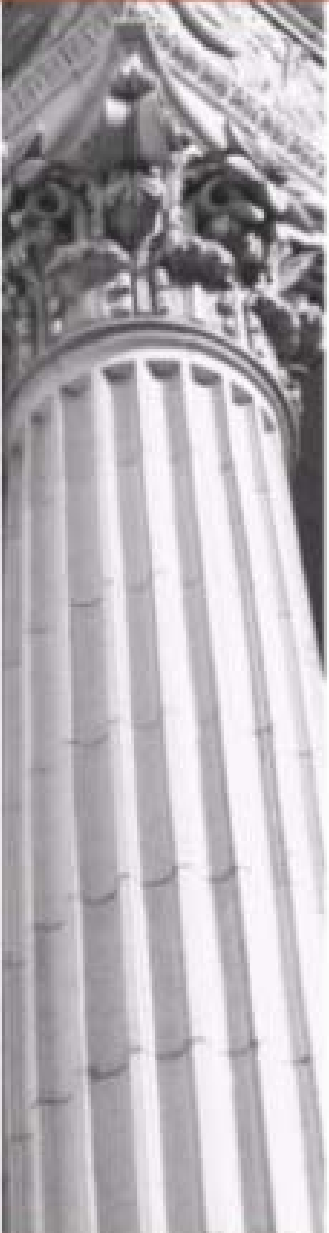
## **What I hope to accomplish:**

- **Describe the structure of local government in Michigan**
- **Explain the issues associated with the structure of local government**
- **Describe some solutions that have been (or should be) tossed about**



## General-Purpose v Special-Purpose Local Government

- **General Purpose** – Authorized to provide a broad range of government services
  - Counties
  - Cities
  - Villages
  - Townships
- **Special Purpose** – Authorized to provide a single government service
  - School Districts (K12, ISDs, Comm Coll)
  - Special Authorities/Districts



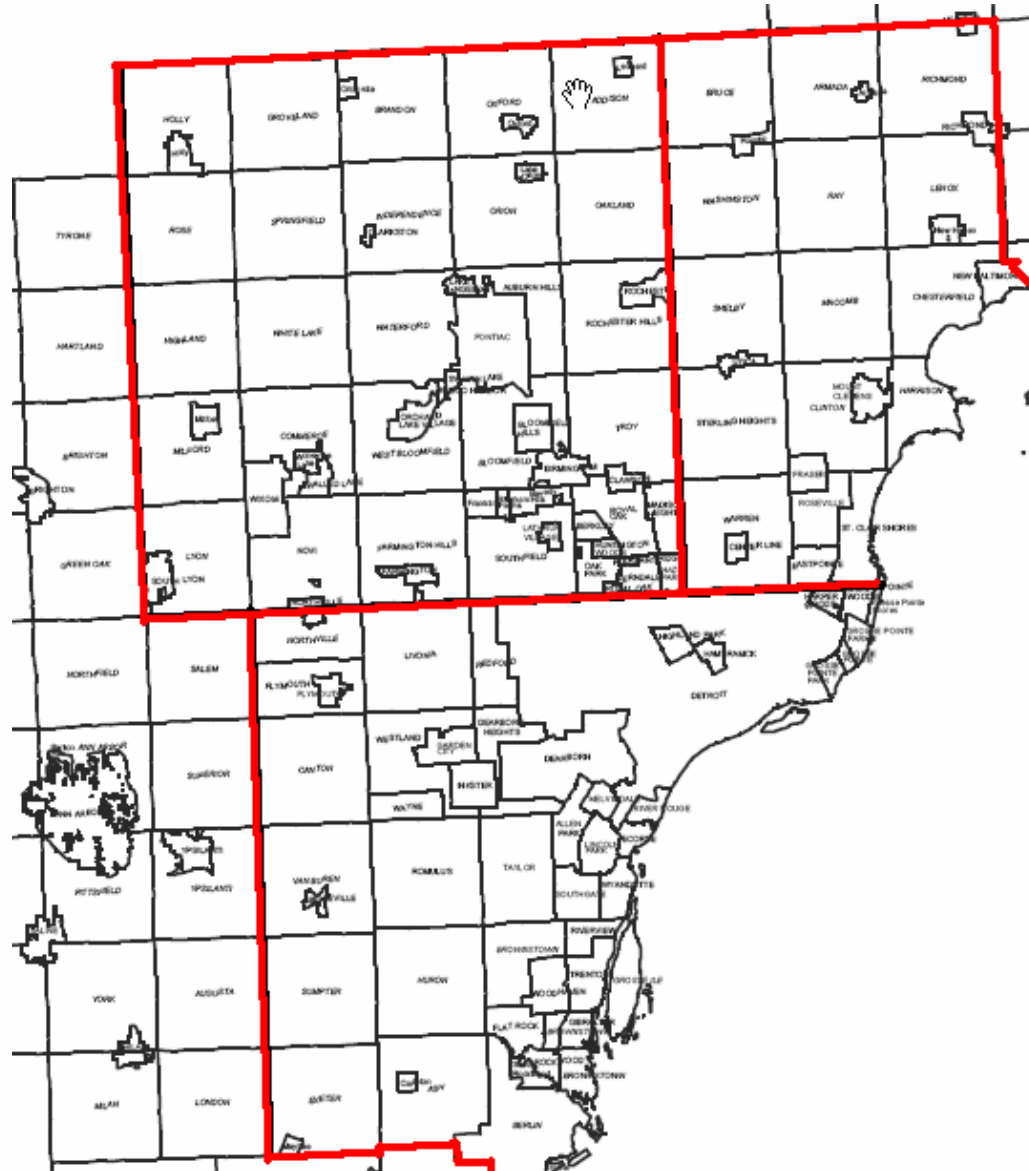


## Michigan's General-Purpose Government

Counties		83
Townships		1,240
Cities	275	
Villages	<u>260</u>	
Sub-total Cities and Villages		<u>535</u>
Total General Purpose Units		1,858



# CITIZENS RESEARCH COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN





## Michigan's Special-Purpose Government

### Education

School Districts	549
Public School Academies	256
Intermediate School Districts	57
Community College Districts	<u>28</u>

Sub-total Education 890

Special Authorities (as of 2012) 445

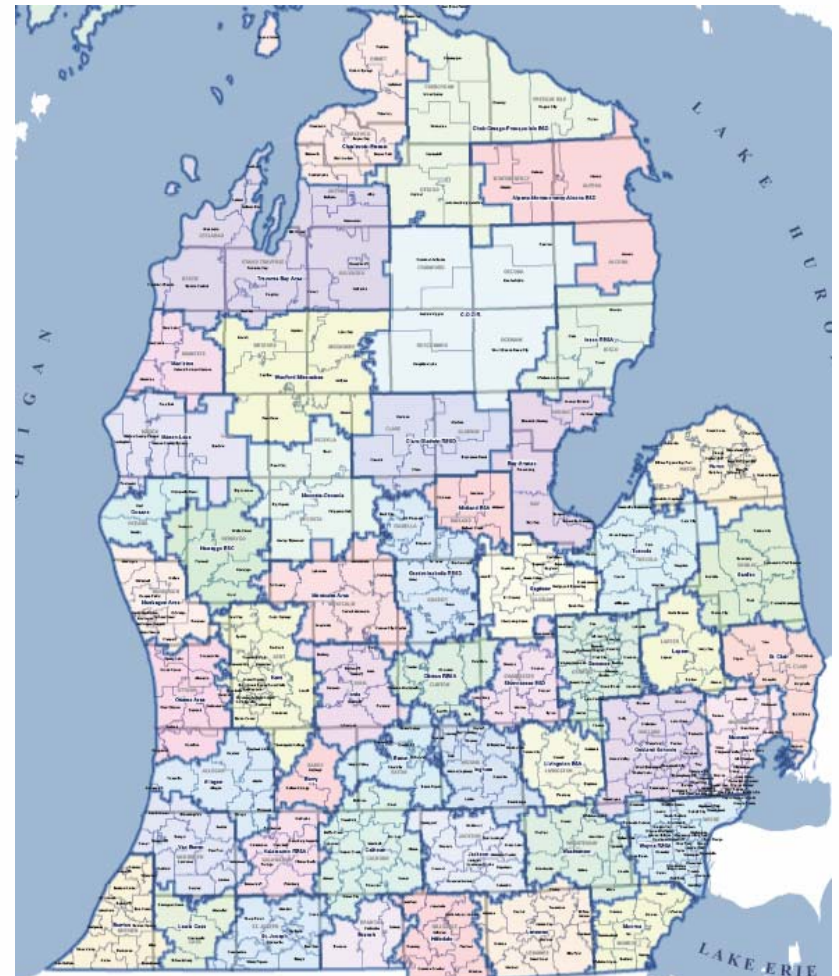
Total 1,335





## School Districts and ISDs in the Lower Peninsula

- Intermediate School Districts are like counties for school districts

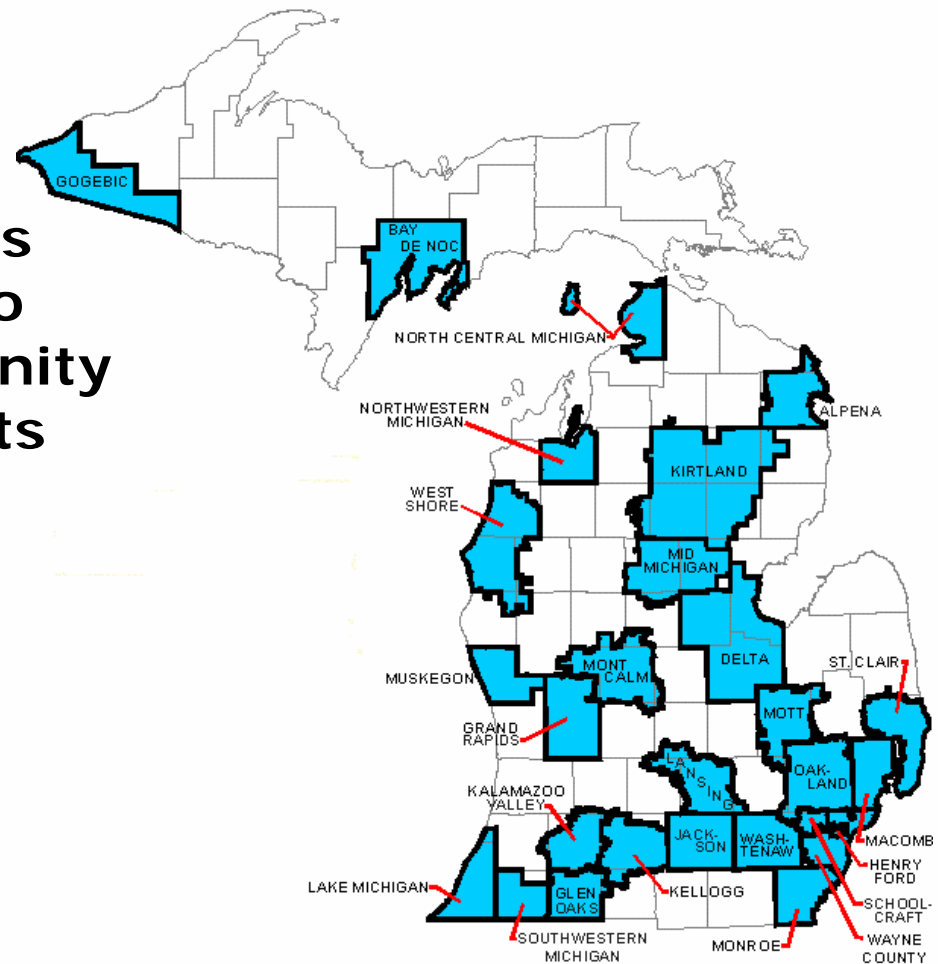






## Community College Districts

- School districts get together to create community college districts





## Special Authorities

- Downriver Community Conference
- CLEMIS – Public Safety
- The Library Network
- Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
- Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART)
- Alliance of Rouge Communities

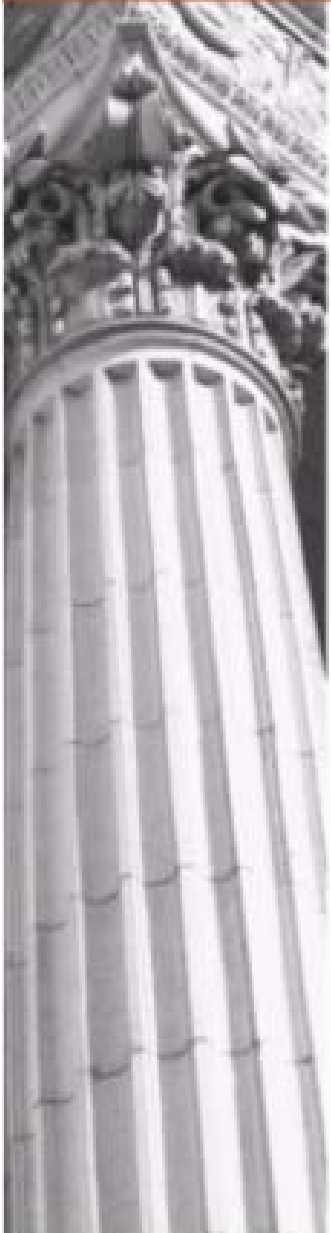




# Issues

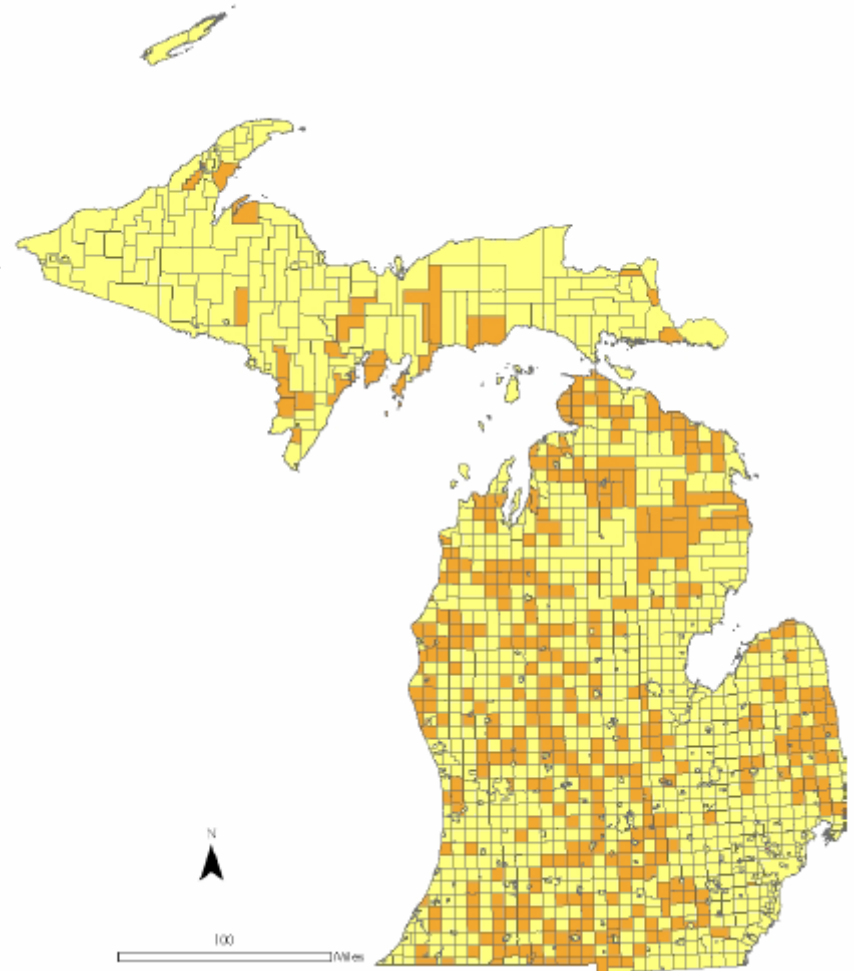
**What is wrong with Michigan's system of local government?**





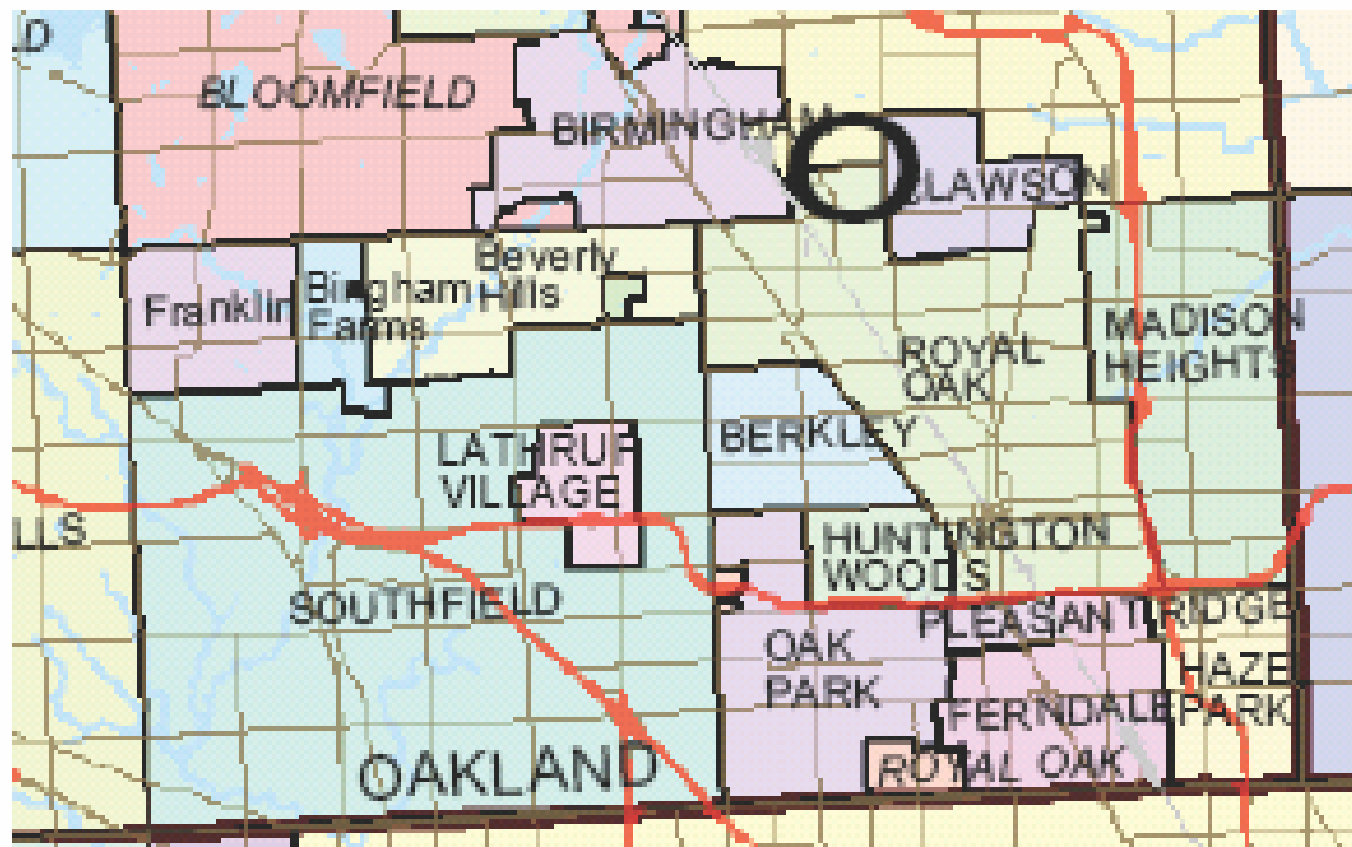
## Evolving Sense of Place

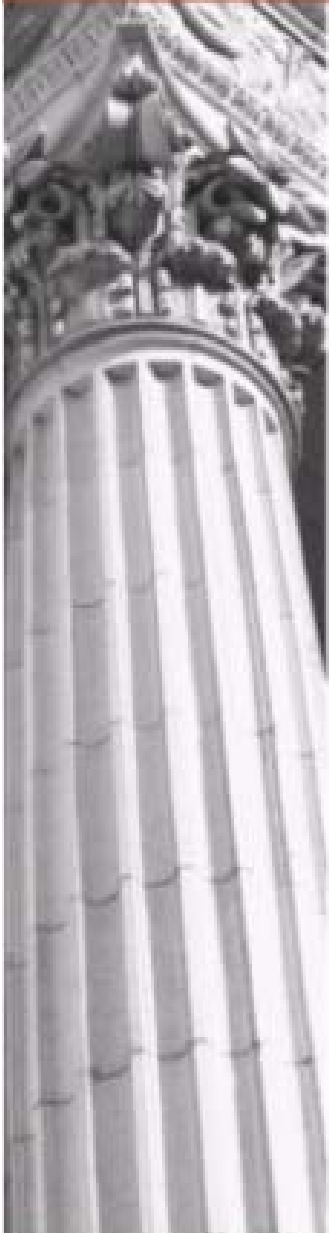
- How important are local governments with
  - travel patterns?
  - World Economy?
- Can you tell the cities from the townships on this map?
- Can you tell the difference when you are driving through them?





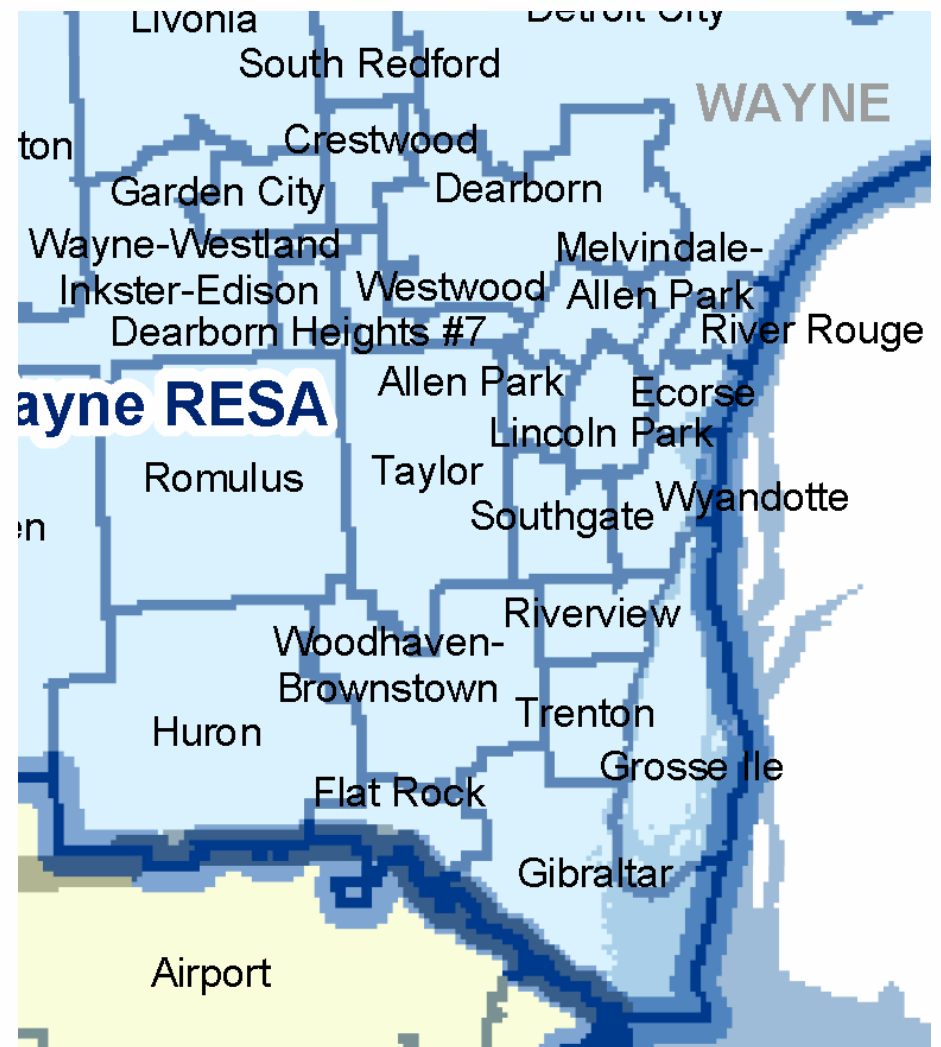
## Balkanized Urban Government





## Downriver School Districts

- More correspondence between city/township boundaries and school district boundaries than is found in the rest of Michigan

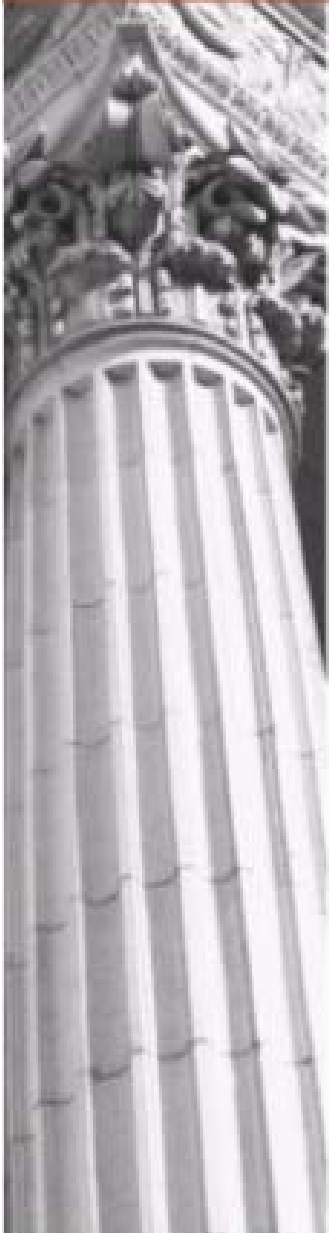




## Long Ballot

- Michigan elects representatives to govern all of those local governments
  - 7 township officials or 5-15 city officials
  - Village= 7 twp + 5-7 village officers
  - 15-45 county officials
  - 5-7 school board members
  - 7-9 community college board members
- 55 state and federal officers/judges elected statewide
- 14 U.S. Representatives  
110 State Representatives  
38 Senators
- 210 circuit court, 106 probate court, and 259 district court judges





## Duplicative Functions

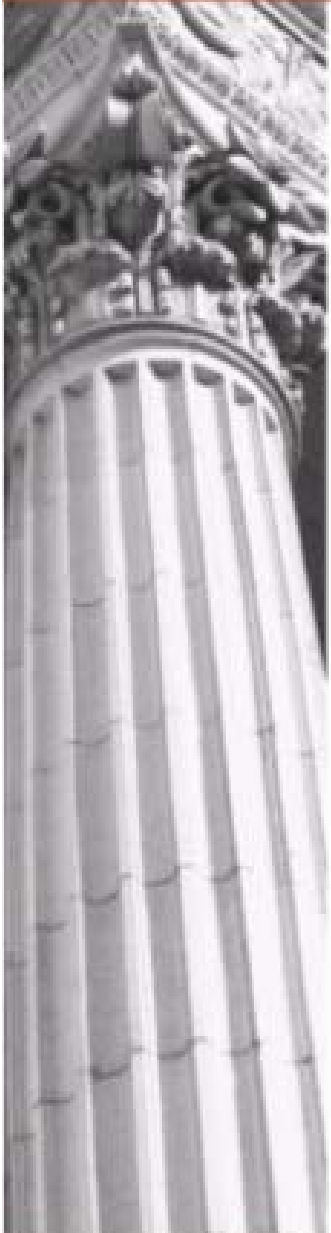
	State	Counties	Cities	Villages	Townships	Spec Auth	Schools
Parks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Libraries	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Roads	X	X	X	X	X*		
Water		X	X	X	X	X	
Sewerage	*	X	X	X	X	X	
Police	X	X	X	X	X		
Mass Trans	*	X	X		*	X	
Refuse		X	X	X	X	X	
Fire			X	X	X	X	
Corrections	X	X	X				





## Additive Effect of Tax Rates

- **Cities 1-20 mills**
- **Townships 1-10 mills**
- **Villages 1-20 mills**
- **Counties 4-10 mills**
- **Schools 6 mills (+ 18 mills for businesses)**
- **ISDs 2-3 mills**
- **Community Colleges 2-3 mills**





## Competition for Economic Development

- Every type of local government depends on property tax revenues
- Residential property cannot support municipal services
  - Must mix with Industrial/Commercial
- Headlee/Prop A tax limitations create need for new development

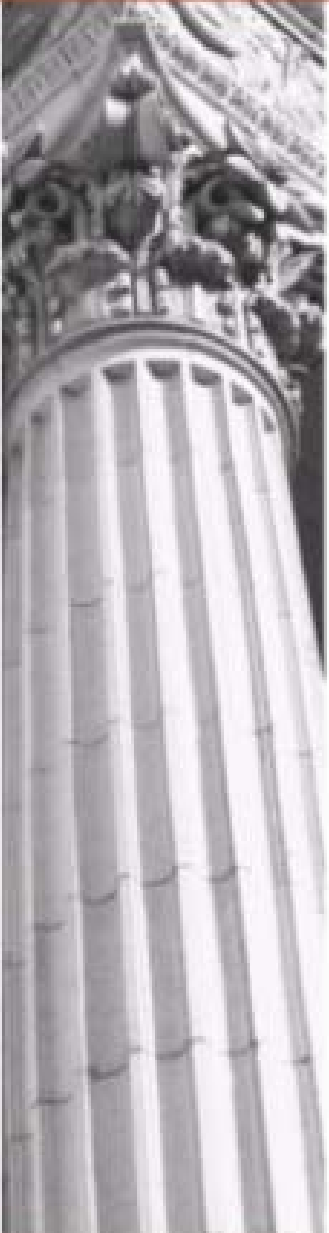




# The Result

## Urban Sprawl

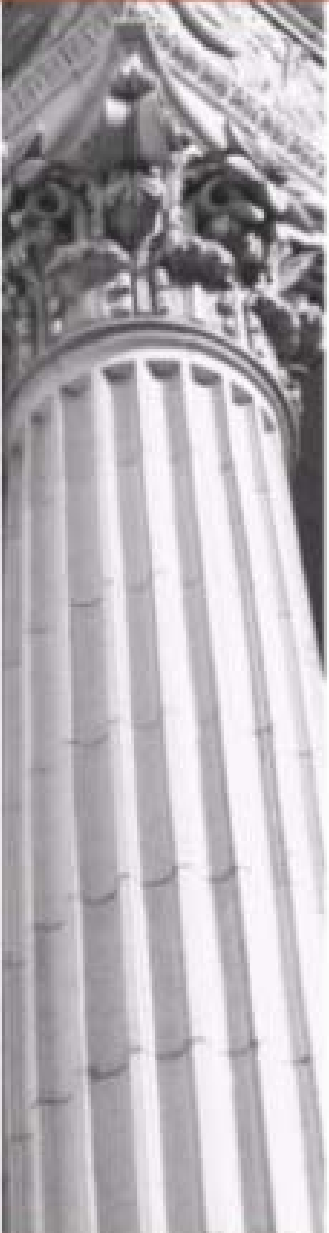
**Unnecessarily High Price  
of Local Government**





## Potential Solutions

- **What can be done to make local government more efficient and effective?**
- **How do you create Economies and Efficiencies?**

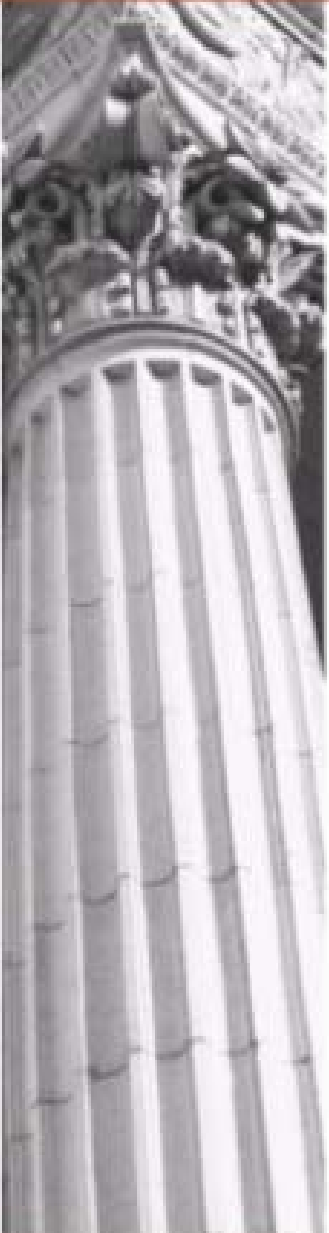




## **Modernize Government Structures**

- **Eliminate Village Government**
- **Convert Charter Townships into Cities**
- **Push more counties to adopt home rule county charters**
- **Consolidate small urban school districts**
- **Incentives for consolidating small cities with surrounding townships**





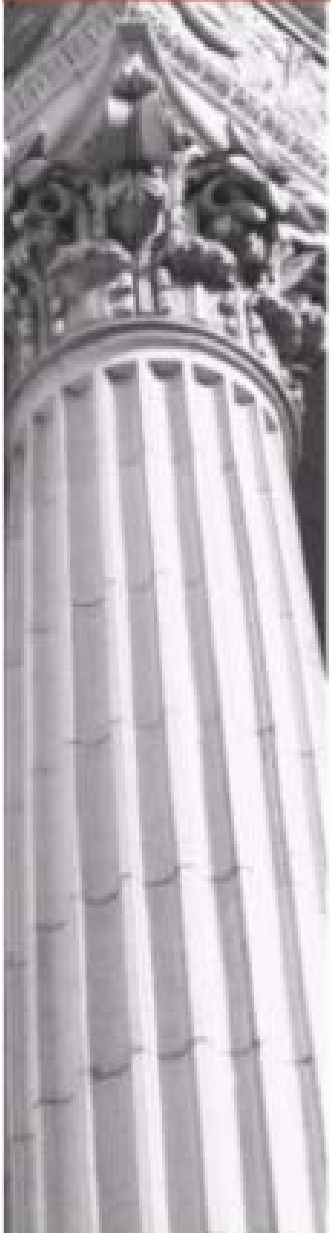
## **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

- **Joint Provision of Services**
- **Contracting with Another Unit**
- **Create Special Authorities**
- **Cooperation between cities/townships and school districts**
  
- **Contract with Private Providers**



## Regional Service Delivery

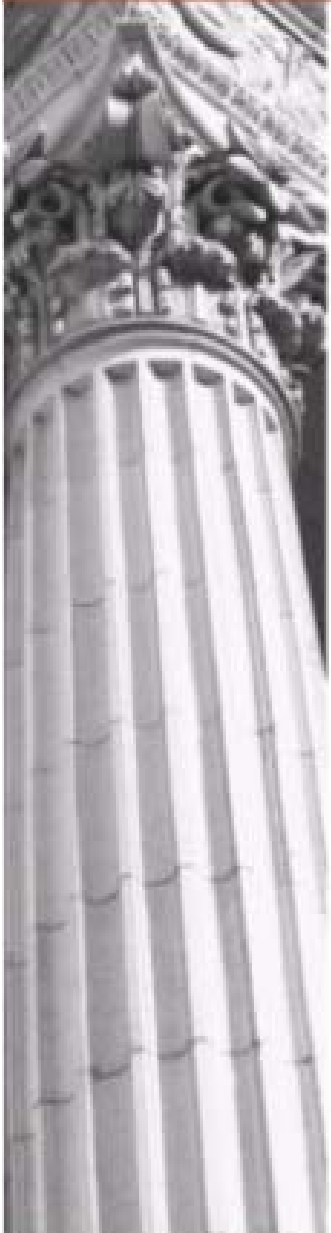
- Rethink assignment of service delivery responsibilities
- County provision of regional services
  - Roads, transit, 911/dispatch, public safety support services, water & sewer
- Multipurpose special districts
  - Could provide many of same services across county lines





## Consolidate Governments

- **Incentives for consolidating small cities with surrounding townships**
  - Grand Blanc, Oxford, Northville...
  - Communities with one identity served by two local units of government
- **City/County Consolidation**
  - ala Indianapolis, Louisville, Miami...
  - Being looked at by Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and other Michigan communities







# Thank You

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