



Where Local Government is and going!

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**Leadership 21 Program
Southern Wayne County Regional
Chamber of Commerce**

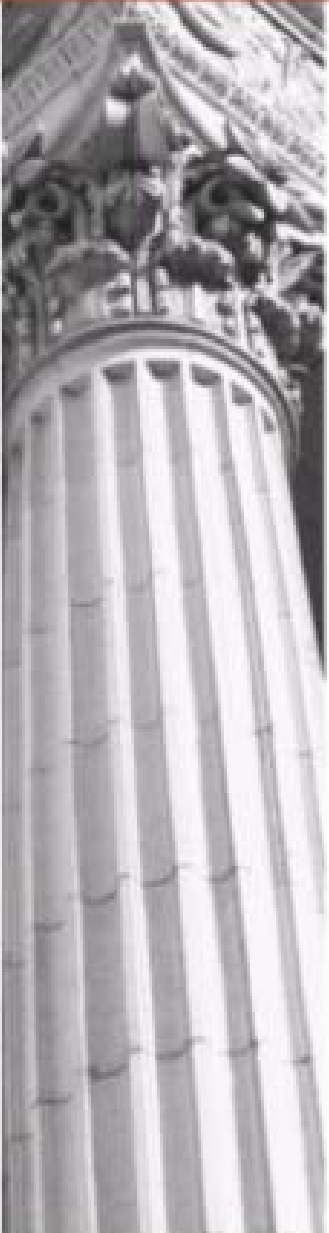
May 13, 2013



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





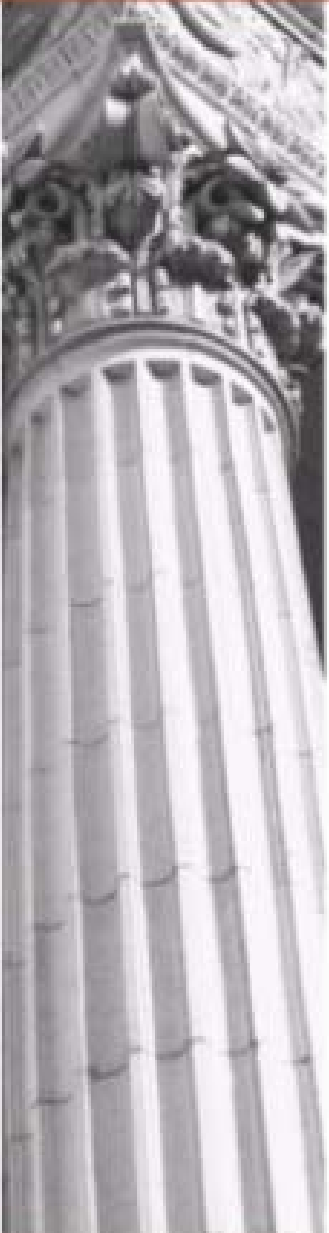
What I hope to accomplish:

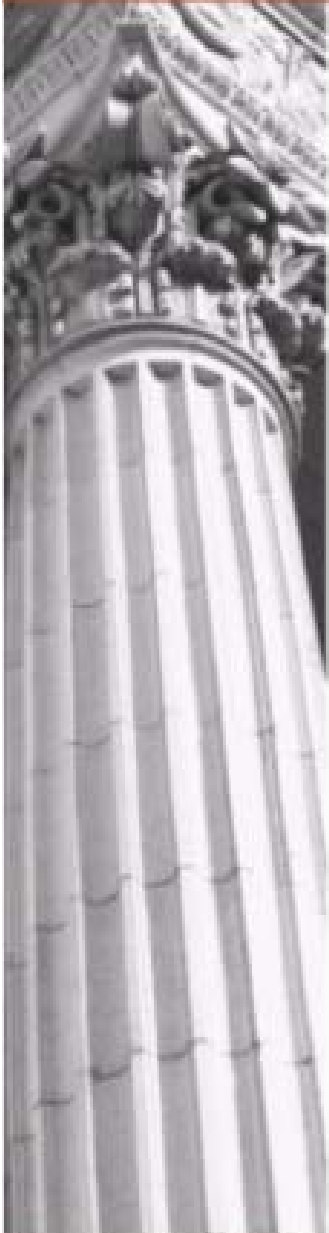
- **Describe the structure of local government in Michigan**
- **Explain the issues associated with the structure of local government**
- **Describe some solutions that have been (or should be) tossed about**



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



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

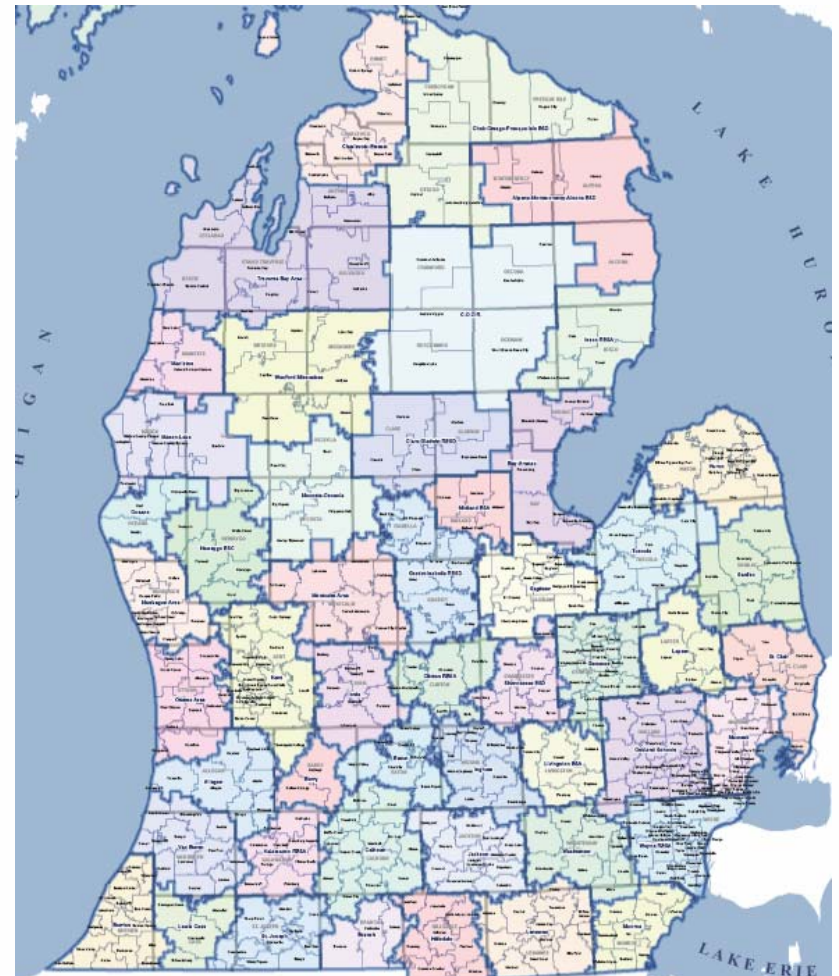
Total 1,335





School Districts and ISPs in the Lower Peninsula

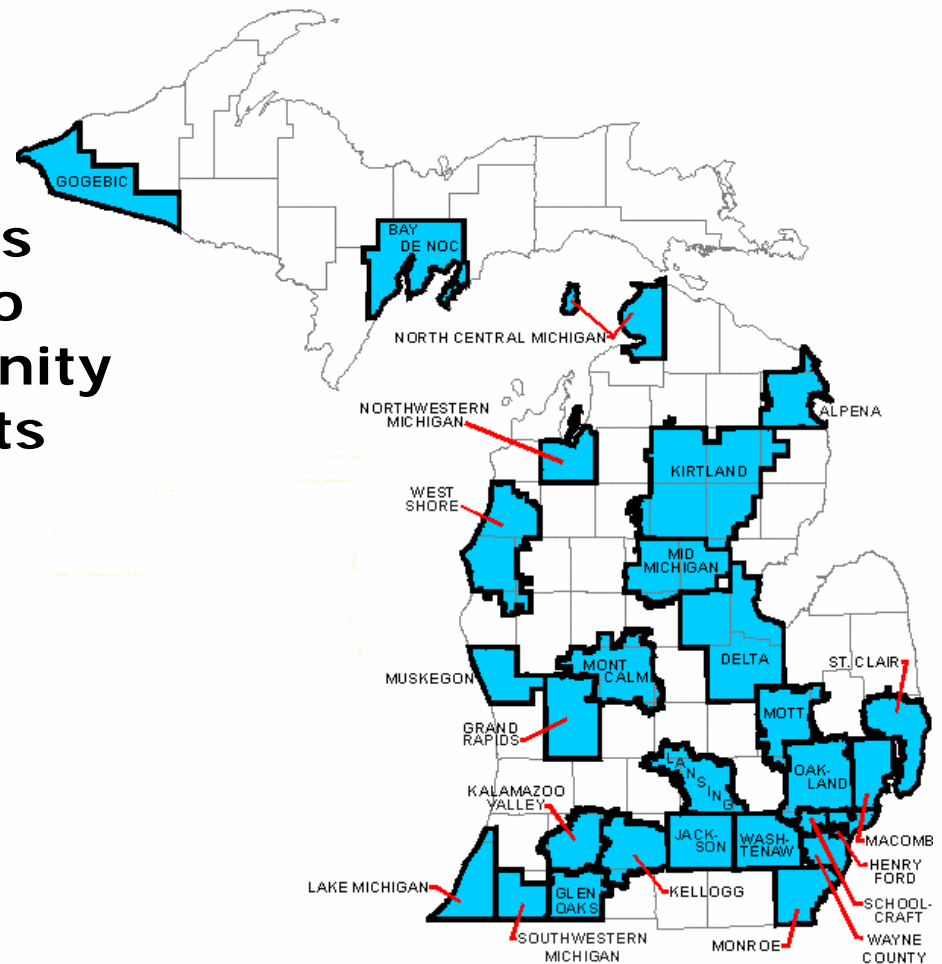
- Intermediate School Districts are like counties for school districts





Community College Districts

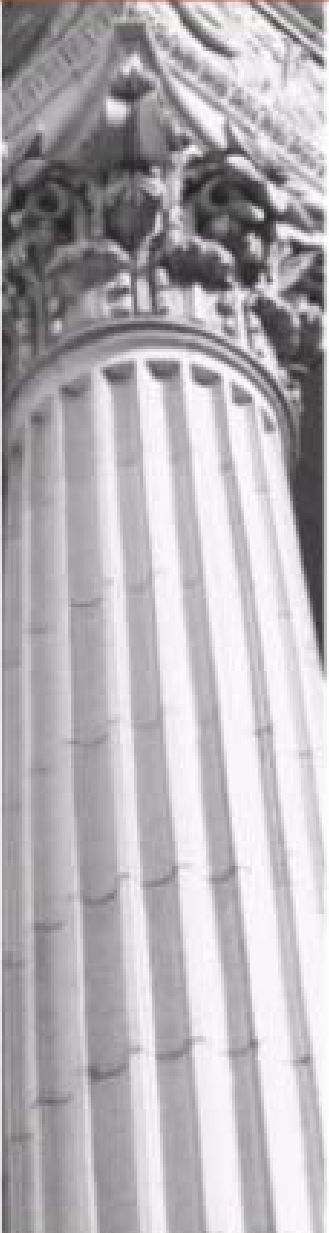
- School districts get together to create community college districts





Special Authorities

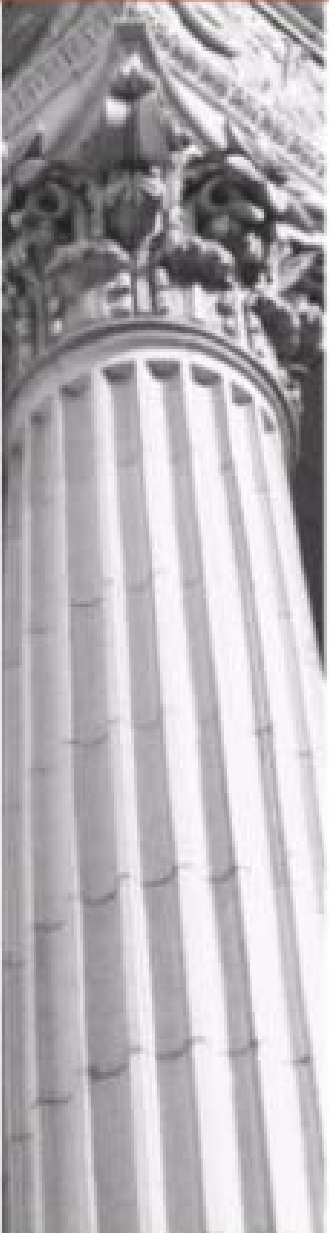
- Downriver Community Conference
- CLEMIS – Public Safety
- The Library Network
- Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
- Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART)
- Alliance of Rouge Communities

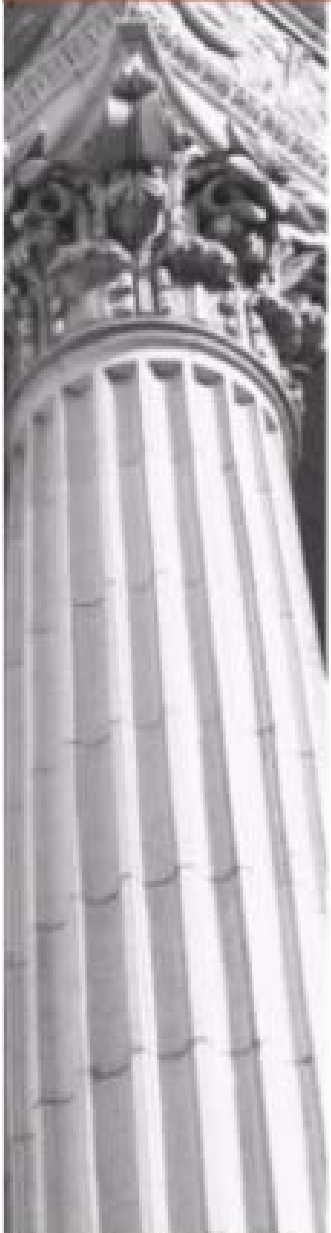




Issues

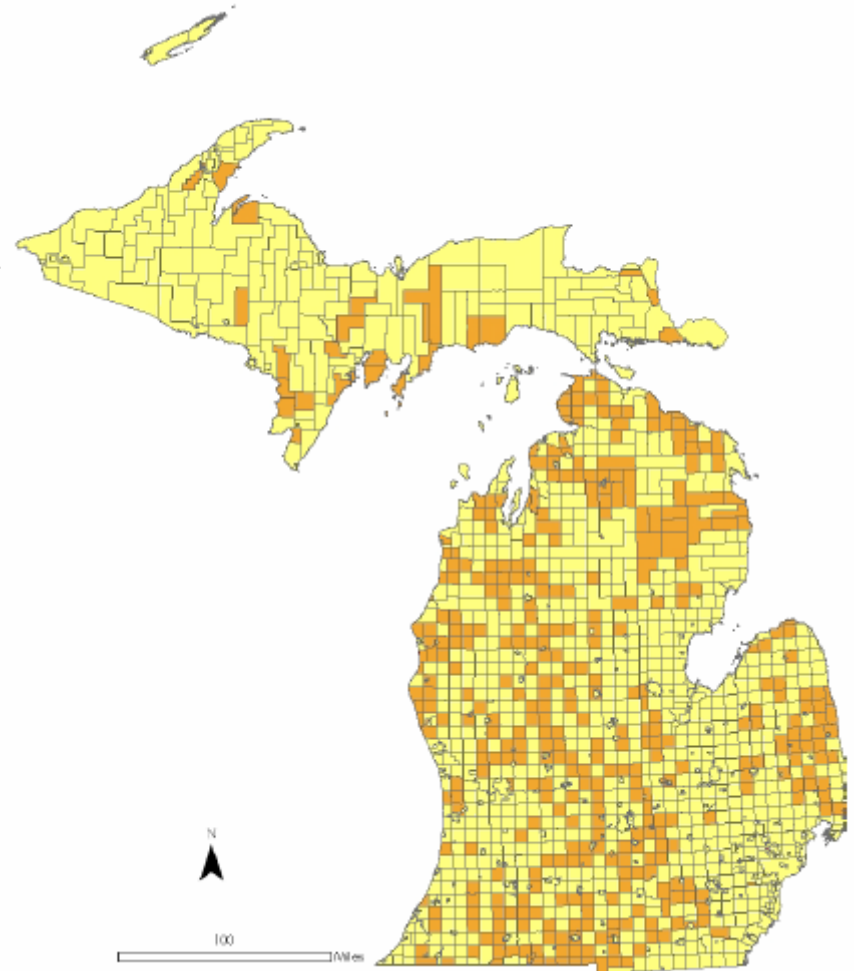
What is wrong with Michigan's system of local government?





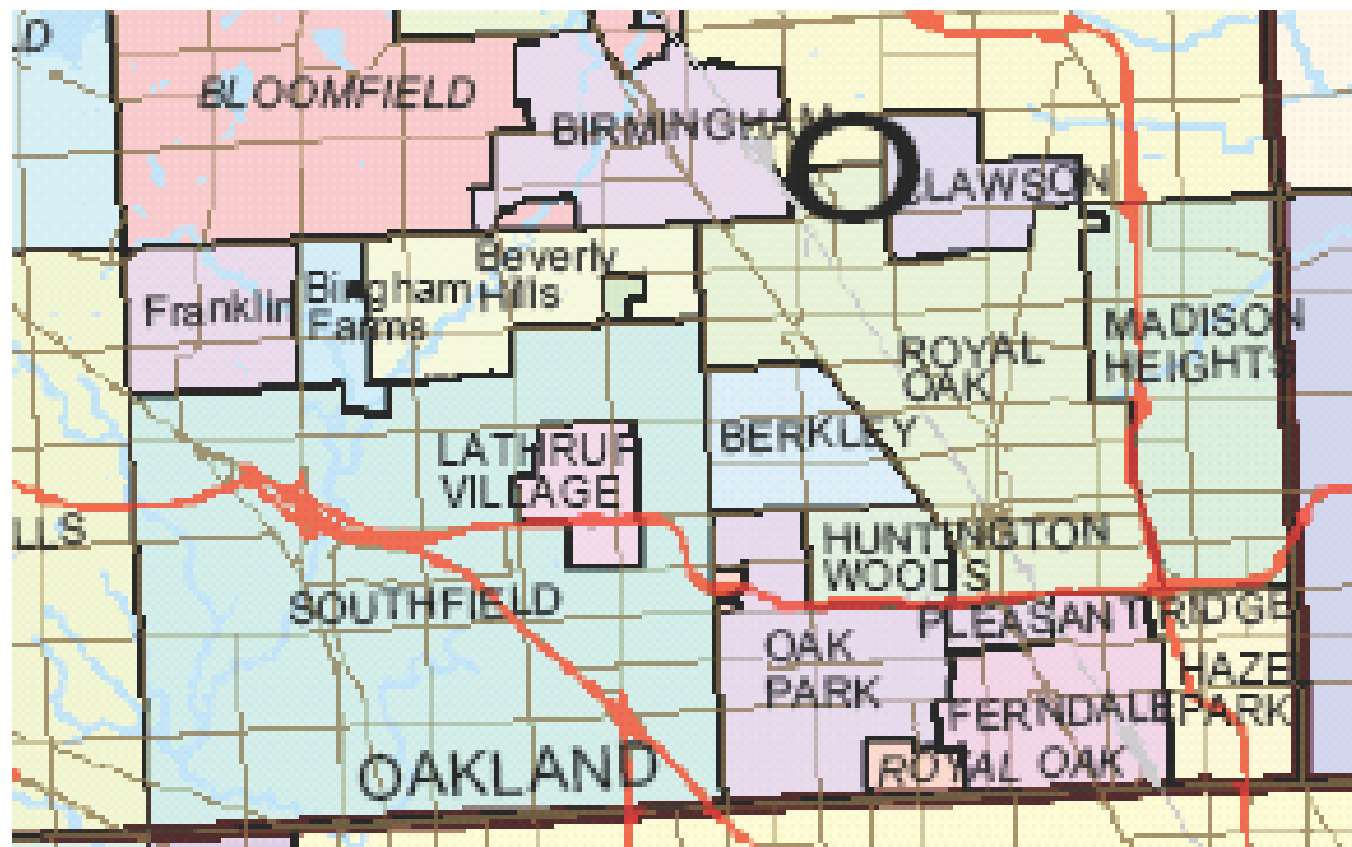
Evolving Sense of Place

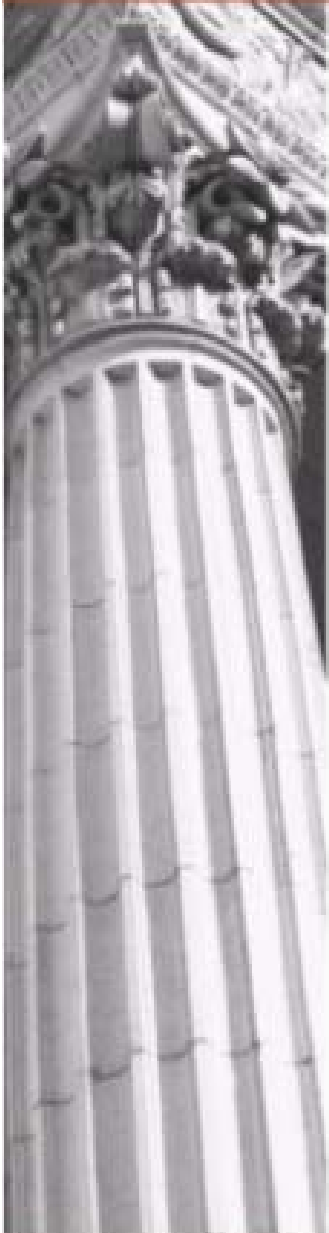
- How important are local governments with
 - travel patterns?
 - World Economy?
- Can you tell the cities from the townships on this map?
- Can you tell the difference when you are driving through them?





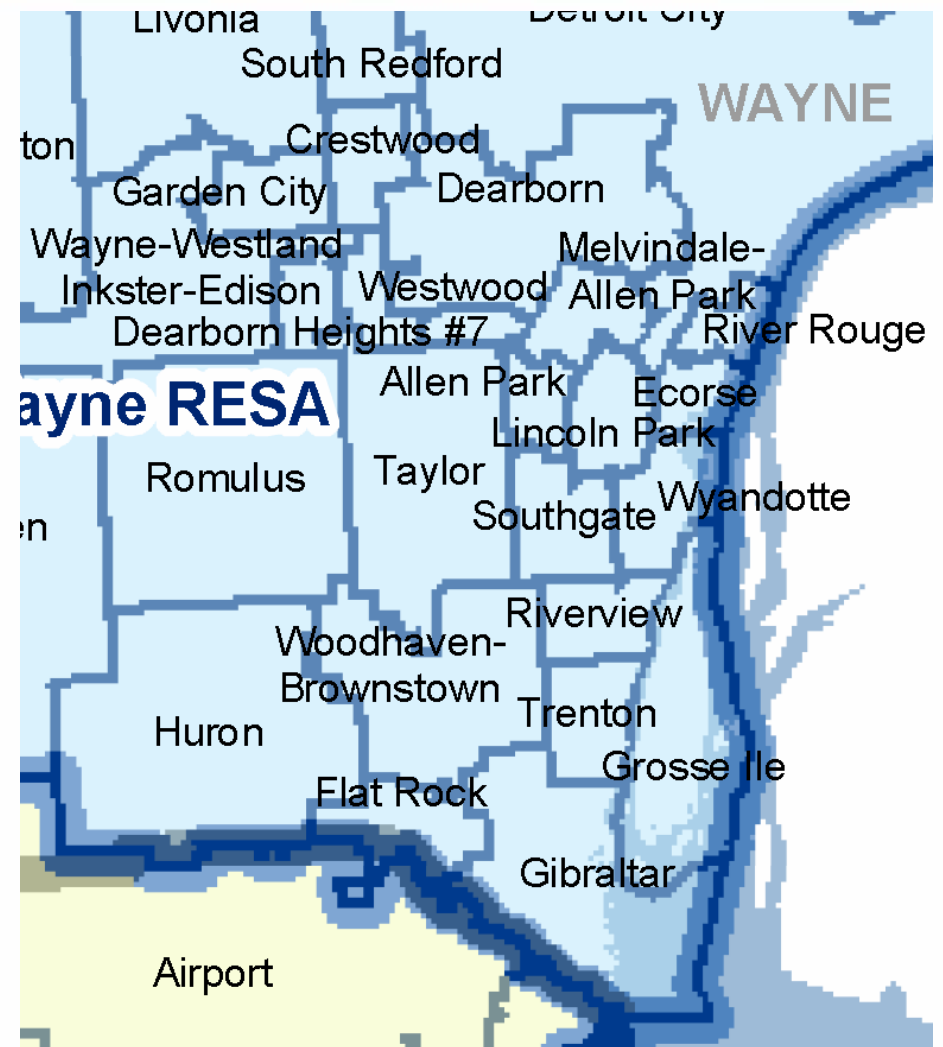
Balkanized Urban Government





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





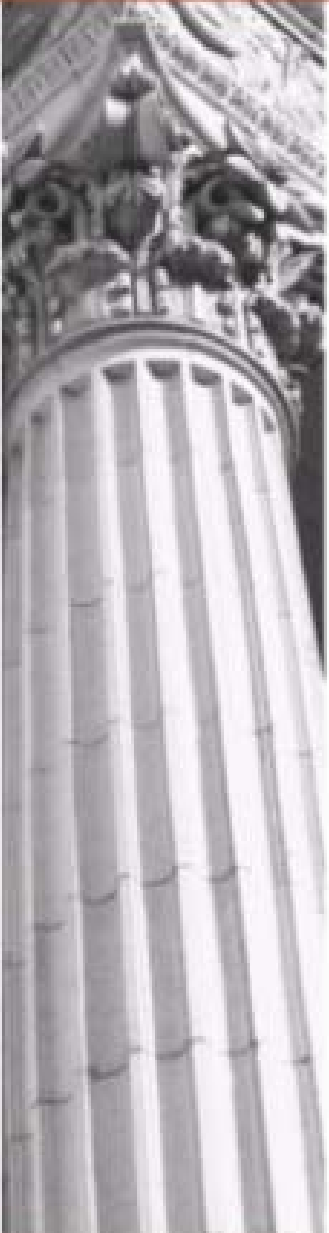
Duplicative Functions

	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

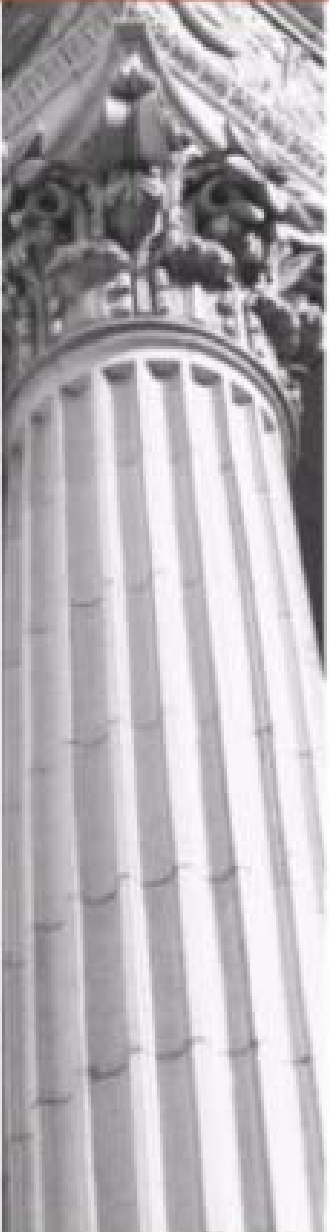
- **Cities 1-20 mills**
- **Townships 1-10 mills**
- **Villages 1-20 mills**
- **Counties 4-10 mills**
- **Schools 6 mills (+ 18 mills for businesses)**
- **ISDs 2-3 mills**
- **Community Colleges 2-3 mills**





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

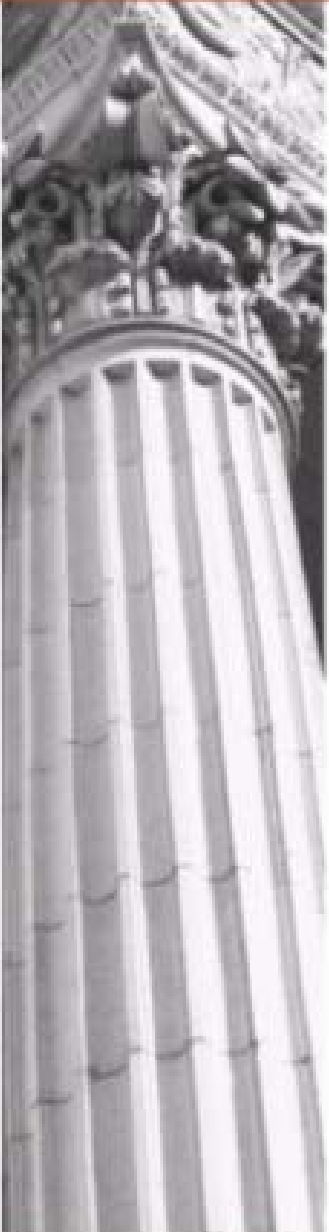


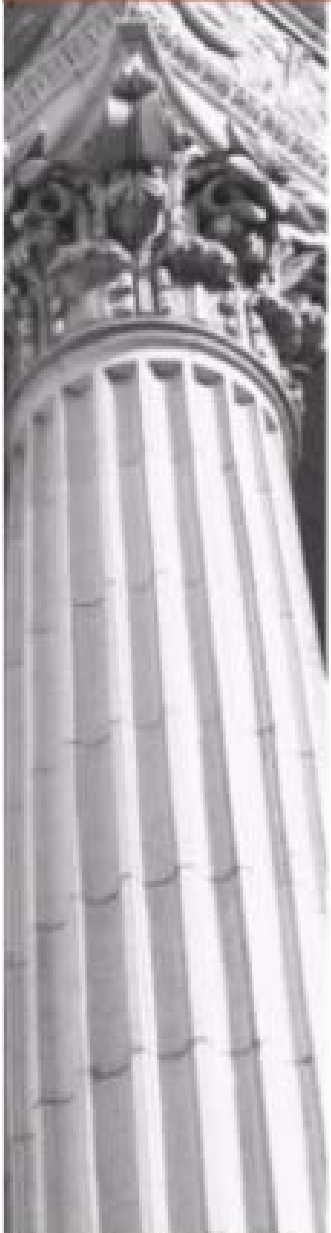


The Result

Urban Sprawl

**Unnecessarily High Price
of Local Government**





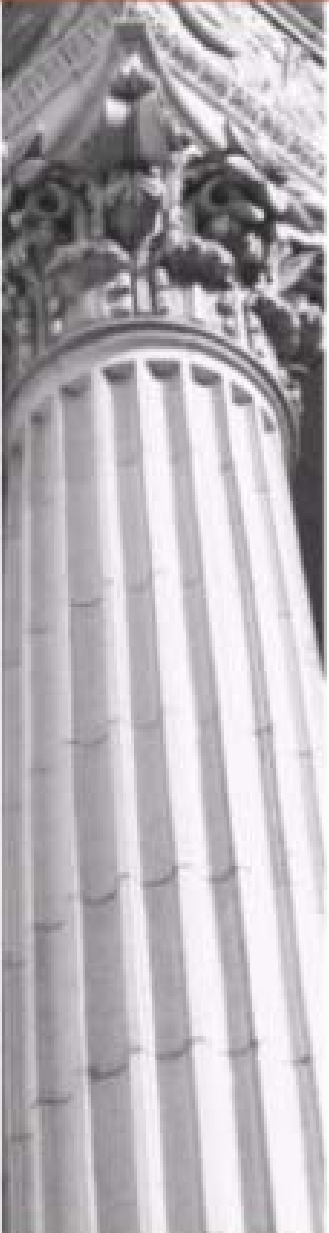
Potential Solutions

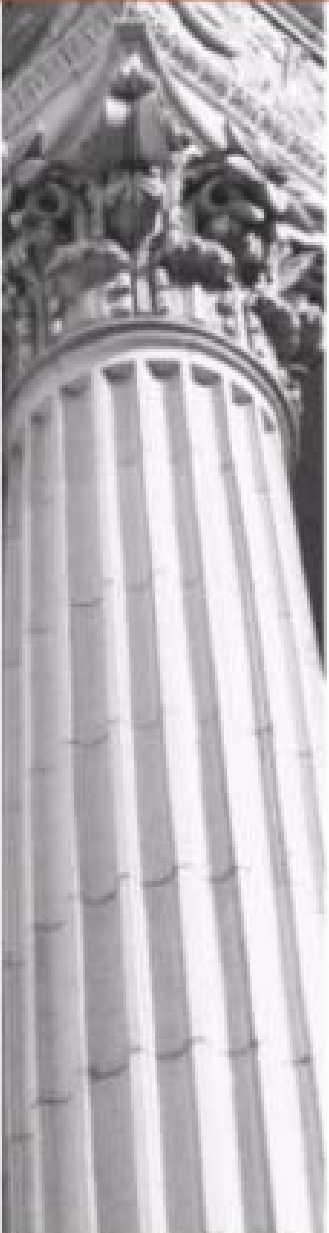
- **What can be done to make local government more efficient and effective?**
- **How do you create Economies and Efficiencies?**



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**



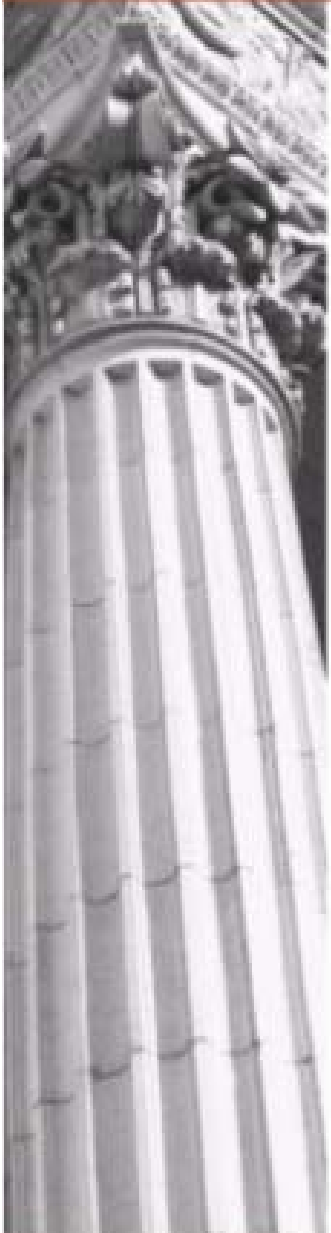
Regional Service Delivery

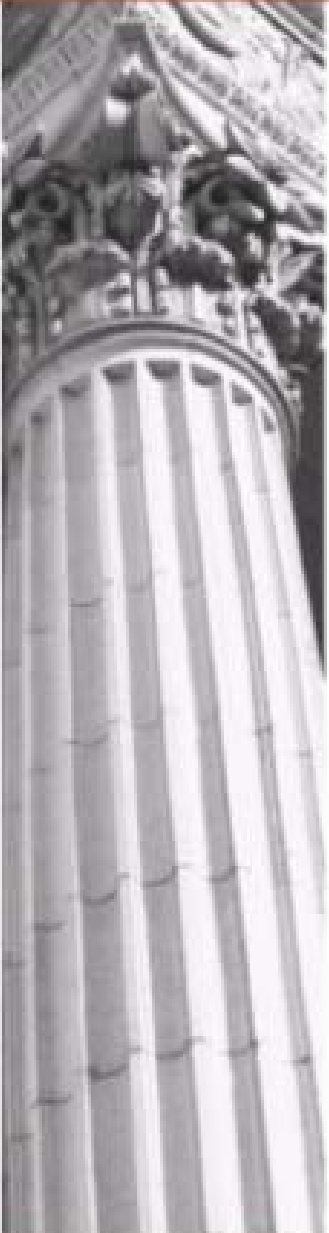
- Rethink assignment of service delivery responsibilities
- County provision of regional services
 - Roads, transit, 911/dispatch, public safety support services, water & sewer
- Multipurpose special districts
 - Could provide many of same services across county lines



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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www.crcmich.org