

## Local Government Consolidation a Missed Opportunity

Facts from *Governing* column regarding the lack of local government consolidation



- Thirty-five suburbs share borders with the city of Pittsburgh, resulting in more than 250 local governments that serve the city and Allegheny County.
- Total of 89,004 units of local government nationally is only down slightly from 89,476 total in 2007.
- In North Dakota, more than 1,300 sparsely populated civil townships stretch across the state, many which are occupied by only a few families that have farmed the same land for generations.



- In New York, only two of 18 votes for consolidation of towns and villages have passed since the state's government reorganization law was updated in March 2010.
- Myron Orfield, Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity, University of Minnesota Law School: "You have a lot of warfare between units of government. ... They spend a lot of time fighting with each other."

### Indiana and the Nation

	Total Units	General Purpose	Special Purpose	Total Per 100K	General Per 100K	Special Per 100K
U.S.	89,004	38,917	50,087	28.6	12.5	16.1
Indiana	2,694	1,666	1,028	41.3	25.6	15.8

### Total Local Government Units

1. Illinois – 6,968
2. Pennsylvania – 4,905
3. Texas – 4,856
4. California – 4,350
5. Kansas – 3,806
6. Missouri – 3,752
7. Ohio – 3,702
8. Minnesota – 3,633
9. New York – 3,454
10. Wisconsin – 3,123

### 13. Indiana – 2,694

41. Utah – 613
42. New Hampshire – 542
43. Louisiana – 530
44. Virginia – 497
45. Maryland – 397
46. Delaware – 338
47. Nevada – 190
48. Alaska – 177
49. Rhode Island – 134
50. Hawaii – 21

### General Purpose Units

(counties, cities, townships)

1. Illinois – 2,831
2. Minnesota – 2,726
3. Pennsylvania – 2,627
4. Ohio – 2,334
5. Kansas – 1,997
6. Wisconsin – 1,922
7. Michigan – 1,856
8. North Dakota – 1,724
9. Indiana – 1,666
10. New York – 1,603

### Total Local Government Units

(per 100,000 population)

1. North Dakota – 389.8
2. South Dakota – 240.1
3. Nebraska – 140.1
4. Wyoming – 139.9
5. Kansas – 132.6
6. Montana – 124.2
7. Vermont – 116.2
8. Idaho – 73.2
9. Minnesota – 68.0
10. Maine – 63.3

### 18. Indiana – 41.3

41. Rhode Island – 12.7
42. Louisiana – 11.6
43. California – 11.5
44. Arizona – 10.2
45. North Carolina – 10.0
46. Florida – 8.2
47. Nevada – 7.0
48. Virginia – 6.1
49. Maryland – 6.0
50. Hawaii – 1.5

### Special Purpose Units

(library, sewer, fire protection districts, etc.)

1. Illinois – 4,137
2. California – 3,811
3. Texas – 3,388
4. Colorado – 2,485
5. Missouri – 2,371
6. Pennsylvania – 2,278
7. New York – 1,851
8. Kansas – 1,809
9. Nebraska – 1,539
10. Washington – 1,511

### 17. Indiana – 1,028

Source: 2012 Census of Governments