

Consolidation Study Bibliography
Those Items Marked with a * are Higher Priority to Review

General Background

21st Century Local Government*	This is the final report of the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness chaired by Stan Lundine, April 2008. http://www.nyslocalgov.org/pdf/LGEC_Final_Report.pdf?pagemode=bookmarks
Government Efficiency: The Case for Local Control*	A report prepared for the Association of Towns of the State of New York by Wendell Cox in May, 2008 in response to the recommendations of the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness. http://www.nytowns.org/core/contentmanager/uploads/Government.Efficiency.The.Case.for.Local.Control.pdf
The New York Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. (Effective March 2010) *	An easy to read restatement of the legislation which will facilitate the consolidation and dissolution of governmental units in New York State. Gov. Patterson and Lorraine Cortez-Vazquez Sec. of State. June 2009 http://lwny.org/consolidation/CDP-summary.pdf
The New York Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. Summary of Procedures (Effective March 2010)*	An easy to read, twenty page summary of the process for consolidation and dissolution. Gov. Patterson and Lorraine Cortez-Vazquez, Sec. of State. June 2009. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/pdfs/ConsolidationDissolutionProcedures-Summary.pdf
The New York Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. Citizens Guide to Petitioning (Effective March 2010)*	An easy to read 12 page guide to how a citizen may petition to begin a consolidation or dissolution of his/her municipality or fire or other special district. Gov. Patterson and Lorraine Cortez-Vazquez, Sec. of State. June 2009. http://lwny.org/consolidation/CitizenGuidetoPetitions.pdf
Reforming Local Government*	This is the Attorney General's website promoting the new legislation that will simplify consolidations and dissolutions of local governments. http://www.oag.state.ny.us/bureaus/legislative/government_consolidation/about.html
Layering of Local Governments & City-County Mergers*	A Report to the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, March 21, 2008, by Donald Boyd, Senior Fellow, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/nys_government/2008-03-21-layering_of_local_governments_and_city-county_mergers.pdf
A Century of Debate about Regionalism and Metropolitan Government.	September 2004 article by Margaret Weir, Univ. of California at Berkeley, funded by MacArthur Foundation, reviewed literature. Noted research has undercut original efficiency claims for consolidated govt and has raised new concerns about consequences of fragmented govt for income and racial segregation with cities bearing heavy burdens for high service costs, i.e. raises issues of equity. Inconclusiveness of research suggests that govt form is rarely a decisive factor in shaping regional outcomes. http://lwny.org/consolidation/CenturyofDebate_WeirArticle.pdf
Local Government Handbook	Prepared by the State of New York, Department of State http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/pdfs/Handbook.pdf
Outdated Municipal Structures	A report on the current no longer relevant designations of our cities, towns and villages and a summary of how that impacts how these entities operate. http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/munistructures.pdf

Open Meetings Law

Committee on Open Government, Open Meetings Law*	Home page of the Committee on Open Government, responsible for interpreting and administering New York State's Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Law. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/coog/index.html
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Consolidation

Listing of High Priority state grants, 2009*	Includes several grants for the dissolution of villages under existing (not the new) state law governing the dissolution of villages. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/shareservices/LGE2008-09winners.htm
2008/2009 State Grants to study shared services or consolidation*	http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/2008-9localgov-efficiencygrantawards.html
Village Fact sheet from NYCOM 2008*	Presents an argument on why village structure should be retained. http://lwvny.org/consolidation/ErieCountyNewsRelease.pdf
Erasing a Village from the Map 2009*	Albany Times Union Article http://blog.timesunion.com/crossroads/erasing-a-village-from-the-map/117/
Village Dissolution, Understanding the Costs and Benefits, NYCOM, 2008*	Article from the New York Conference of Mayors, an association of mayors from cities and villages. http://www.yurgartis.net/villagedissolutionunderstanding%20costsandbenefitsmayjune08.pdf
Consolidation, Dissolution, and Annexation of Towns and Villages— How to guide*	Prepared by the New York State Department of State in 2008. Governor David Paterson and Secretary of State Lorraine A. Cortés-Vázquez. http://lwvny.org/consolidation/RevisedHowToConsol021208.pdf
Consolidation for Towns and Villages*	August 1998. James A. Coon, Local Government Technical Series. Published by the governor's office, this is a guide for towns and villages on the benefits and steps of consolidation. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/pdfs/consolid.pdf
National League of Cities	This website printout contains an in-depth explanation of city-county consolidation, the structure of a city-county government and the process through which the city-county must go to consolidate. http://www.nlc.org/about_cities/cities_101/166.aspx
Regionalism Revisited: The Effort to Streamline Governance in Buffalo and Erie County, New York	Article by Craig Bucki published in the Albany Law Review, 71 Alb. L. Rev. 117 (2008). http://www.albanylawreview.org/articles/Bucki.Publisher.pdf

Shared Services

Main NYS site for shared services	http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/index.htm
Local Government Management Guide: Intermunicipal Cooperation*	November 2003. By Alan Hevesi, New York State Comptroller This paper examines how intermunicipal cooperation can help increase effectiveness and efficiency in delivery of services and to start the process of cooperation, including conducting a study, identifying stakeholders, communication and other pertinent topics. http://lwvny.org/consolidation/IntermunicipalCoop_OSC.pdf
Intergovernmental Cooperation	Provides practical suggestions, ideas and information. James A. Coon Local Government Technical Series. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/pdfs/intergvt.pdf
Summary of Municipal Service Alternatives Villages of Carthage and West Carthage, New York	July, 1999. Examines the range of alternatives for the two villages as they consider the delivery of services to their residents. Services considered include general administration, fire, police, highway, housing, water and wastewater, planning and zoning, building code, recreation, and economic development. Posted in cooperation with the Tug Hill Commission. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/pdfs/carthage.pdf

Intermunicipal Cooperation and Consolidation: Exploring Opportunities for Savings and Improved Service Delivery	By Alan Hevesi, New York State Comptroller. This report examines the economic and fiscal benefits of government consolidation, and how communities can achieve consolidation without losing their sense of community. http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/cooperation1.pdf
Restructuring Local Government – Cornell University, Department of City and Regional Planning	Fiscal stress, changing public expectations and shifting responsibilities for services due to devolution have prompted many local governments to consider restructuring service delivery. This web site is designed to provide local governments and public sector employees with information on restructuring trends and innovations in public sector service provision, public-private partnerships, privatization, inter-municipal cooperation and contracting back-in. http://government.cce.cornell.edu/

Special Districts

Town Special Districts: Background and Trends	http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/townspecialdistricts.pdf
Special District Consolidation in Towns	http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/costsavings/specialdistrict.htm
Special District Election Date: A Crazy Quilt	http://www.nyslocalgov.org/pdf/Suozzi2.pdf
Cost savings and Special Districts in Nassau County	http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Comptroller/Docs/PDF/Disparity_Report_2007-2.pdf

Case Studies *

Village of North Collins ,2009	In process of dissolution study, News article on process. http://www.thesunnews.net/news.php3?idkey=5793
Village of Ellenville	Report of the Dissolution Study committee http://villageofellenville.com/Documents/EGSC%20Report.pdf
Village of Macedon dissolution study 2002 and 2008.	Report of dissolution committee in 2001. Residents voted down. Article on current dissolution study and citizen comments. http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/MacedonDissolution/MacedonDissolution.pdf http://www.villageofmacedon.org/article_two.html
Village of Limestone, to dissolve 12/10	http://www.oleantimesherald.com/articles/2009/10/14/news/doc4ad62d13b22b6131298388.txt
Village of Pike Dissolution study , 2008/2009	Recently voted to dissolve. Interesting example. http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/Pike/PikeDissolutionStudy.htm
Village of Lake George Dissolution Study 2009	Web portal to an ongoing dissolution study for the Village of Lake George http://lakegeorge.ning.com/
Dissolution Study for the Village of Johnson City. 11/2009	http://www.cgr.org/johnsoncity/docs/JC%20Village%20Dissolution%20Report%20and%20Plan.pdf
Consolidation Study for the Village of Albion, Town of Albion and Town of Gaines, 3/2009	A report of the cost savings from sharing services or consolidation. Highlights how incentive grants can have an impact on the economics. http://www.cgr.org/reports/09_R-1574_AlbianConsolidationStudy.pdf
Village of Lake Placid/Town of North Elba Shared Services Study 12/1/2008,	A study of opportunities for shared services. http://www.cgr.org/reports/08_R-1565_LakePlacid.pdf
Final Report on Strategic Alternatives for the Village & Town of Seneca Falls, NY: Considerations for a New Governance Model 11/1/2008,	A review of alternatives to reduce the cost of government including the possibility of consolidation. http://www.cgr.org/reports/08_R-1564_SenecaFalls.pdf (196 page document)
Implications of a Village Dissolution: Cherry Creek Consolidation Feasibility Analysis	Assesses the financial feasibility of dissolving the Village of Cherry Creek into the Town of Cherry Creek. Prepared by Eric Bridges, Community Advisor for the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board. http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/pdfs/cherry.pdf
A Study of Shared Service Opportunities for the Village and Town of Cobleskill, NY 7/1/2008,	A study of shared services including the possibility of becoming a city. http://www.cgr.org/reports/08_R-1548_ConsolidatedCobleskill.pdf

Opportunities to Use Shared Services and Consolidation Strategies to Improve Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity in Local Government Observations from Three City/Town Groups in Upstate New York ,2008	<p>A study for using shared services or consolidation to reduce the costs of government.</p> <p>http://www.cgr.org/reports/08_R-1545_LGECCCombinedStudy.pdf</p>
Village of Speculator Dissolution Plan and Options for Shared Services: Findings and Alternatives 2/1/2008	<p>A dissolution plan and its findings.</p> <p>http://www.cgr.org/reports/08_R-1534_VillageofSpeculatorDissolution.pdf</p>
A study of shared services or dissolution of the Village and Town of Allegany April 2008	<p>Study of possible shared services and dissolution option.</p> <p>http://www.allegany.org</p>
North Hormel, Options for Restructuring 2004	<p>http://www.nyslocalgov.org/</p>
Thinking Beyond Municipal Boundaries - Cost Reduction Opportunities 2/1/2004	<p>A study on cost reductions possible from enhanced regionalization of services.</p> <p>http://www.cgr.org/reports/04_R-1396_BuffaloErieMerger.pdf</p>
Cooperate, Collaborate, Consolidate: Options for Local Government in Monroe County 7/1/2003,	<p>Reducing government costs through expanded intergovernmental cooperation.</p> <p>http://www.cgr.org/reports/03_R-1401_OptionsForMonroeCtyGovt.pdf</p>
Wellsville Town Village Consolidation Study,1998	<p>Review of options for Village and Town to reduce costs.</p> <p>http://www.nyslocalgov.org/pdf/Wellsville_Final_Report.pdf</p>
The Consolidation of Local Government: Assessing the Service and Financial Implications of the Village of Fillmore Dissolution	<p>March, 1997. Assesses the service and financial implications of the Village of Fillmore dissolution into the Town of Hume. Prepared by Eric Bridges, Community Advisor for the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board.</p> <p>http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/pdfs/fillmore.pdf</p>