



## New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness

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The Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness was established by Governor Spitzer as part of an effort to streamline government at every level. New York's local tax burden is the highest in the United States, which negatively impacts the competitiveness and quality of life in its communities. One factor contributing to the high cost of government is the multiplicity of local governments that has evolved over centuries, numbering more than 4,200 taxing jurisdictions.

### ***What is the role of the Commission?***

The Commission will make recommendations on the measures needed to advance partnerships among State and local governments to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local governments. It will address the issues of local government merger, consolidation, regionalized government, shared services and smart growth. The Commission will report its recommendations by April 15, 2008.

### ***Who and what is the Commission?***

The Commission consists of 15 members including many current and former local government leaders. It is chaired by Stan Lundine, the former Lieutenant Governor, Congressman, and Mayor of Jamestown. The Commission's work is supported by state agencies that are involved with local government, including the Department of State, the State Comptroller's Office, the State Education Department, Empire State Development, the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform and the Division of the Budget.

### ***Is this just another study?***

No. On the day of the Commission's announcement, a letter was sent to local government officials across the State, asking them to identify local initiatives in the areas of local government merger, consolidation, shared services, smart growth, and regional services. The Governor has pledged to provide the assistance and support needed for nearly 150 local initiatives so we can learn how effective – or not – various state programs are, and what state laws need to be altered to facilitate these types of initiatives.

### ***How can I find out more about the Commission?***

More information on the Commission, including a list of members and the Executive Order that created it, is available on the Commission website ([nyslocalgov.org](http://nyslocalgov.org)). You can access resources on local government, learn about funding opportunities, and join an e-mail list for Commission news. You can also view webcasts of and read testimony from Commission meetings and hearings.

### ***How can I give my ideas to the Commission?***

You can submit ideas for reform directly from the Commission website, e-mail us at [localgov@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:localgov@empire.state.ny.us), or mail your ideas to the address below. We encourage you to join with us in this effort.

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