



**New York State Commission on  
Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness  
Hearing Announcement**

Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Albright-Knox Art Gallery - Auditorium  
1285 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York

**SUBJECT:** Successful strategies to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of local government entities in New York State, including counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, fire districts, other special districts and local public authorities.

**PURPOSE:** This hearing will examine approaches to local government efficiency issues including merger, consolidation, regionalized government, shared services and smart growth. An additional hearing will be held in the lower Hudson Valley.

The hearing will include a presentation from nationally renowned scholar Bruce Katz, founding Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. Mr. Katz regularly advises public officials on policy reforms that promote the revitalization of central cities and older suburbs.

The Commission will also be hearing from panelists on the state of upstate urban areas and the regional response to these problems. There also will be a panel on smart growth issues. Time will be available for testimony and responses from the audience. No pre-registration is required, but time constraints may not permit an opportunity for all to testify. However, all persons will have the opportunity to submit written testimony.

**TESTIMONY:** The Commission encourages written testimony to be submitted prior to the hearing via e-mail to [localgov@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:localgov@empire.state.ny.us). Testimony will be accepted from both persons in attendance and unable to attend. Testimony received will be shared with Commission members and will be posted on the Commission's website. Testimony should be directed to:

- The most effective means for achieving the Commission's goals of improving local government efficiency and competitiveness.
- Strategies for advancing merger and consolidation of outdated local boundaries and structures.
- New approaches for service sharing, including local initiatives and changes in state law and assistance programs.
- Effective models for regional government, including methods of promoting smart growth and regional economic development.

**WEBCAST:** A webcast of the proceedings will be available after the hearing on the Commission website at [www.nyslocalgov.org](http://www.nyslocalgov.org).

To meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Commission, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities.