



NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
EFFICIENCY &  
COMPETITIVENESS

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## Public Hearings

**Long Island – July 24 & 25:** The Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness will hold a public hearing and meeting at Hofstra University on July 24 and 25. This meeting will begin with presentations from Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, followed by a dialogue with Commission members. Two panels will address issues related to the many units of local government on Long Island, including scores of special districts providing basic public services such as sanitation, water, sewer and fire protection. On Tuesday, July 24 the Commission will hear from a schools panel, and on Wednesday they will hear from a panel that will be questioned about the many layers and units of government providing basic municipal services, including myriad and overlapping special districts.

Time will be reserved on both days for questions, responses and testimony from the audience. However, since time constraints may not permit an opportunity for all to speak, written testimony is encouraged, and should be submitted by e-mail to [localgov@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:localgov@empire.state.ny.us). No pre-registration is required to attend the hearing.

**Saratoga Springs:** The Commission held its first public hearing in Saratoga Springs on June 13. Testimony from that hearing can be found in the News & Events section of the Commission website at [nyslocalgov.org](http://nyslocalgov.org). A web cast of the public hearing and the Commission meeting which followed may be found at [nyslocalgov.org/web\\_casts.asp](http://nyslocalgov.org/web_casts.asp).

**Additional Hearings:** The Commission has also scheduled hearings for October 24 in Buffalo and November 28 in the Hudson Valley. Additional details will be available as these dates approach.

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## Local Initiatives

An exciting variety of local initiatives have been received in response to the Governor's call for proposals in the areas under review by the Commission. Model projects from across the State will receive special assistance from state agencies and the Commission. They include:

- Many proposals for dramatic restructuring of local government, including a county dissolution study, regional government models, several city-town consolidations, and multiple village-town consolidation proposals. Several counties wish to consider

broad consolidation of school districts, fire districts and other special purpose districts.

- Consolidation of particular functions among two or more counties has been proposed, including jails, social service districts, health departments, weights & measures, fire training centers, procurement, and tourism.
- A number of initiatives focus on particular services that could be more efficiently or effectively provided at a multi-municipal or county level, including justice courts, tax collection, property assessment, employee health insurance, code enforcement, emergency dispatch, investment, technology, policing, administration, water supply, wastewater disposal, stormwater management, economic development agencies and highway services.
- Model smart growth initiatives have been suggested that would result in better planning and management, including improved and coordinated land use and transportation planning, requiring adequate public facilities to be in place before building permits are issued, and development of ecological plans to promote tourism.

These proposals are now being reviewed by Commission and state agency staff, in consultation with local leaders who submitted them, and a list of projects will soon be announced. As pledged by the Governor, these projects will receive extraordinary legal, logistical and technical assistance from state government, including referrals to grant programs and other funding opportunities that may apply. The local initiatives process will both stimulate improvements and provide a living laboratory to help inform the Commission's deliberations. Where roadblocks or problems in state programs or law are identified through this process, the Commission will pursue solutions.

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## **New Issue Briefs Available**

A series of issue briefs have been prepared for the Commission and are available on the website. Two new issue briefs were added in June:

- [Major State Funding Streams](#)
  - [Consolidation Procedures](#)
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**Visit the Commission Website at [www.nyslocalgov.org](http://www.nyslocalgov.org)**

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