



Township Officials of Illinois

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“Illinois is indeed facing a fiscal crisis, there is not a person who disagrees. The Township Officials of Illinois have received the Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force’s report and we certainly endorse the idea of examining the status quo to determine if efficiencies are available that can save dollars. That being said, we are concerned by some of the findings.

Fewer units of government do not necessarily guarantee lower costs for taxpayers. If the core township services of providing public assistance, property assessment, and road maintenance were consolidated into larger government units, we run the risk of actually increasing costs to taxpayers. Why? Because studies have shown that larger units of government spend more per capita. The number of government units in a state and its taxation per capita does not result in the elevated expense ratio that many assume. The best evidence is that Illinois has more government units than any other state, yet a number of states rank higher in taxation per capita, some with a small fraction of governments compared to Illinois.

I urge you to not assume that consolidation or contraction of townships will save the state money and improve any levels of service. The case has simply not been made by the Task Force report. We believe it would be prudent to comprehensively examine this issue, rather than rushing to judgement”.

Bryan E. Smith
Executive Director
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