



Merging Municipalities: Is Bigger Better?

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Criteria to evaluate governance

➤ Economic

- Efficiency
- Economies of scale
- Externalities

➤ Political

- Access
- Responsiveness
- Accountability
- Costs shared equitably
- Service delivery across region coordinated



To Merge or Not to Merge

- Are there economies of scale in local service delivery?
- Are externalities properly addressed?
- Is harmful competition among municipalities reduced?
- Do larger government units provide sufficient access and responsiveness?



If Not Mergers, Then What?

- Two-tier model
- Voluntary cooperation
- Special purpose districts



Observations on Governance Structure

- No “one size fits all” model
- Need for regional structure
- Voluntary cooperation unlikely to provide adequate regional foundation
- Choice is essentially between one tier and two tier