

Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

Overview of Local Government in Ohio
 for the
 Education, Public Institutions,
 Miscellaneous and Local
 Government Committee
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Greater Ohio Policy Center
 "Think and Do" tank

An outcome-oriented statewide non-profit organization that develops and implements policies and practices to:

- revitalize Ohio's urban cores and metropolitan regions
- achieve sustainable land reuse and economic growth

Sustainable Growth and Local Government

Ohio's current local government structure impacts sustainable growth:

- Communities and taxpayers face the legacy costs of a 19th century structure in a 21st century economy
- Ohio's population growth is stagnating
- 45th in population growth, but 8th in land consumption
- Fragmented and duplicative local governments prevent effective economic competition on world market

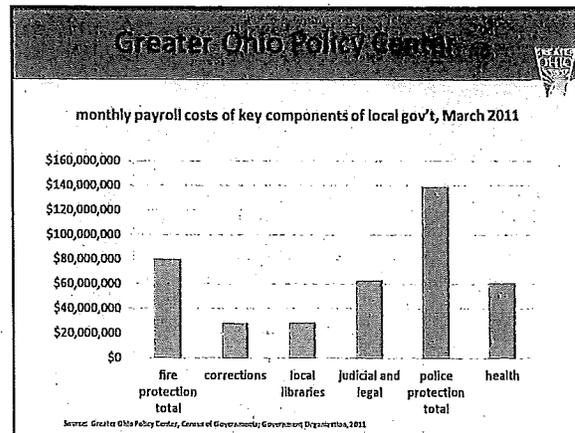
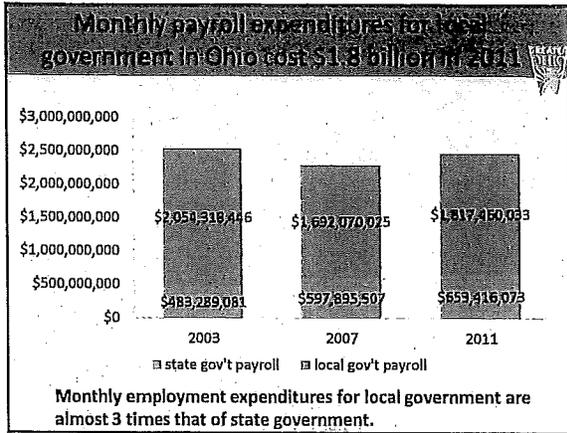
State of Local Government in Ohio

How much does Ohio's local government cost?

How does Ohio compare nationally?

- 20th highest local tax burden in U.S. (2010)
- 34th highest for state taxes, as a % of income (2012)
- 45th in population growth, but 8th in land consumption

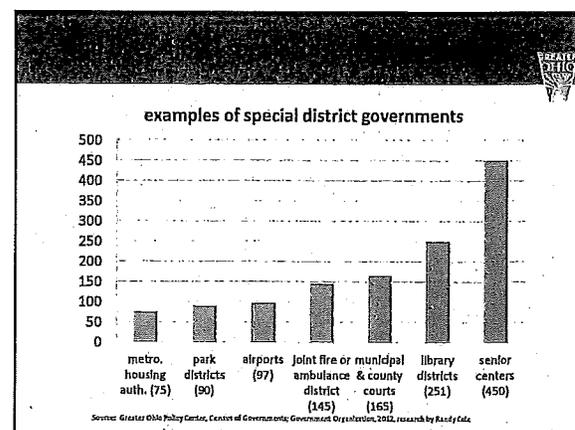
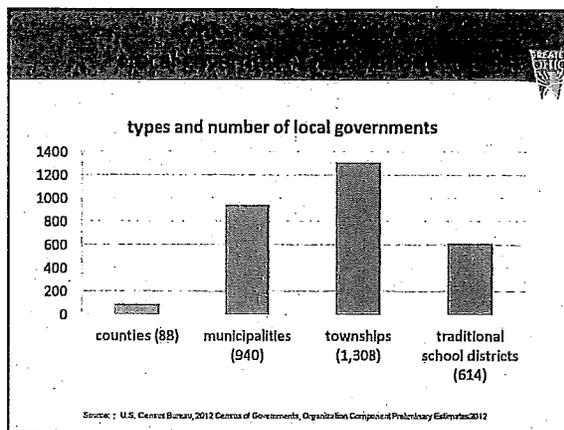
- 29% above peer state average (IN, MI, PA, KY, IL) in monthly local government payroll
- ~2x national average for monthly local government payroll



state	2011 per capita cost of local government
Indiana	\$130.71
Michigan	\$137.22
Pennsylvania	\$139.79
Wisconsin	\$153.49
Minnesota	\$156.19
Ohio	\$157.49
Illinois	\$176.30
New York	\$251.60
US Total	\$160.58

How much local government does Ohio have?

How does Ohio's local government system compare nationally?



Ohio ranks 7th nationally in the numbers of local governments per state

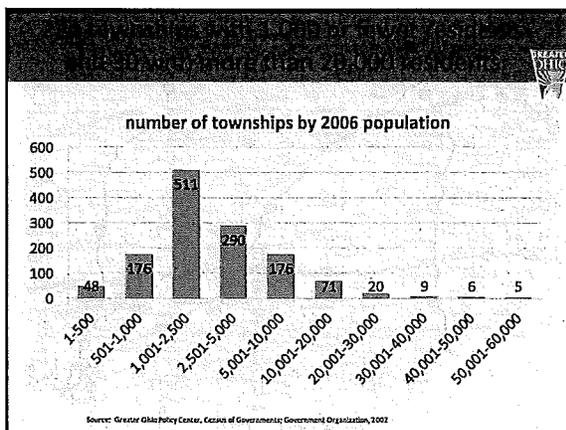
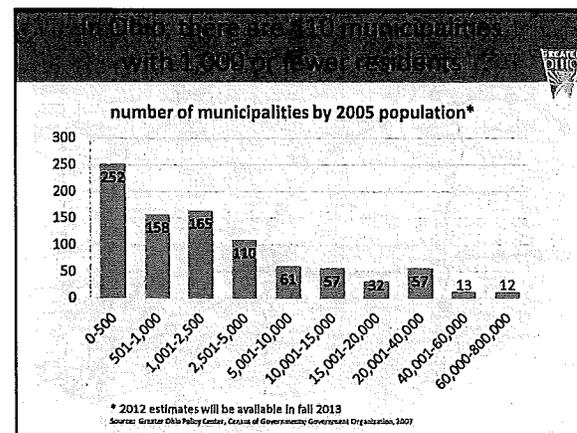
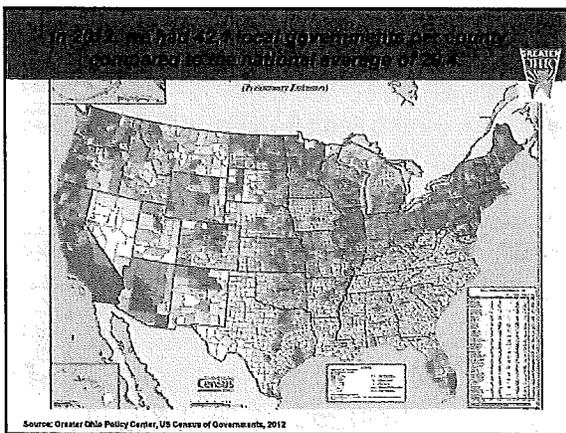
rank	state	# of local gov'ts
1	Illinois	6,968
2	Pennsylvania	4,905
3	Texas	4,856
4	California	4,350
5	Kansas	3,806
6	Missouri	3,752
7	Ohio	3,702
8	Minnesota	3,633
9	New York	3,454
10	Wisconsin	3,123

Source: Greater Ohio Policy Center, US Census of Governments, 2012

and 8th nationally in local governments per square mile

rank	state	Size of state in square mile	# of local govts	govts/sq mi
1	New Jersey	8,214	1,344	0.164
2	Delaware	2,396	338	0.141
3	Illinois	57,914	6,968	0.120
4	Connecticut	5,543	644	0.116
5	Rhode Island	1,231	134	0.109
6	Pennsylvania	46,055	4,905	0.107
7	Massachusetts	9,240	852	0.092
8	Ohio	44,825	3,702	0.083
9	Vermont	9,614	728	0.076
10	Indiana	36,418	2,694	0.074

Source: Greater Ohio Policy Center, US Census of Governments, 2012



- Municipalities have home rule powers
- Townships are a "creature of statute" but can have limited home rule powers
- Counties are governed by general rules. Charter counties have home rule powers

State of Local Government in Ohio

Observations on local government efforts to collaborate and become more efficient

Finding #1 from GOGL White Paper

Successful collaborations and efforts to become more efficient often require a **leader or steward**.

Stewards often have the highest levels of capacity and resources to lead collaboration efforts. Examples include:

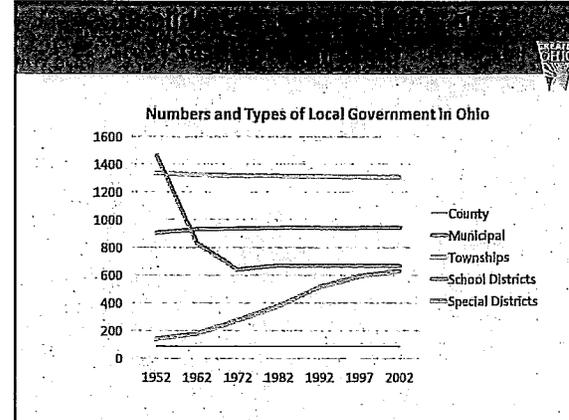
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Education Service Centers
- County Engineers
- County Executive or County Commissioners
- Major cities

Collaboration and efficiency efforts are often prompted by economic changes

Local governments have begun to “right-size” equipment and staff so resources are maximally utilized

Comparing local governments and measuring efficiency can be difficult

- Ohio has no set standard reporting instrument for a detailed breakdown of local government expenditures
- Local governments are assessing themselves and soliciting third party inventories to better understand their efficiency opportunities



Results of intergovernmental collaboration

- economies of scale
- improved local government accountability
- equalization of service quantity and quality
- coordinated economic competitiveness
- ability to retain local community character and flavor



QUESTIONS?



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