



The Ohio Township Association (OTA) recently conducted an extensive analysis of local government spending in Ohio and found that smaller governments spend less, tend to borrow less per capita and have lower taxes per capita than larger entities. The analysis was conducted using data from the Auditor of the State and a report was released in late September.

The analysis was spurred by the difficult financial situation facing both Ohio and the nation, which has led to a continued search for ways to reduce the cost of government spending. Some people believe that forced government consolidation would reduce expenditures and local taxes. Others believe that smaller governments are more accessible and responsive and can cost less.

The OTA report details a number of interesting findings regarding the benefits of local, small government entities including municipalities and townships. It clearly shows that these entities are successful in delivering on the democratic values of superior access and responsiveness.

The report also indicates that Ohio's townships are one of the state's most efficient forms of government. Some of the key findings related to townships include:

- Townships are Ohio's fastest growing government segment. In fact, virtually all of Ohio's population growth between 2000 and 2010 was in townships.
- Ohio's townships provide virtually the same services as cities and villages, and do so in their own exclusive geographic service areas. Further, townships are responsible for the largest share of the state's roadways.
- Townships represent only 11 percent of local government spending, yet they have 35 percent of the state's population.
- Townships spend less per capita and have less per capita debt service payments than villages and cities in the same population category.
- Townships conduct financial affairs responsibly, rarely utilizing Ohio's Local Government Fiscal Distress Program.

The report clearly shows that smaller government entities, specifically townships, are an asset to Ohio and its ability to remain competitive and should remain in their current state without forced consolidation. Forcing local government consolidations would be a step in the wrong direction. Smaller governments, which are closer to people, are better for Ohio.

About The Ohio Township Association

The Ohio Township Association (OTA) is a statewide organization dedicated to promoting and preserving township government in Ohio through lobbying efforts and educational forums. The Association was founded on June 28, 1928, and is organized in 87 Ohio Counties. The OTA has more than 5,200 townships and 4,000 associate members. For more information visit www.OhioTownships.org.