



Erin Toner

## Group Pushes Local Government Consolidation

By *Erin Toner*

March 16, 2010 | WUWM | Milwaukee, WI

A group representing local governments in Wisconsin is calling for more consolidation. The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin released a report today outlining ways counties, cities and towns could work together. It says collaboration could save taxpayer money and make services such as fire protection or animal control, more efficient. Institute Director Gary Becker says legislators could help by changing the way the state doles out property tax aid.

“If that formula was tweaked a little bit to allow a regional basis for that revenue sharing, that would help take away the competition between municipalities for a tax base. And so as far as economic development and the growth of tax base, that would help to build trust and reduce the competition between communities within a region,” Becker says.

Becker says several municipalities in Wisconsin have consolidated services, but the practice is not widespread. He says cooperation is crucial now, as local governments face declining tax revenue and an increased need for services.

© 2010 Board of Regents University of Wisconsin System - WUWM FM