



[Subscribe](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Features](#)
[Press Releases](#)
[Events](#)
[WisBusiness.com](#)
[WisOpinion.com](#)
[Home](#)

Advertisement

**For the rest of the story...**  
**Sign up to be a WisPolitics.com Subscriber**



**UP FRONT**  
 with Mike Grude



#### SUBSCRIBER PRODUCTS

» [Login](#)

#### SITE RESOURCES

» [WisPolitics PDA Site](#)  
 » [Facebook](#)  
 » [Twitter](#)

#### FEATURES

» [Election Coverage](#)  
 » [Audio Clips](#)  
 » [Courtwatch](#)  
 » [Budget Blog](#)  
 » [DC Wrap](#)  
 » [Quorum Call](#)  
 » [mkepolitics.com](#)  
 » [Ad Watch](#)

#### SEARCH

» [Lobbyist Search](#)  
 » [State Employee Directory](#)  
 » [Find Your Legislator](#)  
 » [Money Search](#)  
 » [Media Links](#)  
 » [State Government: Executive Branch](#)  
 » [Blue Book Archives](#)  
 » [Wis. Court Cases](#)  
 » [Public Notices in WI Papers](#)

#### LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

» [Legislative Notification Service](#)  
 » [State Legislation](#)  
 » [U.S. Congress](#)

#### OTHER SITES

» [WisOpinion.com](#)  
 » [WisBusiness.com](#)  
 » [IowaPolitics.com](#)

Submit comments, news tips, press releases and video links to [staff@wispolitics.com](mailto:staff@wispolitics.com)

Advertisement

**[Scott Walker For Governor](#)**  
 Take Back Wisconsin! Join the Team Today.  
[www.ScottWalker.org](http://www.ScottWalker.org)

Ads by Google

[County](#)  
[TIF Districts](#)  
[Municipal Courts](#)  
[Municipal Water](#)  
[Local Government](#)

#### WisPolitics: Local governments urge more efficiency, not consolidation

3/18/2010

The Local Government Institute is pressing for the creation of a Joint Legislative Council study committee on cooperation between county and municipal officials, with the goal of implementing legislative changes to increase efficiencies.

Wausau Mayor Jim Tipple told a Capitol press conference on Tuesday the committee should have "the aim of creating enabling legislation for special taxation districts where necessary, including revenue frameworks and taxing authority."

LGI -- which includes the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities -- unveiled its first report, arguing that increasing local government collaboration serves the public better than consolidation of local governments.

"We found that it is probably far more important to look at how a public service is provided rather than who provides that service," said Bill Mielke, an LGI board member. "Regional provision of services, consolidation of services and privatization of services all offer higher levels of service at the same or less cost."

Tipple said initial changes should focus on recycling programs, public health, county law enforcement, metro fire and EMS departments, and animal control. But LGI officials said the report should provide a framework for all public programs as local government deal with increasing demands and stagnant revenue streams.

Jean Jacobson, chairwoman of the Town of Norway in Racine County and the former county exec, recalled how a pair of her nearby municipalities had to wait four years to merge because of state regulations, and that it ultimately took a new state law to enact the merger despite widespread public support.

"Residents of our communities do not see lines drawn on the street indicating where the municipal lines are drawn," Jacobson said. "They do question why different garbage trucks painted different colors come into the same neighborhood each week, crossing over each other picking up the garbage."

Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell said the report's emphasis on create locally administered coordinating councils would enable local officials to start asking difficult questions about public services without fear of retribution in the public arena.

O'Connell added that local governments are facing funding challenge not only in the current economic climate, but likely for decades to come.

"The property tax is absolutely, without question not sustainable as a major funding source of government in the future," O'Connell warned.

But Mielke said that since a shift away from the property tax promises to be "complex and politically charged," his report focused on how to best function under the current system.

O'Connell said the LGI recommendations are consistent with the findings of the Wisconsin Way coalition, a tax reform group which the counties association is also involved in. O'Connell said he expected the Wisconsin Way's recommendations soon.

See the LGI report:

[http://www.localgovinstitute.org/sites/default/files/LGI%20Roadmap%20Final%20Report\\_0.pdf](http://www.localgovinstitute.org/sites/default/files/LGI%20Roadmap%20Final%20Report_0.pdf)

-By Andy Szal  
WisPolitics.com



Printer-friendly version



Send this article to a friend



Copyright ©2010 WisPolitics.com All rights reserved. Website development by [wisnet.com LLC](#)