

CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION

**Creating metro government
would let Wheeling tell the
world a different story
than it's been telling for the
last 50 years.**

**A presentation from
HOPEFUL CITY
Wheeling, WV
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by
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WHO CONSOLIDATES?

(2002 population)

City of Wheeling

(30,015 city residents)

Ohio County

(10,502 “county” residents)

WHO DOESN'T?

Bethlehem (2,610)

West Liberty (1,207)

Triadelphia (794)

Clearview (580)

Valley Grove (418)

&

OHIO COUNTY SCHOOLS

**In 11 cases of central city-county mergers,
none of 126 smaller towns joined
larger consolidated government.**

WHY CONSOLIDATE?

To Save Taxes?

Modest potential

1. don't do same things

city: fire dept, sewers, garbage pickup;

county: public health, corrections

2. county provides some

“city” services for

“county” residents

example: sheriff's patrol

possible savings in administrative costs

WHY CONSOLIDATE?

**To Boost
Economic Growth?**

Major potential

**Regions with
consolidated city-counties
outperformed
peer regions
economically
after consolidation.**

Unigovs:

**Indianapolis-Marion
Nashville-Davidson
Jacksonville-Duval
Lexington-Fayette
Augusta-Richmond GA
Columbus-Muskogee GA
Athens-Clarke GA**

Peers:

**Louisville, Columbus OH, Dayton,
Greenville-Spartanburg, Charleston,
Norfolk-VA Beach-Newport News,
Jackson, Montgomery, Columbia,
Savannah, Macon, Auburn,
Hattiesburg, Albany GA, and
Atlantic City**

FASTER JOB GROWTH

Factory Jobs

	<u>1969-99</u>	<u>1989-99</u>
Unigovs	27%	3%
Peers	-11%	-8%
Wheeling MSA	-60%	-15%

Non-Factory Jobs

	<u>1969-99</u>	<u>1989-99</u>
Unigovs	117%	29%
Peers	110%	22%
Wheeling MSA	30%	14%

Total Jobs

	<u>1969-99</u>	<u>1989-99</u>
Unigovs	99%	25%
Peers	86%	18%
Wheeling MSA	10%	11%

FASTER GROWTH IN REAL INCOME

Personal Income Per Capita

	<u>1969-99</u>	<u>1989-99</u>
Unigovs	75%	17%
Peers	69%	11%
Wheeling MSA	51%	12%

BETTER CITY CREDIT RATINGS

Moody's Investors Service (2002)

Unigovs	Aa2
Peer cities	A1+
City of Wheeling	Baa1

WHY?

- **unified, larger tax base**
 - **better credit ratings**
 - **minimal in-fighting**
- **unified plans/policies**
(“one-stop shop”)
- **dynamic leadership**
(“speak with 1 voice”)
- **more *effective* gov’t**
 - **cost savings/lower taxes?**

VISION ... NOT TAX CUTS

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world a different story
than it's been telling for the
last 50 years.**

**You cannot keep doing the
same old thing and expect
different results.**

10 steps out of Chapter 11

- 1. have strong management team**
- 2. adopt credible business plan**
- 3. maximize access to largest capital pool at lowest cost**
- 4. maximize investment efficiency**
- 5. implement fair pricing policy**
- 6. minimize unnecessary customer charges**
- 7. protect management's ability to make strategic decisions**
- 8. maintain owners' confidence**
- 9. share growth benefits fairly**
- 10. invest to grow business**