

**Lamont-Bysiewicz Transition  
Shared Services Policy  
Committee Recommendations**

December 18, 2018  
Stonington, Connecticut

**Policy Goals:**

Reduce the cost of  
local government

BY

Re-aligning public  
services delivery at  
state, regional,  
local level

Reduce CT's  
over-reliance on  
the property tax

## What's At Stake?

### High property taxes:

- Regressive
- Drag on CT Competitiveness & Cost of Living

### Inefficient Delivery of Local Services:

- Unsustainable for local governments
- Unaffordable for state to subsidize

## Economic Growth & Job Creation

Reducing over-reliance on regressive property tax which affects businesses and families (42% of all taxes in CT)

**BY**

Promoting shared services in public service delivery

**AND**

Providing alternative revenue services

**LEADS TO**

Strengthening our economic competitiveness = Economic Growth and Job Creation

## Challenges

- Tradition of local control and lack of county government
- Lack of state leadership and capacity
- Lack of local authority to pursue revenue options other than property tax
- Perceived differences in quality and cost-effectiveness of services especially across cities-suburbs-rural towns

## Strategy

- Reimagine how local and regional services are provided by towns and boards of education
- Use governor's goodwill to promote big change through Governor's Leadership Challenge
- Build on existing tools and structures
- Use data to measure efficiency and incent performance-based solutions



## Recommendations Address

1. Delivery of Local and Regional Services

2. Funding for Local and Regional Services

### Delivery of Local and Regional Services

- Re-tool State Government
  - Staff up OPM's CPIP Division
  - Revive Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) as sounding board for new ideas
- Revive Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) to Create Data-driven Performance Standards
- Enhance the Role of Councils of Governments and Regional Education Service Centers



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- The diagram is titled "Funding for Local and Regional Services" in a green rounded rectangle at the top. Below the title, there is a bulleted list of three items:
- Bifurcate Municipal and School Board property tax levy
  - Diversify Local Revenue Sources
  - Repurpose existing revenue streams to build state and regional capacity and provide incentives and support for progress



## First 100 Days

- Appoint OPM Undersecretary of Comprehensive Planning and Intergovernmental Policy
- Restructure Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR)
- Require use of Uniform Chart of Accounts by all municipalities and school districts
- Require COGs and RESCs to prepare “Readiness Reports”
- Begin process to shift burden of proof for Special Education

## Cost Savings

According to Boston Fed Report – “State Options for Promoting Cost-Efficient Local Government: Regional Consolidation” :

“ Roughly 20% of local government spending goes to services characterized by demonstrated economies of scale”.

Best opportunities: Public Safety Dispatch, Public Health, High-level administrative and financial functions

## Best Practices



### Shared Services Policy Committee

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yZ7KVrrmnQSbSsPx\\_qQ2fxtneo1C1t52](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yZ7KVrrmnQSbSsPx_qQ2fxtneo1C1t52)

## Governor's Leadership Challenge

Reduce property tax burden as a percentage of total tax incidence

Set a Marker/Goal to reduce property tax incidence by 10% in order to achieve a more competitive standing for economic growth and job creation

