

## Proposed Studies of Municipal Classifications & Powers

The current municipal classifications of cities, towns and villages and the general differentiation in powers among these classes of local government are substantially out-of-date, lacking a rational under-pinning in many aspects, and in need of major restructuring. These outdated structures and operating rules can be an impediment to service sharing, consolidation and efficient administration. Large numbers of very small, and/or overlaid local governments delivering small-scale or duplicative services are also a contributing factor in burdensome levels of property taxes, as well as an impediment to effective modern services in many areas.

We could not complete a full review of the volumes of state law on local powers within our reporting timeframe. In addition to a review of comparative powers available to municipalities leading to comprehensive re-codification of those powers, studies should be conducted that analyze the potential for efficiencies through consolidation or reclassification of various sizes and types of local governments, and that identify best practices and models of city and county charters. Specifically, the following areas should be researched:

- A study of the 21 towns over 50,000 in population, and the villages they contain, as to whether conversion to cities, which would eliminate the town layer of government, could produce efficiencies. These conversions could either be in total including component villages, or in part, through combinations producing a natural service area composed of large villages and other urbanized areas.
- A study of the 10 cities below 10,000 in population analyzing the potential for efficiencies through consolidation with surrounding municipalities or other restructuring options.
- A study of the 30 towns under 500 in population, taking into account their geographic size and density, to determine if there are neighboring towns with which they could combine, and what the potential efficiencies would be.
- A study of the potential for eliminating a layer of government in more rural counties through conversion of heavily populated town-village areas to cities, or by allowing for unincorporated areas (i.e., no town, with services provided solely by the county).
- A comparative study of the powers available to cities, towns and villages, leading to a comprehensive re-codification of powers available under the Statute of Local Governments, City Law, Town Law, and Village Law, removing anachronistic provisions and providing for more uniform governance structures and local powers that reflect current needs rather than historical differences. This would include provisions for classification changes based on changing local conditions or mergers, rather than being dependent on legislative action. This study should also address distinctions among classes of towns and cities.



- A review of city charters, including best practices and consideration of particular problems. The study should produce a model structure or structures, which should be constructed to achieve maximally efficient and effective administration and that would promote service sharing or consolidation with a broader area.
- A review of county government charters and models, identifying best practices and structures. The study should produce a model structure or structures for counties, constructed to achieve maximally efficient and effective administration and promote service sharing or consolidation both within the county, among component municipalities, and among counties.

## Towns > 50,000

Town	Population (2000 Census)	Area (square miles)	Density (persons per square mile)
Hempstead	755,924	120.0	6,299
Hempstead	56,554	3.7	15,285
Freeport	43,783	4.6	9,518
Valley Stream	36,368	3.4	10,696
Rockville Centre	24,568	3.3	7,445
Garden City (pt)	21,672	5.3	4,089
Lynbrook	19,911	2.0	9,956
Floral Park (pt)	13,667	1.2	11,405
East Rockaway	10,414	1.0	10,414
Malverne	8,934	1.1	8,122
Lawrence	6,522	3.8	1,716
Cedarhurst	6,164	0.7	8,806
Island Park	4,732	0.4	11,830
New Hyde Park (pt)	3,975	0.3	11,904
Atlantic Beach	1,986	0.5	3,972
Stewart Manor	1,935	0.2	9,675
South Floral Park	1,578	0.1	15,780
Hewlett Harbor	1,271	0.7	1,816
Bellerose	1,173	0.1	11,730
Woodsburgh	831	0.4	2,078
Hewlett Neck	504	0.2	2,520
Hewlett Bay Park	484	0.4	1,210
Mineola (pt)	15	0.0	10,123
Town Outside of Village	488,883	86.6	5,648
Brookhaven	448,248	259.3	1,729
Patchogue	11,919	2.2	5,418
Lake Grove	10,250	3.0	3,417
Port Jefferson	7,837	3.0	2,612
Bellport	2,363	1.5	1,575
Poquott	975	0.4	2,438
Old Field	947	2.1	451
Belle Terre	832	0.9	924
Shoreham	417	0.4	1,043
Town Outside of Village	412,708	245.8	1,679
Islip	322,612	105.3	3,064
Brightwaters	3,248	1.0	3,248
Islandia	3,057	2.2	1,390
Ocean Beach	138	0.1	1,380
Saltaire	43	0.3	143
Town Outside of Village	316,126	101.7	3,108

## Towns > 50,000 (cont'd.)

Town	Population (2000 Census)	Area (square miles)	Density (persons per square mile)
Oyster Bay	293,925	104.4	2,815
Massapequa Park	17,499	2.2	7,954
Farmingdale	8,399	1.1	7,635
Bayville	7,135	1.4	5,096
Sea Cliff	5,066	1.1	4,605
Muttontown	3,412	6.1	559
Oyster Bay Cove	2,262	4.2	539
Old Brookville	2,167	4.0	542
Brookville	2,126	4.0	532
Laurel Hollow	1,930	2.9	666
Lattingtown	1,860	3.8	489
Upper Brookville	1,801	4.3	419
Matinecock	836	2.6	322
Mill Neck	825	2.6	317
Old Westbury (pt)	667	1.4	492
Centre Island	444	1.1	404
Roslyn Harbor (pt)	309	0.4	853
Cove Neck	300	1.3	231
East Hills (pt)	20	0.0	2,975
Town Outside of Village	236,867	60.0	3,949
North Hempstead	222,611	53.6	4,153
Mineola (pt)	19,219	1.9	10,123
Westbury	14,263	2.4	5,943
Great Neck	9,538	1.4	6,813
Williston Park	7,261	0.6	12,102
East Hills (pt)	6,822	2.3	2,975
Great Neck Plaza	6,433	0.3	21,443
Manorhaven	6,138	0.5	12,276
New Hyde Park (pt)	5,548	0.5	11,904
Kings Point	5,076	3.3	1,538
Flower Hill	4,508	1.6	2,818
North Hills	4,301	2.8	1,536
Old Westbury (pt)	3,561	7.2	492
Lake Success	2,797	1.9	1,472
Sands Point	2,786	4.2	663
Great Neck Estates	2,756	0.8	3,445
Port Washington No	2,700	0.5	5,400
Munsey Park	2,632	0.5	5,264
Thomaston	2,607	0.4	6,518
Roslyn	2,570	0.6	4,283
East Williston	2,503	0.6	4,172
Floral Park (pt)	2,300	0.2	11,405

## Towns > 50,000 (cont'd.)

Town	Population (2000 Census)	Area (square miles)	Density (persons per square mile)
North Hempstead (cont'd.)			
Plandome	1,272	0.5	2,544
Roslyn Estates	1,210	0.4	3,025
Kensington	1,209	0.3	4,030
Russell Gardens	1,074	0.2	5,370
Baxter Estates	1,006	0.2	5,030
Plandome Heights	971	0.2	4,855
Plandome Manor	838	0.5	1,676
Saddle Rock	791	0.2	3,955
Roslyn Harbor (pt)	714	0.8	853
Garden City (pt)	0	0.0	4,089
Town Outside of Village	97,207	15.8	6,168
Babylon	211,792	52.3	4,050
Lindenhurst	27,819	3.8	7,321
Babylon	12,615	2.4	5,256
Amityville	9,441	2.1	4,496
Town Outside of Village	161,917	44.0	3,680
Huntington	195,289	94.0	2,078
Lloyd Harbor	3,675	9.4	391
Huntington Bay	1,496	1.0	1,496
Asharoken	625	1.4	446
Town Outside of Village	189,493	82.2	2,305
Amherst	116,510	53.2	2,190
Williamsville (pt)	5,545	1.3	4,287
Town Outside of Village	110,965	51.9	2,138
Smithtown	115,715	53.6	2,159
Village of the Branch	1,895	0.9	2,106
Nissequogue	1,543	3.8	406
Head of the Harbor	1,447	2.8	517
Town Outside of Village	110,830	46.1	2,404
Ramapo	108,905	61.2	1,779
Spring Valley (pt)	24,157	2.0	12,126
Suffern	11,006	2.1	5,241
Chestnut Ridge	7,829	4.9	1,598
Airmont	7,799	4.6	1,695
Wesley Hills	4,848	3.4	1,426
New Hempstead	4,767	2.8	1,703

## Towns > 50,000 (cont'd.)

Town	Population (2000 Census)	Area (square miles)	Density (persons per square mile)
Ramapo (cont'd.)			
New Square	4,624	0.4	11,560
Montebello	3,688	4.4	838
Kaser	3,316	0.2	16,580
Sloatsburg	3,117	2.7	1,154
Pomona (pt)	1,230	1.1	1,136
Hillburn	881	2.2	400
Town Outside of Village	31,643	30.4	1,040
Greece	94,141	47.4	1,986
Cheektowaga			
Depew (pt)	10,228	3.1	3,261
Sloan	3,775	0.8	4,719
Williamsville (pt)	28	0.0	4,287
Town Outside of Village	79,988	25.6	3,130
Greenburgh			
Tarrytown	11,090	3.0	3,697
Dobbs Ferry	10,622	2.4	4,426
Hastings-On-Hudson	7,648	2.0	3,824
Irvington	6,631	2.8	2,368
Elmsford	4,676	1.1	4,251
Ardsley	4,269	1.3	3,284
Town Outside of Village	41,828	17.9	2,337
Clarkstown			
Upper Nyack (pt)	1,863	1.3	1,433
Spring Valley (pt)	1,307	0.1	12,126
Nyack (pt)	656	0.1	8,421
Town Outside of Village	78,256	37.0	2,114
Colonie			
Colonie	7,916	3.3	2,399
Menands	3,910	3.2	1,222
Town Outside of Village	67,432	49.6	1,360
Tonawanda			
Kenmore	16,426	1.4	11,733
Town Outside of Village	61,729	17.4	3,548

**Towns > 50,000 (cont'd.)**

Town	Population (2000 Census)	Area (square miles)	Density (persons per square mile)
Clay	58,805	48.0	1,225
North Syracuse (pt)	4,841	1.4	3,431
Town Outside of Village	53,964	46.6	1,158
Union	56,298	35.2	1,599
Johnson City	15,535	4.4	3,531
Endicott	13,038	3.1	4,206
Town Outside of Village	27,725	27.7	1,001
Hamburg	56,259	41.3	1,362
Hamburg	10,116	2.5	4,046
Blasdell	2,718	1.2	2,265
Town Outside of Village	43,425	37.6	1,155
Southampton	54,712	138.9	394
Southampton	3,965	6.3	629
Westhampton Beach	1,902	2.9	656
Sag Harbor (pt)	1,365	1.0	1,361
Quogue	1,018	4.2	242
North Haven	743	2.7	275
West Hampton Dunes	11	0.3	37
Town Outside of Village	45,708	121.5	376
Irondequoit	52,354	15.2	3,444

**NOTE: Area of villages partially in a town estimated based on population.**

<b>Cities &lt; 10,000</b>	<b>Population</b> (2000 Census)	<b>Area</b> (square miles)	<b>Density</b> (persons per square mile)
Sherrill	3,147	2.0	1,574
Mechanicville	5,019	0.8	6,274
Little Falls	5,188	3.8	1,365
Salamanca	6,097	6.0	1,016
Norwich	7,355	2.0	3,678
Hudson	7,524	2.2	3,420
Rensselaer	7,761	3.0	2,587
Johnstown	8,511	4.9	1,737
Port Jervis	8,860	2.5	3,544
Hornell	9,019	2.7	3,340

<b>Towns &lt; 500</b>	<b>Population</b> (2000 Census)	<b>Area</b> (square miles)	<b>Density</b> (persons per square mile)
Red House	38	55.7	0.7
Montague	108	65.1	1.7
Clare	112	96.6	1.2
Morehouse	151	191.1	0.8
Duane	159	75.1	2.1
Halcott	193	23.0	8.4
Benson	201	82.7	2.4
Hardenburgh	208	81.3	2.6
Worth	234	43.2	5.4
Osceola	265	87.0	3.0
North Hudson	266	180.1	1.5
Birdsall	268	36.0	7.4
Arietta	293	317.6	0.9
South Valley	302	36.9	8.2
Piercefield	305	104.3	2.9
Pinckney	319	41.1	7.8
Blenheim	330	33.9	9.7
West Almond	353	36.0	9.8
German	378	28.4	13.3
Ward	390	29.2	13.4
Hope	392	40.7	9.6
Santa Clara	395	175.0	2.3
West Union	399	41.0	9.7
Inlet	406	62.3	6.5
Decatur	410	20.6	19.9
Lincklaen	416	26.3	15.8
Harrisburg	423	39.9	10.6
Genesee Falls	460	15.5	29.7
Allen	462	36.4	12.7
Newcomb	481	226.6	2.1

