

*Doing*  
**M·O·R·E**

MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES  
& REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES

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Doing **M·O·R·E** MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES  
& REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES

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# Key Findings from Phase I

## Regionalism is Common Sense

- Towns and Boards already get it – and they're already doing it
- Best Practices for regionalizing services are already developing
- One-Size-Fits-All solutions are not the norm
- State government needs to promote innovation financially, and otherwise get out of the way



# Key Findings from Phase I

## Revenue Streams are Essential

- The greatest obstacle to initiating regionalized services is the up-front expense
- State government must empower existing regional entities to carry out initiatives
- The State must also provide revenue streams for regional entities
- Permanent revenue streams for towns must be developed



# Key Findings from Phase I

## **Relief From Unfunded State Mandates Will Assist our Towns and Boards**

- Where policies and statutes cost towns money, the State needs to reevaluate, modify and/or rescind
- Data is critical to evaluating costs and policies



# Key Findings from Phase I

## **Restructuring State and Local Government is Key to Solving Budget Crisis**

- State grants to towns and boards need to incent efficiencies
- Economic Development must occur at the regional level
- Existing regional entities are central to creating efficiencies, and
- Consolidation of some regional entities must be evaluated
- Barriers to health care and purchasing cooperatives must be removed



# Relief for Municipalities

- ✓ Repeal of Web Site Posting Requirements
- ✓ Relief from Responsibility for Evicted Tenant Possessions
- ✓ 3-year Delay for In-School Suspensions
- ✓ Changes to property tax laws governing telecom towers
- ✓ Establishing a floor for depreciation of personal property



# Revenue Streams for Municipalities

- ✓ 3% Increase in Hotel Lodging Tax
  - 1/3 to host towns
  - 1/3 to all towns in host region
  - 1/3 dedicated to launching regionalism initiatives
- ✓ Allowing Towns to Charge Fees Based on Cost of Services
- ✓ Extending the Real Estate Conveyance Tax



# Regional Efficiencies

- ✓ Provide Performance Incentive Grants through Hotel Tax
- ✓ Re-formulate State Grants for School Transportation to Promote Regional Contracting
- ✓ Promote Regional Economic Development Strategies Through Federal Grants
- ✓ Eliminate Statutory Barriers to Multi-town Cooperation and Between Towns and BoE's
- ✓ Allow Prescription Pooling Among BoE's
- ✓ Promote Health Care Pooling for Towns and BoE's
- ✓ Allow RESC's to Perform Construction Management Services



# Reorganizing Government

- ✓ Allow Prescription Pooling Among BoE's
- ✓ Promote Health Care Pooling for Towns and BoE's
- ✓ Create a "MERF-B" Retirement Plan for New Municipal Hires
- ✓ Establish a Single Arbitrator System for Binding Arbitration
- ✓ New Disclosure Requirements for Health Care Brokers
- ✓ Promote Regional Economic Development Strategies Through Federal Grants
- ✓ Expanding Purchasing Cooperatives to BoE's



# Committees

Town Functions

Board of Education Functions

Regional Entities

State Grants & Mandate Relief

Revenue Streams & Economic Development

Collective Bargaining, Healthcare & Pensions



# Phase II – Action for 2011 Legislative Session

- Committees to continue meeting through 2010 to further develop longer term initiatives
- Full Commission to reconvene quarterly to consider committee reports
- Full package of consensus initiatives to be developed for public comment by September 30, 2010
- Final package of legislative initiatives to be completed by December 1, 2010 in time for 2011 Legislative Session.



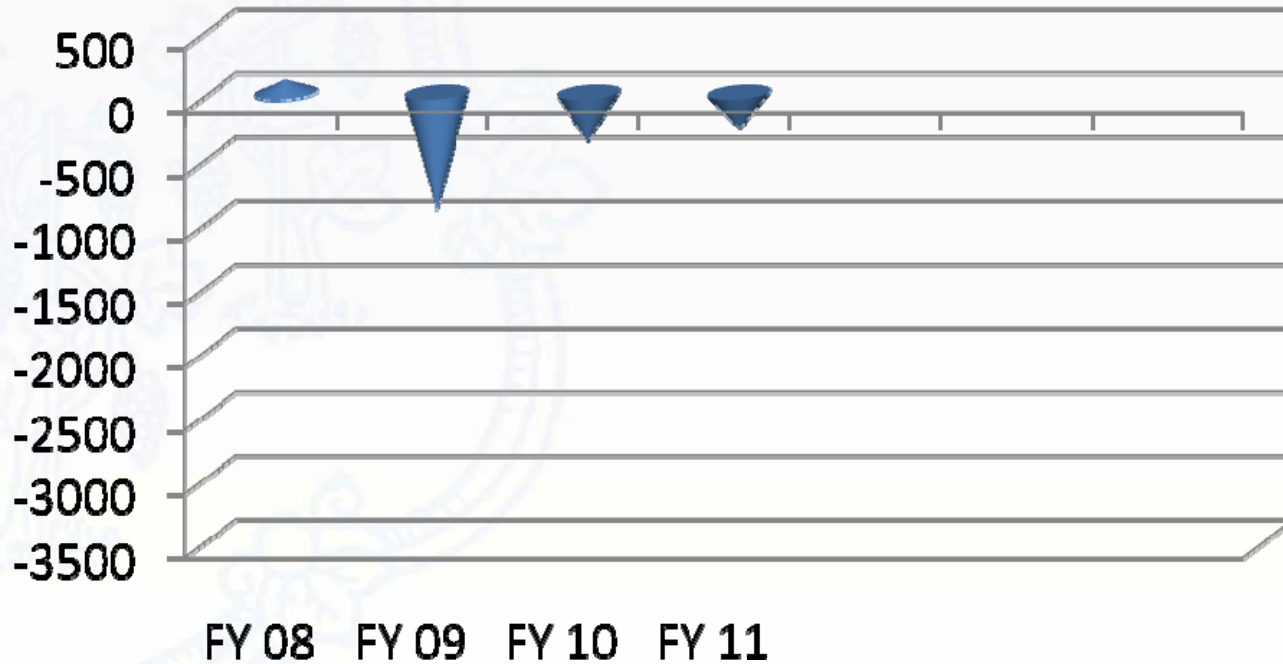
# Phase II Studies and Recommendations

- Regional Collective Bargaining
- Prevailing Wage Requirements
- Special Education Mandates
- Evaluating Capacities and Consolidation of Existing Regional Entities
- 3-year Moratorium on Unfunded Mandates w/out 2/3 Vote
- Consolidated School Calendars
- Restructured State Grant Formulas to Promote Regional Efficiencies
- Additional Revenue Streams to Reduce Reliance on Property Tax
- “Reversing” PILOT for Colleges and Hospitals
- “Raise the Age” Requirements
- Minimum Budgeting Requirements
- Standardizing Job Descriptions and Budget Reporting
- School Construction Prototyping



# The Budget Reality

## General Fund Deficits (\$\$ Millions)



# The Budget Reality

## General Fund Deficits (\$\$ Millions)

