

Consolidation of Two Cities

- 1. Is it possible?**
- 2. Example information on cities**
- 3. Initial discussion of pros and cons**
- 4. Further consideration**

*The examples provided are only intended to inspire conversation and do not indicate that any action has taken place to pursue consolidation.

Is it possible?

- Municipal Research & Service Center

- MRSC: yes – **only by vote of residents** (ballot) * RCW 35.10.400

- Cities must be adjacent (share a boundary)

- Two ways to get city consolidation on the ballot:

1. Resident's petition by >10% voters of both cities for ballot

2. Council of both cities agree to place on ballot for public vote

- Last successful consolidation:

Houghton/Kirkland consolidated 1968

Example Information on Cities

- King County, Wikipedia, cleargov.com

City	Population	Sq.Miles	Density	2017 General Fund Revenue
Burien	50,000	13.23	3779	\$27.5 million
Des Moines	30,570	6.50	4703	\$27.6 million
Normandy Park	6,540	6.68	979	\$5.1 million
SeaTac	27,810	10.21 (6.21)	2724 (4478) w/o airport	\$40.4 million
Tukwila	19,540	9.58	2040	\$57.7 million
Bellevue	139,400	36.47	3822	\$205.1 million
Seattle	686,800	83.90	8186	\$1.6 Billion

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Tukwila	19,540	9.58	2040	\$57.7 million
Combined	134,460	46.20 (42.20)	2910 (3186) w/o airport	\$158.3 million
Bellevue	139,400	36.47	3822	\$205.1 million
Seattle	686,800	83.90	8186	\$1.6 Billion

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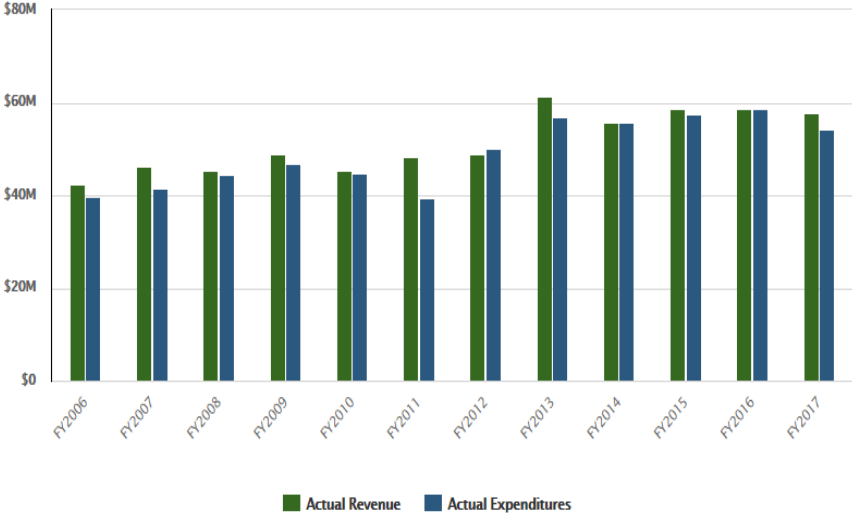
City	Population	Sq.Miles	Density	2017 General Fund Revenue
SeaTac	27,810	10.21 (6.21)	2724 (4478) w/o airport	\$40.4 million
Tukwila	19,540	9.58	2040	\$57.7 million
Combined	47,350	19.79 (15.79)	2393 (2999) w/o airport	\$98.1 million
Bellevue	139,400	36.47	3822	\$205.1 million
Seattle	686,800	83.90	8186	\$1.6 Billion

Example Information on Cities

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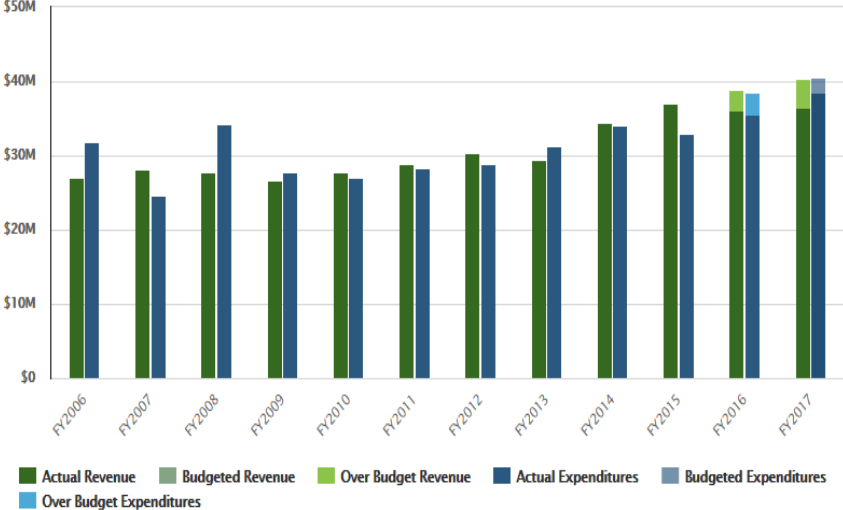
Tukwila

REVENUES vs EXPENSES



SeaTac

REVENUES vs EXPENSES



Pros and Cons: Pros

– Municipal Cooperation Guide

- 1. A consolidated government is more efficient and effective than several smaller governments. Costs can be held down and perhaps reduced through the elimination of duplicative services, personnel, and equipment. Further, the larger unit may be able to take advantage of "economies of scale" or lower per-unit costs for government services.**
- 2. Consolidation helps eliminate spillovers or externalities. Many government services benefit citizens in adjoining areas who neither pay for the service nor share in the effort involved in its delivery. These "spillovers" are eliminated if the boundaries of the taxing jurisdiction are the same as the boundaries of the service jurisdiction. While the complete elimination of spillovers is probably impossible, a larger jurisdiction is better able to avoid the problem than are several smaller ones.**

Continued...

Pros and Cons: Pros

– Municipal Cooperation Guide

- 3. The environment for decision making and long-range planning is improved. A single government in an area is better able to coordinate policies and decisions than are several governments.**
- 4. Consolidated governments, with only one governing body, are easier for the citizens to understand and use. Decision making and service responsibilities are more clearly defined and understood.**
- 5. Consolidation matches area needs with area resources. Tax burdens within a community are equalized through the creation of a government that more clearly corresponds to area needs.**
- 6. Small units of local government often experience difficulty recruiting and retaining administrative staff. Consolidation helps attract high quality staff and the city can afford to offer salaries to attract top quality personnel.**

Pros and Cons: Cons

– Municipal Cooperation Guide

- 1. Depending on the specific jurisdiction, a larger, consolidated government may not save money**
- 2. By consolidating, the benefits of diversity of governments are lost. Citizens are not able to show their approval or disapproval of government policies by moving. Consolidation results in a monopoly that stifles the competitive drive, produces uniformity, and decreases options for citizens.**
- 3. Consolidation weakens community identification. Citizens' identification with counties, cities, and towns will not be carried over to the new, larger consolidated government.**

Continued...

Pros and Cons: Cons

– Municipal Cooperation Guide

4. People are closer to smaller governments than larger ones. Further, smaller governments are more easily controlled by the people. Two or more governments are preferable to one bigger government that will rely on a larger impersonal bureaucracy.
5. Consolidation trades the status quo for the unknown. Resistance to change often defeats attempts at consolidation. (On the other hand, dissatisfaction with the status quo may be the precipitating event, if some type of crisis emerges.)

Pros and Cons

– Partial list from locals

Pros:

1. Diversified portfolio/preservation
2. Better representation - County/State
3. More flexibility for City planning
4. Easier for businesses - one regulation
5. Improved marketing/branding
6. Less competition for limited resources
7. Efficient government – less duplication
8. Lower local taxes

Cons:

1. City pride/identity, name?
2. Political uncertainty – form of gov?
3. Community representation - council
4. Fear of loss of neighborhood charm
5. Inheriting debt/bonds, taxes
6. Schools
7. Bloated government
8. Higher local taxes

Further Consideration

Continue discussions?