



By the people, for the future.

## **The Commission on Local Government Modernization**

# Building Consensus



- Community driven process to shape a vision for more effective and efficient local governance in Onondaga County
  - Better service delivery
  - More cost effective
  - Transforming systems built in the 18th century to a model for the 21st century
  
- Inclusive process
  - Diverse Commission
  - Public Participation
  - Data Driven
  - Recommendations from the Commission
  - Ultimate decision-making in the hands of Onondaga County residents
  
- Model for communities across New York

# Why a Commission?





# Onondaga County



55 Fire Departments



38 Highway Departments



16 Police Departments



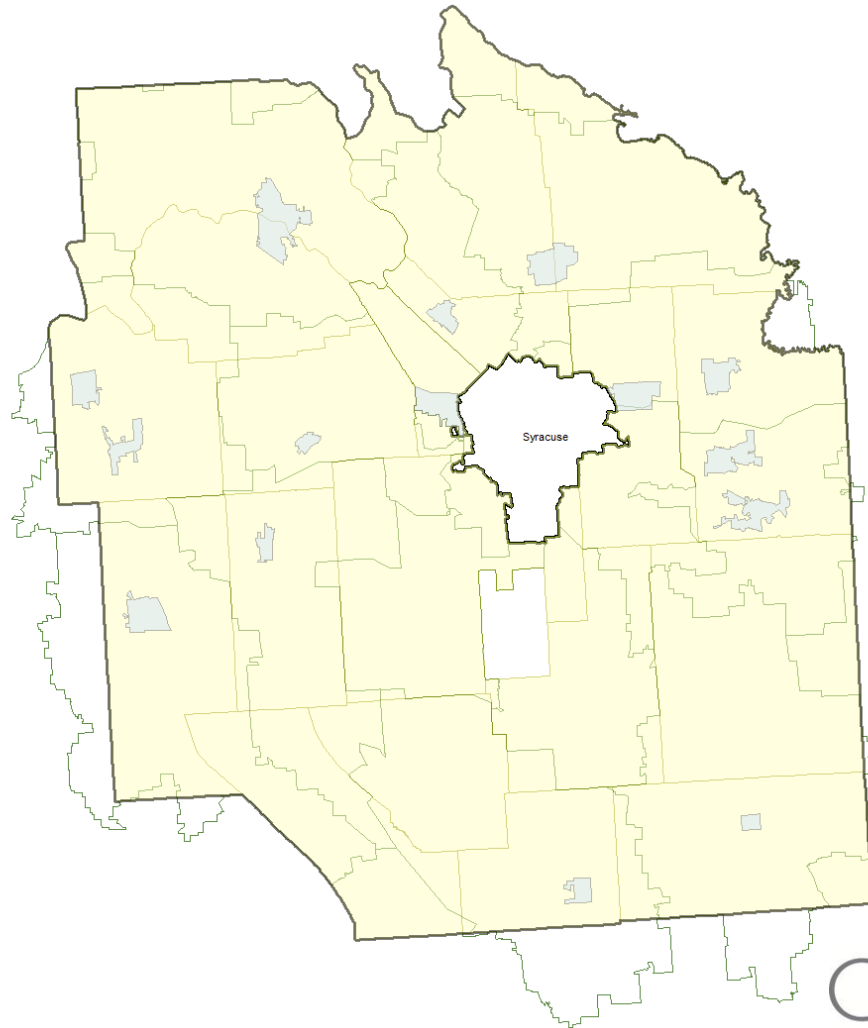
143 Water Districts

# Inefficiencies & Duplication

## Onondaga County Governance

- 19 towns
- 15 villages
- 1 city
- 1 county
- 18 school districts, plus 8 more extending into neighboring counties
- 16 police departments
- 55 fire departments
- Special service districts, Drainage districts, Water districts, zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations
- 200+ people serve on legislative boards, and approximately 300 on planning boards

# Government Service Layers





# Inefficiencies & Duplication

## Number of Elected Officials

Location	Population	# of Municipalities	# of Elected Officials
Jacksonville (Duval County), FL	850,000	1	20
Richmond (Henrico County), VA	462,000	2	15
Charlotte (Mecklenburg County), NC	935,000	8	56
Syracuse (Onondaga County), NY	467,000	35	207

**Onondaga County has 13 times the number of elected officials as Richmond (Henrico County), VA**

# Cost to Taxpayers





# Building Consensus



## Why Now?

# We Have an Opportunity

- Local leadership – elected, business, higher education – has demonstrated an extraordinary willingness to collaborate
- Local governments facing fiscal stress and unsustainable costs
- Taxpayers looking for more cost effective and efficient government
- We have made great progress on a number of local initiatives and the region has been moving in the right direction
  - Shared services between Syracuse and Onondaga County (economic development, purchasing agreements)
  - Towns and Villages (regular meetings on best practices and shared services)

# The Time is Now...



## ...to build Consensus

- **Consensus** is being built to look at every level of service, make specific recommendations, and seek public input so we can be better positioned for a successful future.
- This commission allows us to explore a wide range of solutions to modernize government, making it more responsive, more cost effective, and better at service delivery.
- Through Consensus, we can define for ourselves how we want to be organized and governed locally so public services continue to meet high standards of quality at a price that's sustainable for the future.





# How We Got Consensus

# Partners



CENTERSTATE  
CORPORATION FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



F · O · C · U · S  
GREATER SYRACUSE



Onondaga  
**Citizens  
League**



Onondaga County Village  
Mayors Association



NYS Senator John A. DeFrancisco



NYS Senator David J. Valesky

Onondaga County Town  
Supervisors Association

# Commission Members



- **Co-Chairs: Neil Murphy, Cathy Richardson, Jim Walsh**
- **Aminy I. Audi, L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc.**
- **Laurence G. Bousquet, Bousquet Holstein PLLC**
- **William M. Byrne, Byrne Dairy**
- **Dr. Donna DeSiato, East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District**
- **Bethaida Gonzalez, Syracuse University – University College**
- **Darlene Kerr, Retired President, Niagara Mohawk**
- **Hon. Patrick Kilmartin, Onondaga County Legislature**
- **Melanie W. Littlejohn, National Grid**
- **Andrew Maxwell, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency**
- **Stephen Meyer, Welch Allyn, Inc.**
- **Dr. Dennis Nave, Greater Syracuse Labor Council / CNY Physician Teamster Alliance**
- **Hon. Mark Nicotra, Town Supervisors Association / Town of Salina**
- **Hon. Mark Olson, Village Mayors Association/Village of Fayetteville**
- **Sharon F. Owens, Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility**
- **Ann Rooney, Onondaga County**
- **Chad Ryan, Syracuse Common Council**



# Consensus Will...



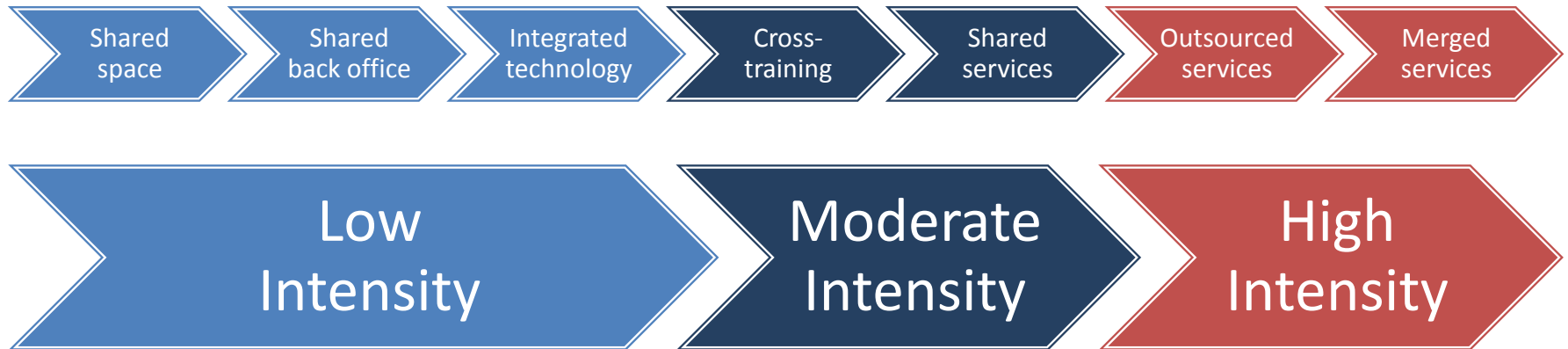
- Review the number and types of local government in Onondaga County and the costs associated with those governments.
- Review the nature and extent of services delivered by various types of local governments.
- Consider opportunities and barriers to restructuring local government functions and services and the extent to which more efficient practices can improve the performance of local government and the delivery of public services.

# Consensus Responsibilities

## Make recommendations relative to:

- Strengthening and streamlining the structure and operations of local governments;
- Improving the effectiveness and reducing the costs of local government operations and services; and
- Facilitating the merger, consolidation and partnering in the delivery of services by and between local governments.

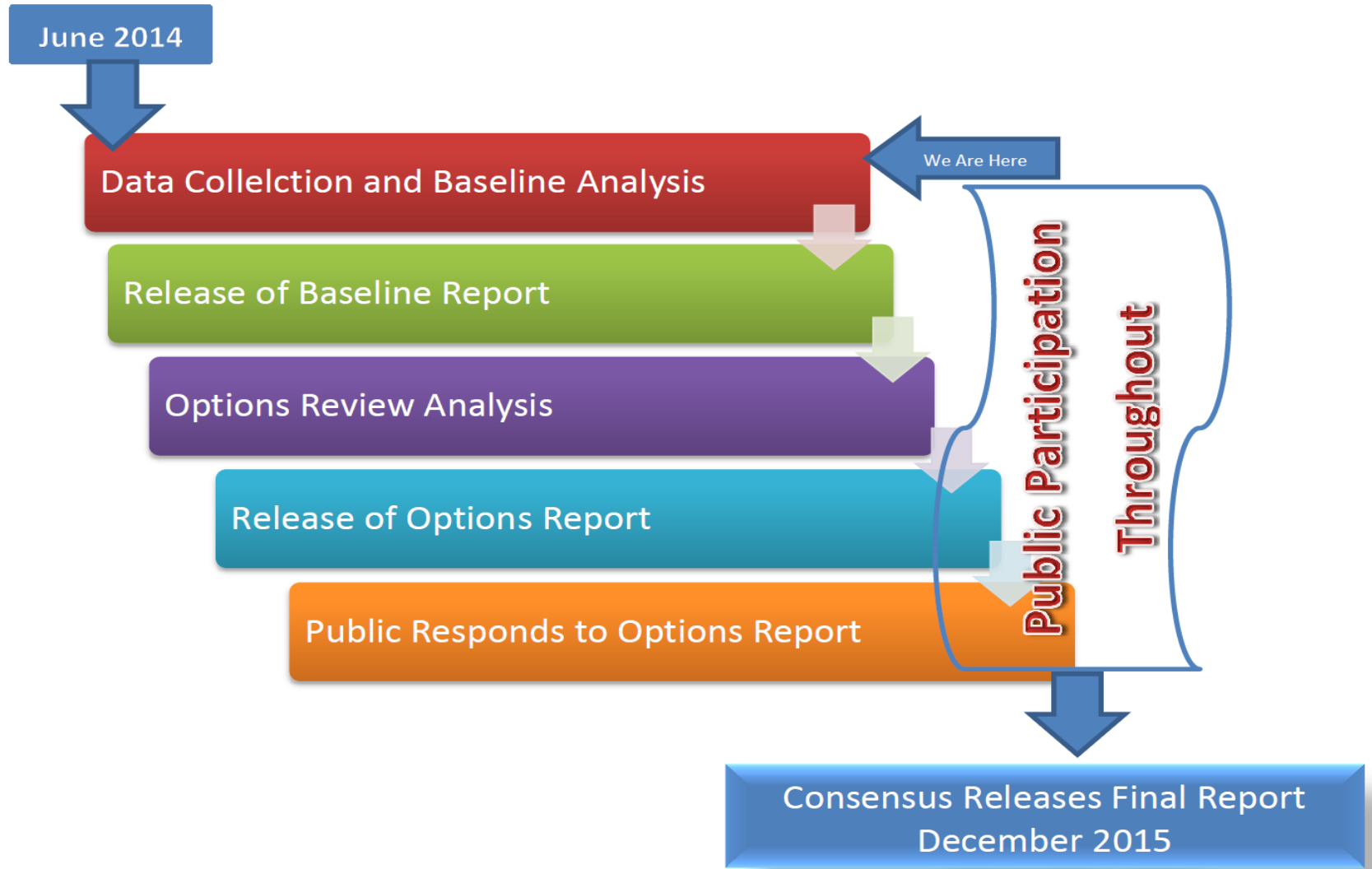
# The Range of Options





# Timeframe: charting the process

## CHARTING THE PROCESS



# Consensus Goals



- Find common ground and build consensus for action.
- Complete its analysis within ten to twelve months, and make recommendations by the end of 2015.
- **In the end, the public will make the final decision on how to move forward.**

# Get Involved



- Visit our website, [www.consensuscny.com](http://www.consensuscny.com) and sign up to help build consensus in support of modernizing the way government works for the people of Onondaga County.
- Participate throughout this process and keep an open mind about the options before us.
- Communicate with us and share your thoughts and ideas.





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