

Illinois has far more units of government than any other state. The costs associated with fragmented and overlapping layers of government can translate into higher property taxes, which hurt small businesses, homeowners, renters, and the Illinois economy as a whole.

Rank	State	County	Sub-County	School District	Special Purpose	Total	Total per 100,000
1	Illinois	102	2,720	890	3,218	6,930	55
2	Texas	254	1,225	1,070	2,984	5,533	18
3	Pennsylvania	66	2,559	514	1,712	4,851	37
4	California	57	482	1,006	2,949	4,494	12
5	Ohio	88	2,234	665	952	3,939	34

Data from the 2022 Census of Governments and the 2020 Census. Data compiled by the St. Louis Fed.

Transparency and data analytics will help policymakers and constituents make informed decisions about government consolidation. This will lead to data-driven and well-thought-out consolidation, preserving essential services and necessary units of government.

Legislation should be passed to create and adequately fund the Division of Analytics and Consolidation in the Office of the Comptroller. Through this legislation, the Comptroller’s office will conduct research and analyze data to identify units of local government and services that should be consolidated. Factors such as comparable tax rates, geography, service mapping, and cost savings will be considered through this neutral analysis. Recommendations on consolidation will be made and posted on the Comptroller’s website as a catalyst for consolidation.

It is time to take decisive action on property taxes. Data-driven government consolidation can have a meaningful and lasting impact on taxpayers across Illinois.