



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John A. DeFrancisco

Consensus Announcement - Senator DeFrancisco Helps Secure State Grant for the Study

JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO January 24, 2014

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The Commission on Local Government Modernization, has launched a comprehensive study of government structure in Onondaga County in an effort to provide better services more efficiently to the community.

“Our local governments face a serious set of challenges,” said Robert Simpson, president, CenterState CEO. “Onondaga County has nearly double the national average of local government entities, per capita, and it’s not sustainable. Establishing a commission on government modernization will allow us to explore a wide range of solutions to make government easier to use, more responsive, more cost effective, provide better services, and ultimately achieve better outcomes.”

The effort, called Consensus, will be led by Neil Murphy, who most recently served as president of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry; Catherine Richardson a retired attorney with the firm Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC.; and former Congressman James Walsh.

“We need to gather solid data, analyze information, and consider every avenue for effective, sustainable service delivery that meets our community needs,” said Neil Murphy, co-chairman of Consensus. “This commission is about developing the best possible recommendations for the public to consider.”

“I am excited to be a part of this commission and its work, and believe that we have an opportunity to engage the community in a process that will accommodate new and exciting growth,” said Catherine Richardson, co-chairman of Consensus. “At every opportunity, we will be emphatic that real actions leading to real change be taken.”

“The process we are launching is an inclusive one,” said James Walsh, co-chairman of Consensus. “Our goal is to find common ground and build consensus for action. We invite significant public participation beyond the actual Commission membership in order to build support for the conclusions that we arrive at. I look forward to working with our community leaders to forge a solid set of recommendations to address our future. In the end, the public will make the final decision on how to move forward.”

Sixteen community and business leaders will join the three co-chairs and together will review:

- The number and types of local government in Onondaga County and the costs associated with those governments.
- The nature and extent of services delivered by various types of local governments.
- 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.

