

## Change is Here for Michigan's Local Governments

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### Fewer funds and growing costs drive cooperation talks

May 8, 2007

Michigan governments at all levels are facing unprecedented economic hurdles.

The state budget remains front-and-center. The House and Senate are negotiating the differences between their tax plans. Governor Granholm wants action by June 30. Meanwhile, local governments are seeking ways to eliminate duplication among local services and functions to cut costs and improve efficiency for all -- with the hope of qualifying for enhanced revenue sharing.

Police and fire protection, library services, emergency medical services, assessing, water and sewer systems, and recreational programs can be and are provided cooperatively, but more needs to be done.

On May 17 and 18, Michigan State University will host an important conference on inter-governmental cooperation. On the top of the agenda: to recommend changes to state law and policy that will facilitate greater regional cooperation. Miller Canfield lawyers will be participating.

Thanks to decades of experience, we know the challenges and how to overcome them. Miller Canfield has created an interdisciplinary team of public finance, labor and benefits experts: the GO (Government Operations) Team. The GO Team will help municipal leaders achieve efficiencies through:

- Collaborative agreements
- Shared services
- Labor and governance issues
- Outsourcing
- Revenue enhancement
- Post-employment benefits
- Asset management

Each case is different. If you'd like help understanding and managing the hurdles you face, contact Mike McGee at 313.496.7599; Pat McGow at 313.496.7684.