PRIMA CIVITAS

Davison's Government: Services and Finances of the Community

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Davison Township and the City provide numerous services

- Public Safety: police and fire, judicial
- Public Works: garbage, water and sewer, streets and sidewalks, lights and signs
- Quality of Life: parks and recreation, senior services, library
- Community Development: building code, zoning, permitting
- General Government Administration: management, assessor, clerk, treasurer, legal, UTILITIES

Local government brings ***accountability*** *to the everyday services that residents depend upon*

How much do these services cost?

- When thinking about the services that could be shared across the Davison Community, keep in mind the relative cost of those services

How does Davison pay for the services?

- The Township and City depend as much on revenues generated elsewhere as on local resources. In other words, local taxes and fees (e.g., garbage) cover only half the true cost of the services that the community utilizes.

Dissecting the local 50%

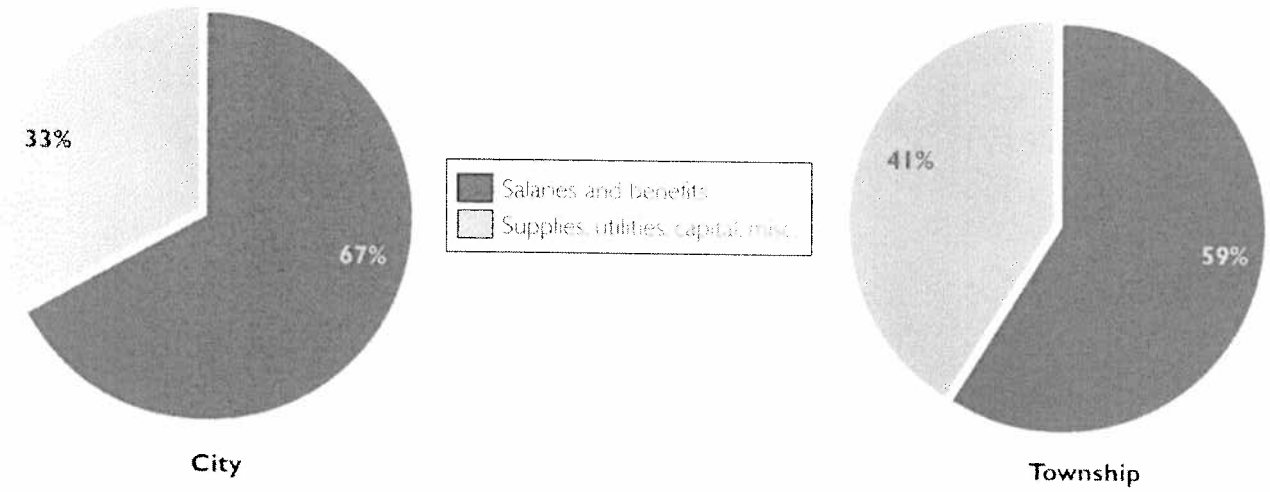
- The tax rate is higher in the city, but…
  - per capita value
  - total number of parcels
  - commercial value
- The quality of services must also be considered
  - sidewalks, street lights, paved roads, rescue response time

	City	Township
equivalent millage rate	14.287	6.334
taxable value	$108,686,598	$565,627,333
per capita value	$19,761	$31,956
# of parcels	1,988	7,064
commercial value/ percentage of total	$30 million 27.70%	$105 million 20.98%

Is there duplication of services?

Government is a Human Capital-Intensive Venture:

- Local government positions, from administrative assistants to department managers to the executive managers, should be reviewed for duplication;
- **As an example:** The City is served by 7 police officers, and the Township is served by 15 officers. Would a shared department require more? Fewer? The same number of officers? And what are the trade-offs?
- How does this impact employees of the City and Township, and the level of service received by residents?



Collaborative efforts are proven

Examples of collaboration can be found all over the Davison community…

- **Davison Area Library** operated by the Genesee District Library, and paid for by local governments
- **Davison Richfield Area Fire Department**, with dispatch provided by the county, has covered 72 sq miles since the 1970s
- **Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation (DCER)** engages residents across the region
- **Davison Area Senior Center** serves residents of the Davison area over the age of 50

Think creatively, and ask yourself…

- If we share services, should they be centralized or decentralized? Does proximity matter?
- Are there services in the City or Township that could use improvement, and am I willing to pay more for that improvement?
- Are there specific services or programs that should be fee-based because only a small number of residents utilize it?
- Could/should police or fire response times improve? How?
- Would my streets improve? Do they need improvement?
- Do I pay for a private service now (e.g., septic) that would be more affordable if provided by government?

Principles to consider

- How do we preserve the best attributes of the Township and City?
  - Under a new model of government that stresses the effectiveness and efficiency of services?
  - While not increasing the tax burden on residents in either municipality?