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Downsizing town boards won't reduce taxes much

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Although the move to downsize town boards is well-intentioned, I believe that board downsizing will do more harm than good. Consider a town board of three. If one person is on vacation and one is ill, the town's representative body is down to one person. Even if all three were present, does a board of that size offer sufficient diversity of opinion on issues? How many church or civic boards consist of three members?

The main problem for our state and region is excessive taxation. Cutting the number of town board members offers practically no benefit in terms of tax relief. The big expenses are operation of the schools and the various departments of a town that provide services.

The table published by The News of taxes in each town showed one critical aspect of taxation: If you live in a village, you are paying about an extra \$1,000 in taxes annually. Continuation of the village governments is a costly proposition. If the real goal is tax reduction, why not focus on changes that will cut costs—efficiency improvements and consolidation?

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