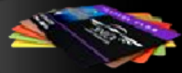


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Let's downsize everything that costs us tax dollars

Western New York has never had any real local control. We've been owned and controlled by out-of-towners from the Scranton Steel Corp. to Gannett to General Motors. So it comes as no surprise that the people who live here have a real yearning to take control of their destiny. That's why the desire to consolidate anything that might allow us to control our government has become a passion. But is this going to give us the satisfaction we crave?

Buffalonians have been told that having fewer elected officials will result in lower taxes. That is only partly true. We'll save a few bucks, but the real way to cut costs would be to combine services and cut cost duplication. Why do we need so many police, fire, highway and school districts? New York City has millions of people and gets by with much less per capita expenditure. We could save hundreds of millions of dollars by combining administrative, transportation and building costs and having one mega school district, one mega police and fire department and one mega highway/services department. In this age of computers and super electronics, there is no need for so many duplicate services.

Kevin Gaughan has shown us the way to achieve a truly smart way of managing our public resources. Let's vote to downsize everything that costs us tax dollars.

Frank Austin

Orchard Park



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