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Real downsizing requires eliminating state mandates

The effort called downsizing is a misguided and sloganized campaign without any real effect upon taxes or scope of government. Loss of representation in villages and towns diminishes the democratic process with only reductions in one or two paltry salaries and no staff. These elected officials help administer services as well as pass responsive local laws, while being paid less than part-time clerks.

This misdirected push to cut elected representatives feeds on the general public's current resentment of politicians at a time of economic stress. Real downsizing would involve massive reductions in state mandates impacting property taxes, elimination of redundant agencies and authorities, coupled with the merger of duplicative town and village services, and some school districts, but not the loss of local voting rights.

Tom Johnson

Retired Cheektowaga Councilman Youngstown

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