

Metropolitan **Planning** Council

Improving Effective Governance in Illinois

Adam Slade, Effective Government Associate

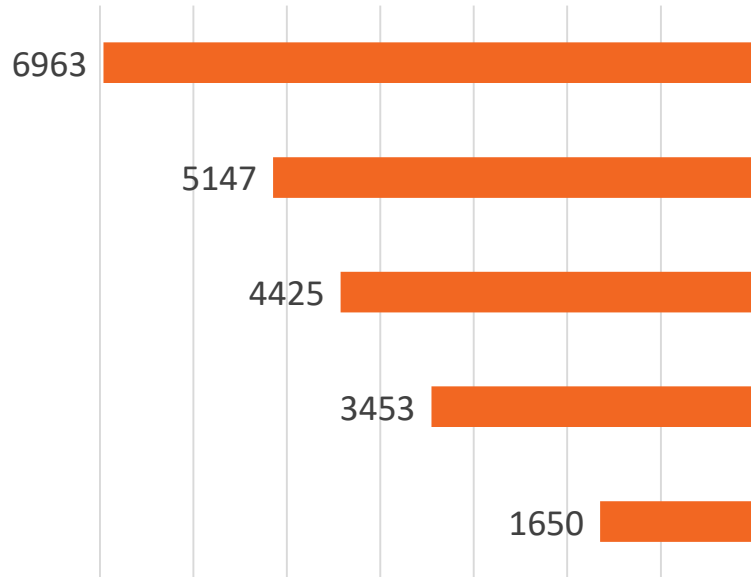
10.03.2019

Municipal Finance Data Forum Midwest

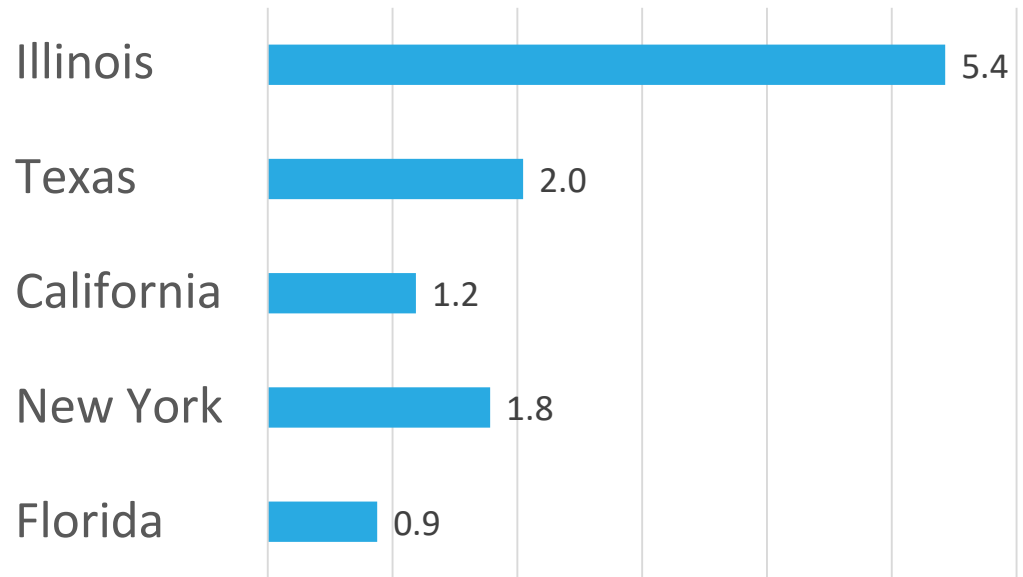


Illinois has more governments than any state

Units of government



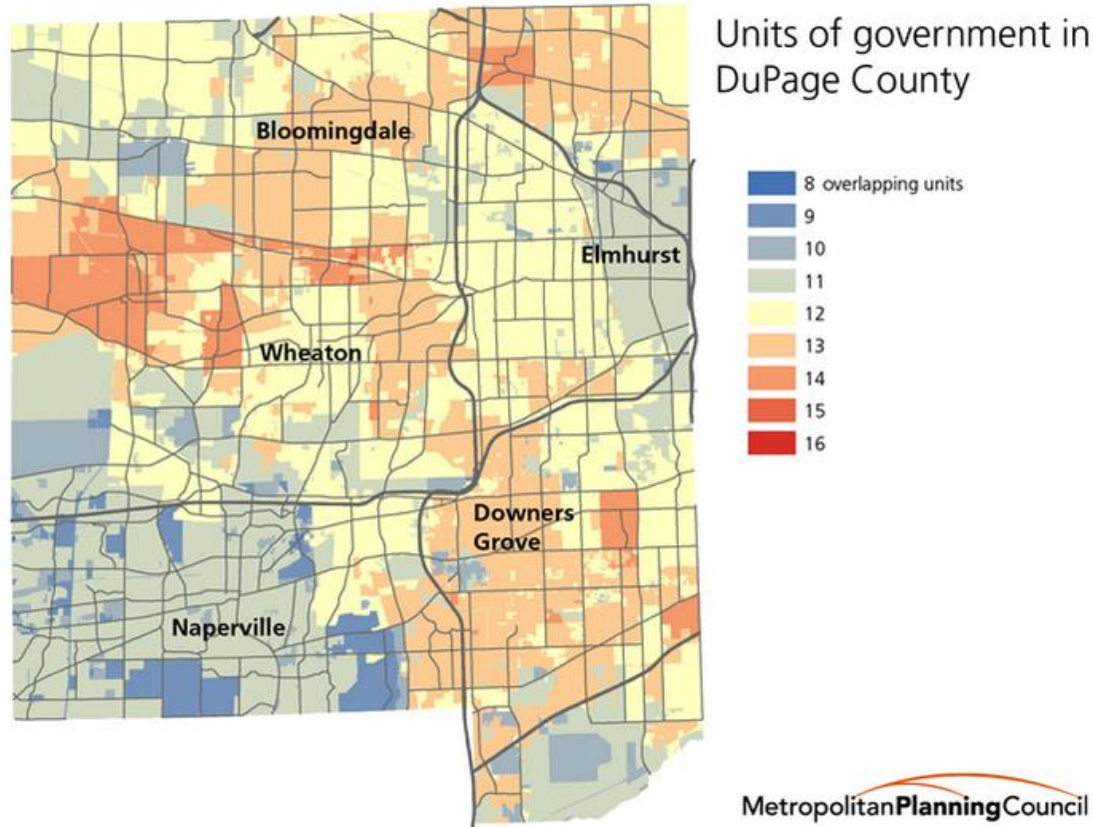
per 10,000 people



Source: Better Government Association, U.S. Census

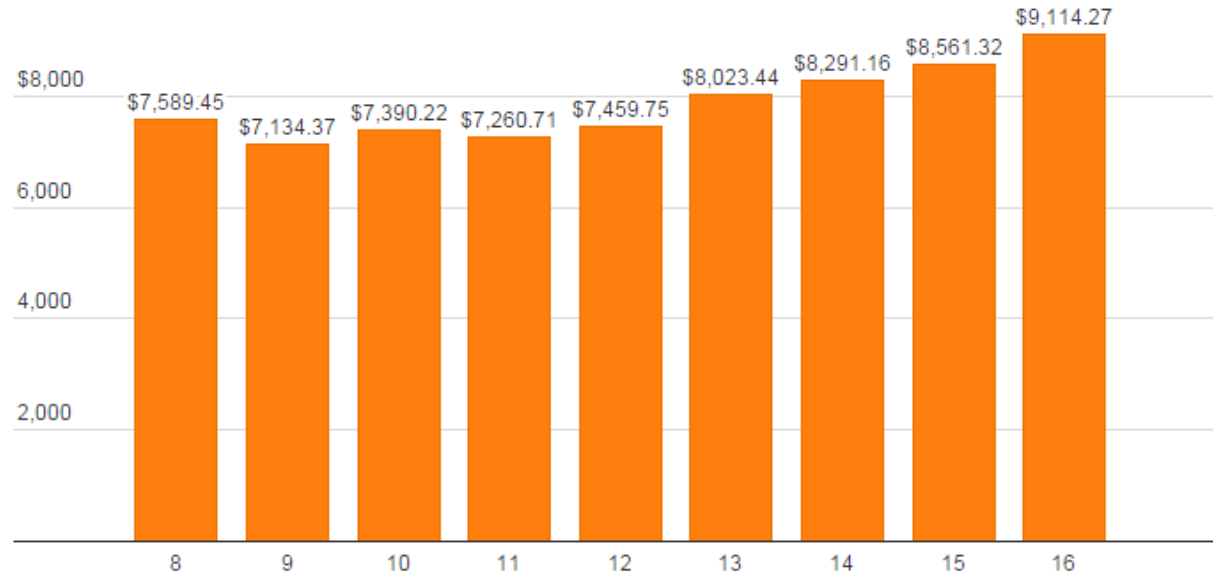
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Layers of govt. in DuPage—and everywhere



More taxing bodies = higher property tax bills

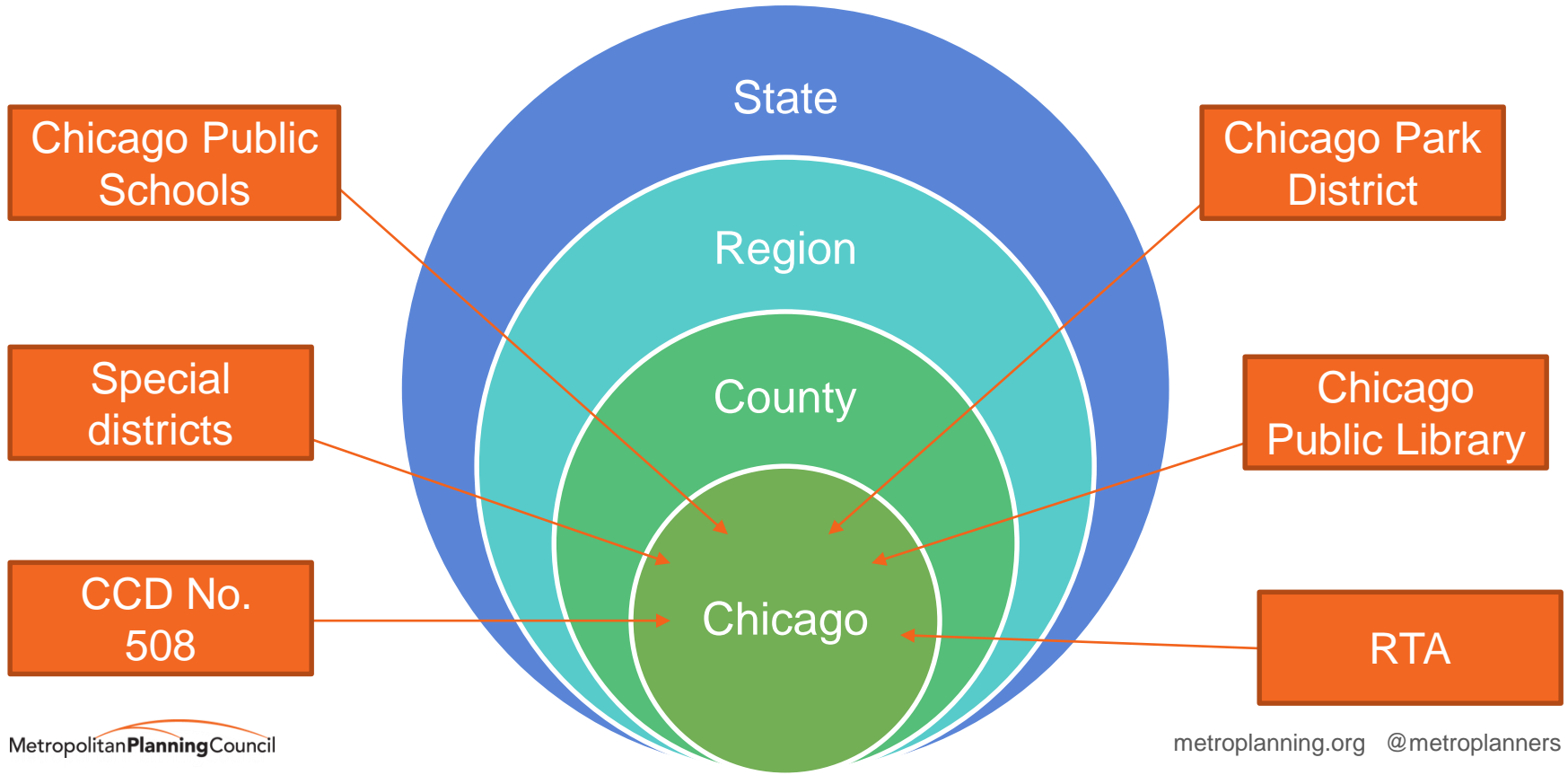
Average taxes owed per number of taxing bodies



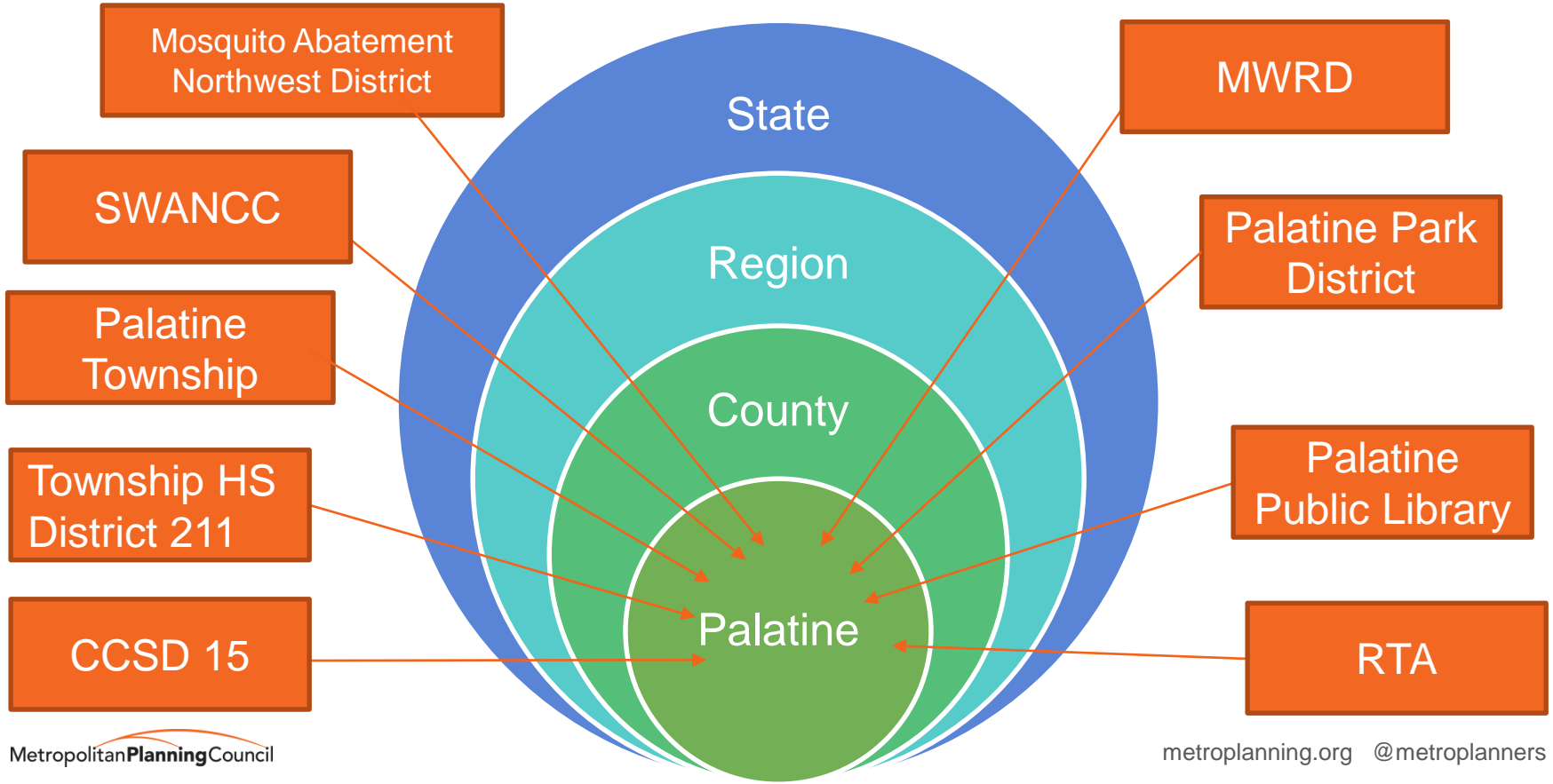
For a property at the median value of owner-occupied housing units in DuPage County, 2009-2013: \$286,500

Source: [Metropolitan Planning Council, DuPage County, U.S. Census](#) [Get the data](#)

Taxing bodies - Chicago

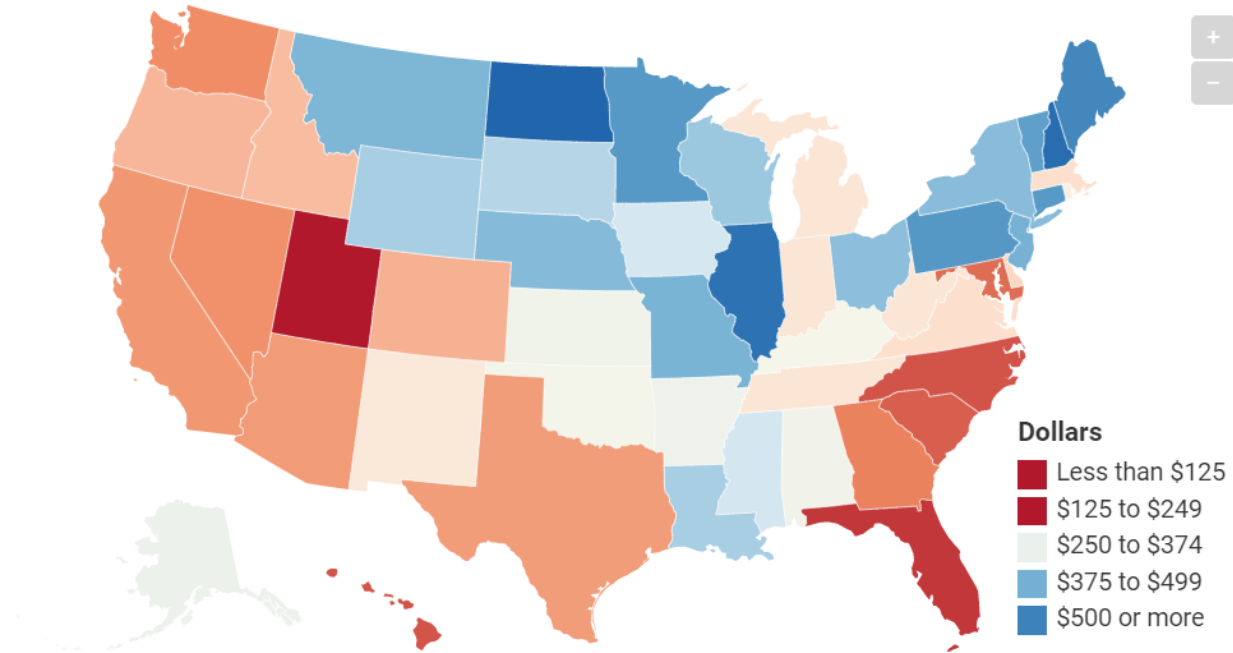


Taxing bodies - Palatine



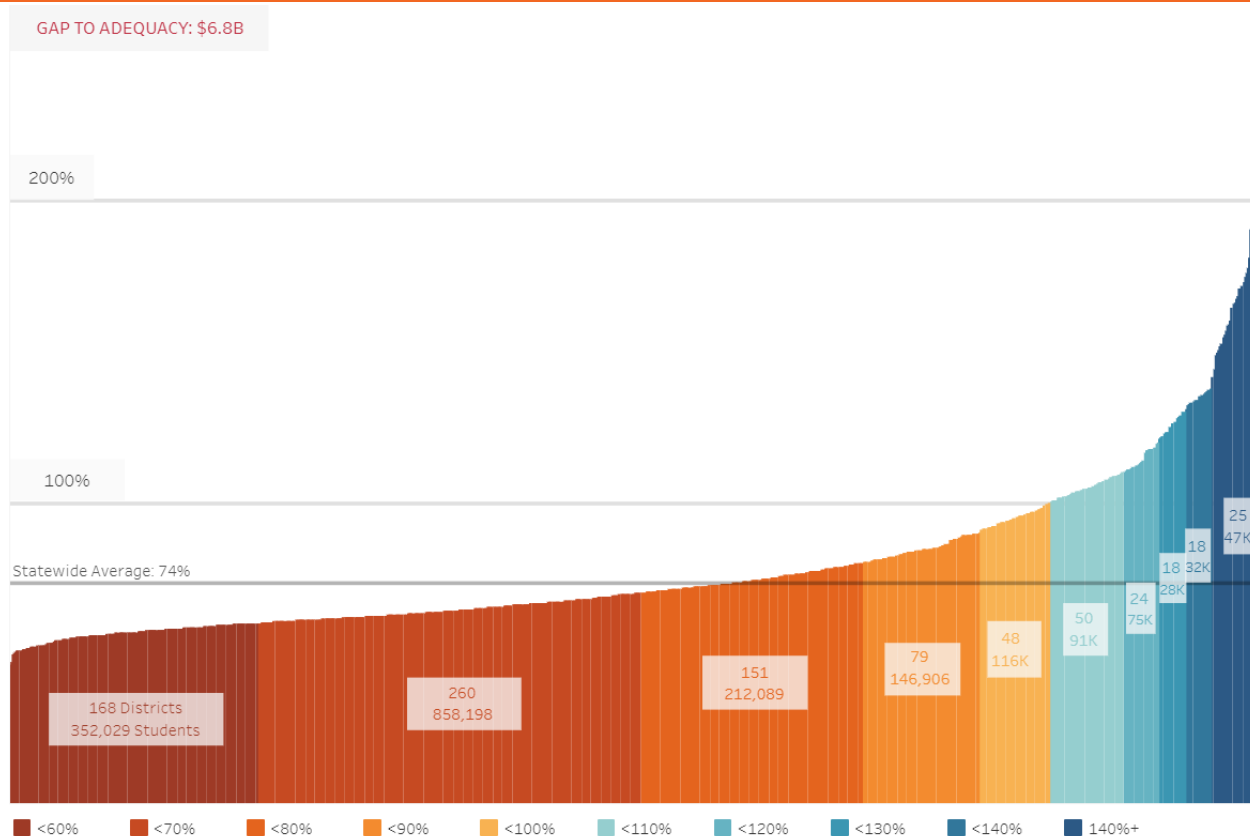
School district general admin spending

General Administration Spending Per Pupil - 2016

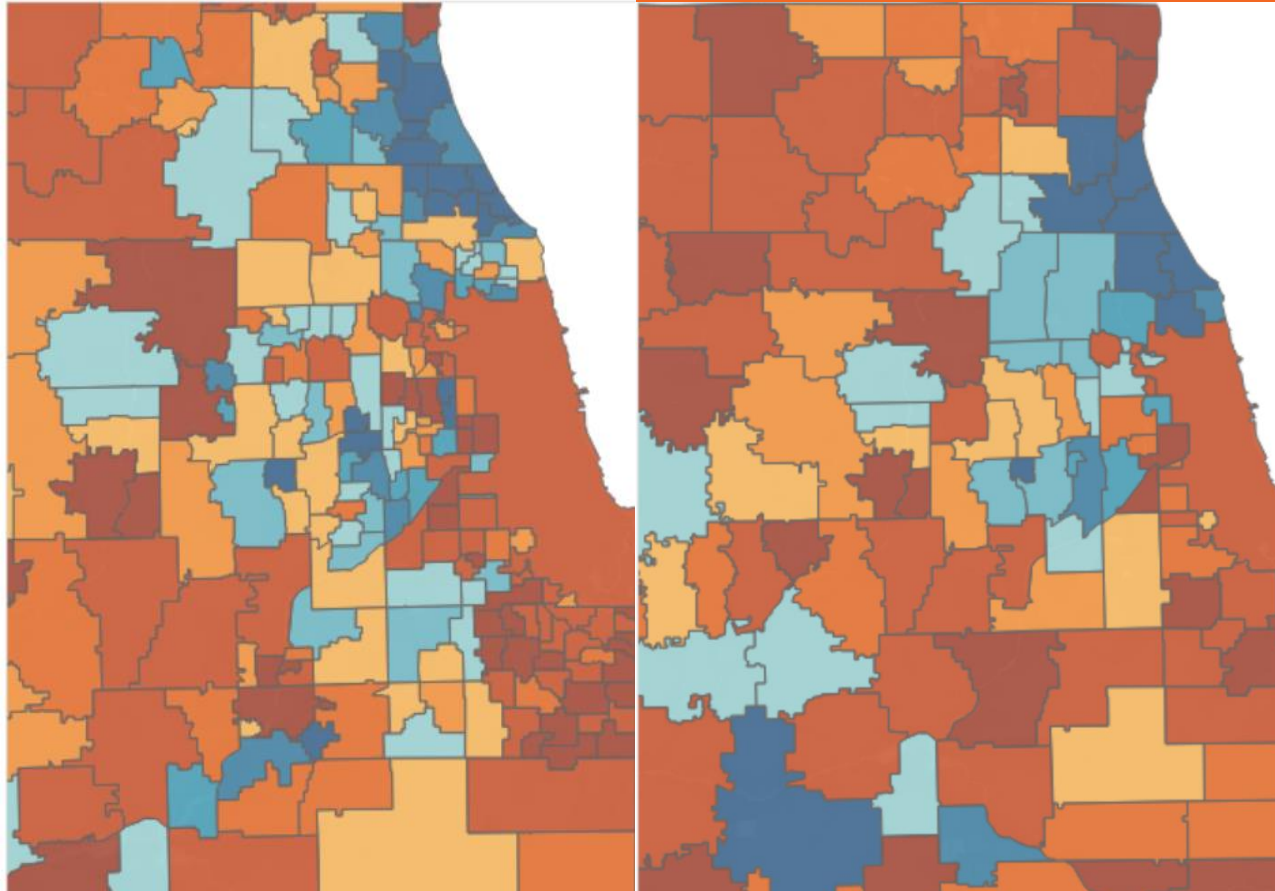


Map: Adam Slade • Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

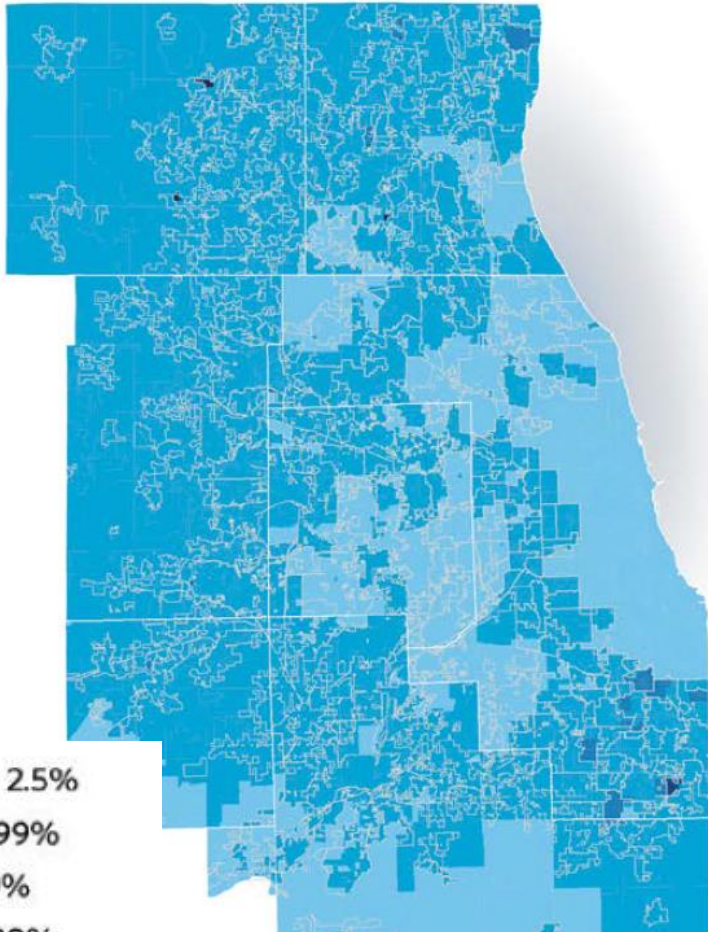
Adequacy of school district funding



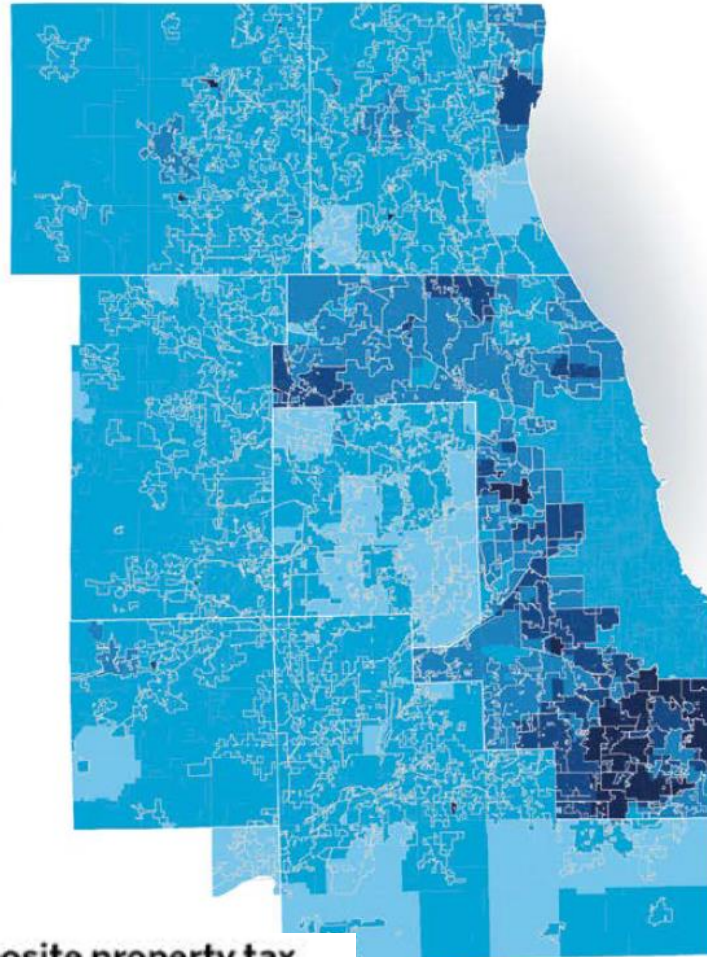
Adequacy of school district funding



Residential property



Commercial and industrial property

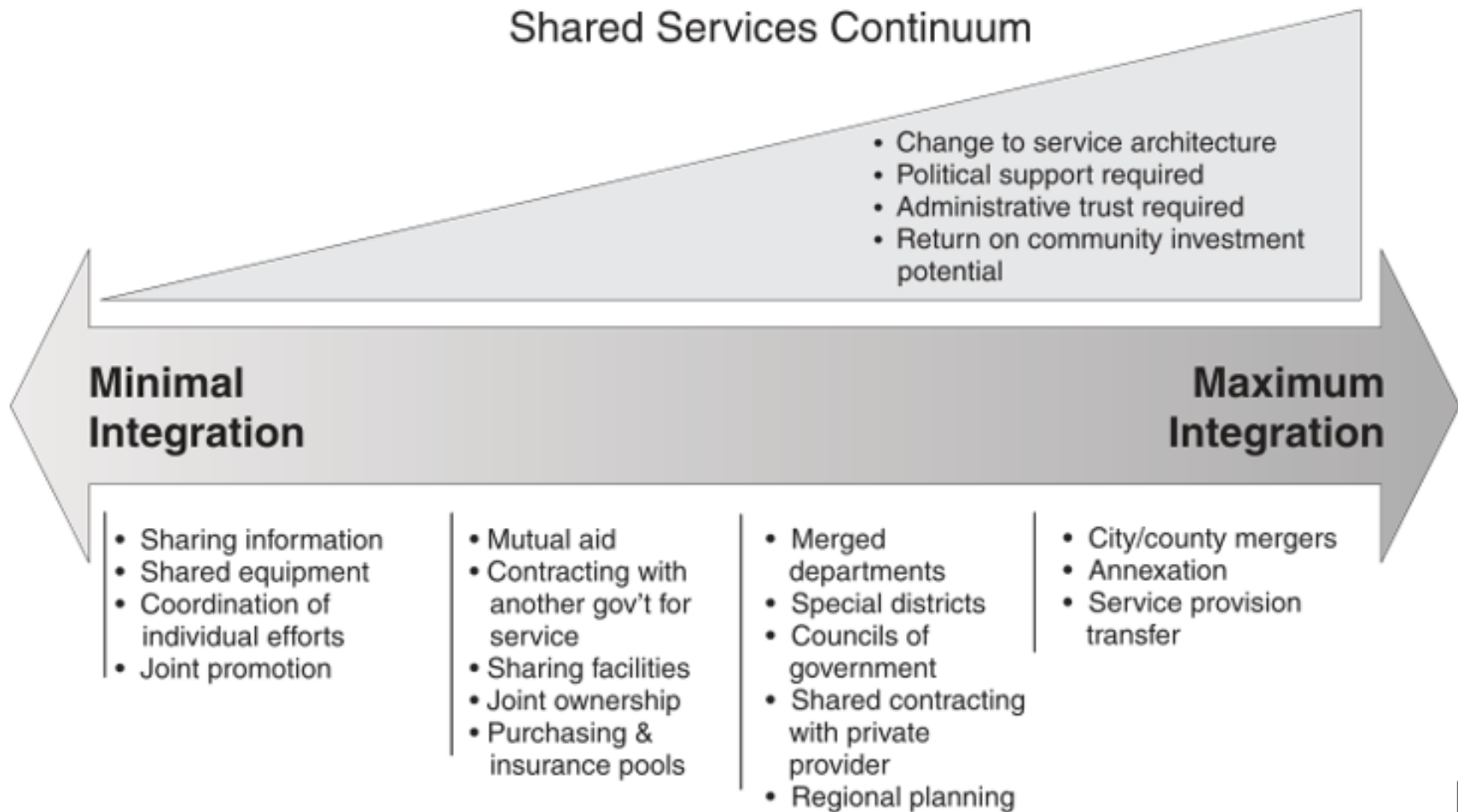


- Less than 2.5%
- 2.5% - 4.99%
- 5% - 7.49%
- 7.5% - 9.99%
- 10% or greater

Effective composite property tax rates in northeastern Illinois, 2014

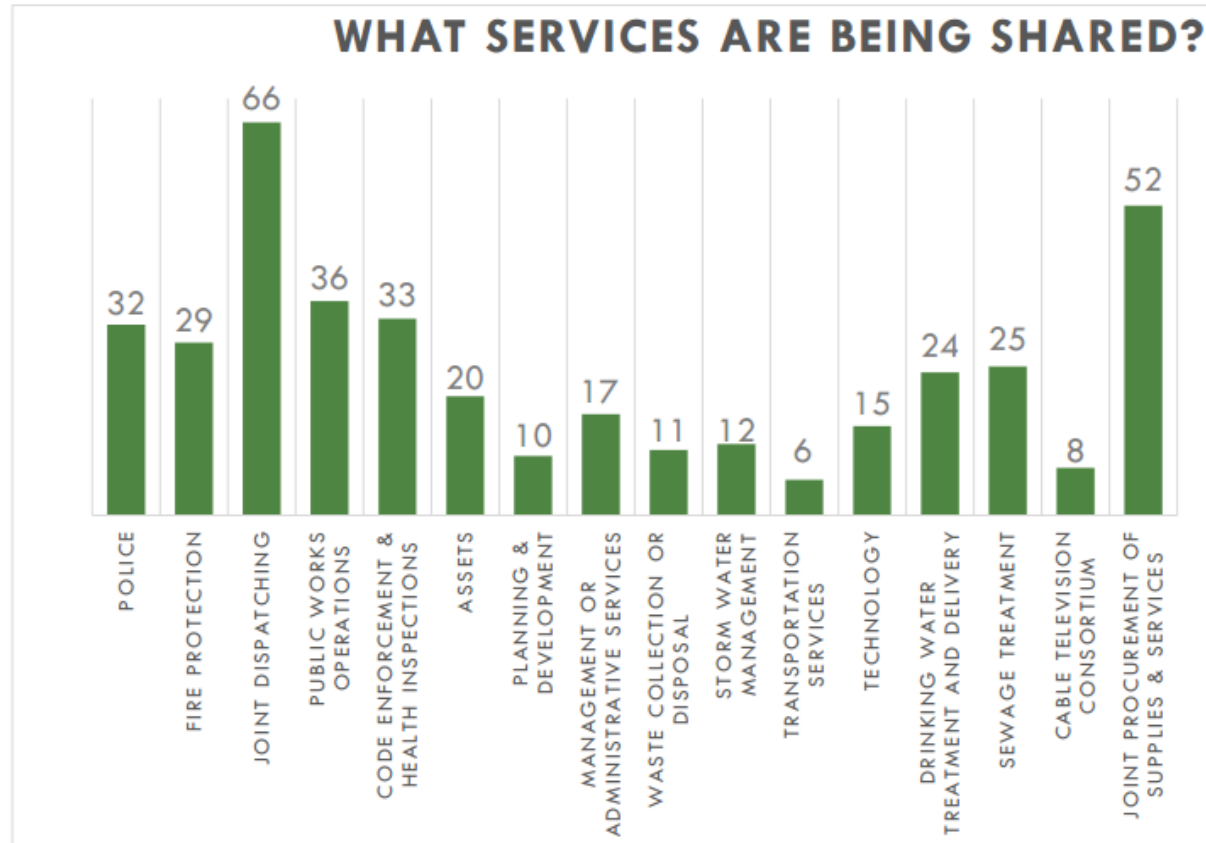
SOLUTIONS

Shared Services Continuum



Many local governments are collaborating

Metropolitan
Mayors Caucus
study found 95
percent of 117
municipal
respondents are
sharing services



Consolidation benefits

- **Improved transparency**
- Unity of leadership
- Increased planning and development capacity
- **Coordinated land-use regulation**
- Improved public-private cooperation
- Larger legal and resource base
- Simpler regulatory procedures for business
- **Clarity of authority**
- Streamlined permit processing
- **Reduced intergovernmental competition**
- Less-fragmented governance
- Fewer inefficient economic-development subsidies

Obstacles to consolidation

- Local pride
- **The opposition of officeholders**
- Business who stand to lose trade if a county seat is abolished
- **Unwillingness of wealthy communities to assume the debts of their less affluent neighbors**
- Difficulty of disposing of the physical properties
 - courthouses, jails, etc
- **Legal and constitutional barriers**