



*A Vision for One Batavia*

First Report to the Community

City & Town Consolidation Study Committee  
June 1, 2009

The slide features a 3D graphic on the left showing several stylized human figures in blue and orange standing on a white, stepped platform. To the right of the graphic, the title "A Vision for One Batavia" is written in a black, italicized serif font. Below the title, the text "First Report to the Community" is centered in a black sans-serif font. Underneath that, "City & Town Consolidation Study Committee" and "June 1, 2009" are also centered in a black sans-serif font. The slide has a blue header and footer bar.

A Vision for One Batavia

## Presentation Objective

- This Power Point summarizes the first report
- Focuses on options for a consolidated town and city government
- Provides background information
- Looks at all key variables that need to be addressed if the governments consolidate

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The slide has a blue header bar with the text "A Vision for One Batavia" in white. Below the header, the title "Presentation Objective" is centered in a large black sans-serif font. Underneath the title, there is a bulleted list of four items in a black sans-serif font. The list items are: "This Power Point summarizes the first report", "Focuses on options for a consolidated town and city government", "Provides background information", and "Looks at all key variables that need to be addressed if the governments consolidate". In the bottom right corner of the slide, the number "2" is displayed in a small black font. The slide has a blue footer bar.

## Key Report Assumptions

- Before developing a final model for consolidation, Committee is seeking community input
- The Committee has not developed recommendations – to be determined after public input
- The Committee had to make some baseline assumptions for financial impact modeling

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## Four Fundamental Questions Addressed

1. Do we have options?
2. Why change what we have?
3. What would the change mean for me?
4. What would the change mean for our community's future?

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## Do we have options?

- Yes, there are two options
  - Continue as separate governments
  - Consolidate the two governments

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## Why change?

- A consolidated government will reduce costs
  - Costs will be reduced through efficiencies
  - New state revenues or cost shifts will reduce demand on local property taxes
- Delivery of services will be enhanced
- Important positive spillover effects from pursuing government consolidation

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## What would the change mean?

- Current City and Town property tax burdens would stay the same
- No shift of City debt or other costs to Town
- \$943,000 additional funds (from savings and revenues) would be available
- Single elected government instead of two

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## What would the change mean for the future?

- Sends powerful message within the community and beyond
  - The community is progressive and willing to pursue a more efficient consolidated government
  - Economic development tool – attractive to potential investors
  - Long term benefits from making infrastructure investments as an integrated system

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Tiered Tax Zones

- 3 cities in New York use a zone concept
- Tax zones allow taxes to fairly represent levels of service provided
- Tier 1 – common services shared across the existing City and Town
- Tier 2 – higher intensity services – current City
- Tier 3 – lower intensity services – current Town

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Financial Projections - 1

- Key assumptions
  - Current City debt kept in Tier 2 taxes
  - Current fund balances kept separate in each tier
  - No shifting of current property taxes across the tiers
  - Current level of services maintained in the two tiers

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Financial Projections - 2

- Net efficiencies and cost reductions from consolidating = \$245,000 at start-up, more in the future
- Net additional revenues, primarily State consolidation incentive funding = \$820,000
- After adjusting to balance revenues between tiers, net annual savings = \$943,000

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Governance Options

- If Town – becomes a first class town
  - 4 or 6 person council plus a Supervisor
  - Could be wards or town-wide elections, but not both
- If City – multiple options for size, type of council
- Boards and commissions would be merged

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Police and Fire

- City police and fire would stay as is - Tier 2 services. All costs for providing those services would be paid as a Tier 2 tax
- Tier 3 (Town) would continue to be served by County Sheriff for police and the Batavia and East Pembroke Volunteer Fire Departments. Those costs would continue as a Tier 3 tax

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* DPW – Highway, Water, Sewer

- City and Town Highway operations would be merged, become a Tier 1 cost
- Water, sewer costs and services – no change from current operations. Costs assigned to districts within tiers. General costs spread across tiers
- Refuse – no change from current. Costs paid separately in each tier based on services

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Schools

- Technical change relative to debt levels for five smaller districts but this requirement is routinely waived by State Ed for capital projects
- Otherwise, no change to the current school systems. The school districts stay exactly as they are.

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Personnel

- Except for elected positions, all currently filled positions would be retained in a consolidated government
- Longer term efficiencies are possible with normal staff attrition and retirements

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## *Options and Background Assumptions* Facilities and Equipment

- All assets would transfer to the consolidated government
- Assets assigned to particular functions would be paid for by each tier based on the function, i.e., City police and fire assets would remain Tier 2, water and sewer assets related to specific tiers would stay in the tiers

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## Conclusion

- There are many advantages to creating one Batavia
- The Committee hopes the community will debate the merits of consolidating at the public forums - June 18 and June 30
- Web site: [www.cgr.org/bataviaconsolidationplan/](http://www.cgr.org/bataviaconsolidationplan/)
- The Committee will develop a draft proposed plan to present to City Council and the Town Board in July

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