

## **Consolidating Police Services: Local Control vs. Financial Choice**

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This paper will analyze if there is a financial savings in consolidating municipal law enforcement services into a county law enforcement service. Do citizens support the consolidation of law enforcement services and is this based on cost effectiveness? Studies exist showing there is a cost saving in consolidating services. However, even with a cost savings the state of Florida has only one county which the citizens have voted in favor of consolidating services. Findings indicate the consolidation of law enforcement services is less expensive by eliminating duplication of efforts and resources. Even with this cost savings the majority of citizens and municipal governments prefer to maintain local control of law enforcement services and cite a fear of losing the “personalized” service provided by local law enforcement.