



Regional Governance in Baltimore

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Conference on Governance versus Governments
in Metropolitan North America
University of Missouri-St. Louis
St. Louis, Mo, July 15-17, 2006



Defining Regional Governance

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Regional Governance as Cooperation

- New Regionalists

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Regional Cooperation

- Regional cooperation involves voluntary association and lacks a coercive element. Cooperation may or may not be area wide (Norris, 2001).



Regional Governance as Governance

- Traditional definition
- Definition of political scientists
- Definition of the metropolitan reformers



Regional Governance

- The association of governments or residents in a defined geographic area for the purpose of controlling or regulating the behavior within and performing functions or providing services for the overall territory. Governance in a metropolitan territory is authoritative, occurs on an areawide basis and may involve a coercive element. (Norris, 2001).



Outcomes Do Not Equal Governance

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Regional “Governance” in Baltimore

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Key Features of the Baltimore Metropolitan Area

- Population
- Race
- Jurisdictions/fragmentation
- Central City versus the Suburbs
- Inner suburban decline
- Inter-governmental cooperation
- What the elected executives say
- Governance

Baltimore Metro Area: The Governments that Matter

Jurisdiction	Population	% Non-White
Baltimore City	629,000	67.9
Anne Arundel County	507,000	17.8
Baltimore County	777,000	27.0
Carroll County	163,000	4.3
Harford County	232,000	12.9
Howard County	264,000	26.1

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Based on 2003 Population Estimates

Baltimore Metro Area: Extent of Fragmentation

Jurisdiction	Number of Municipalities	County Population	Municipal Population
Baltimore City ¹	-	651,154	-
Anne Arundel County	2	489,656	33,339
Baltimore County	0	754,292	0
Carroll County	8	150,897	35,334
Harford County	3	218,590	32,621
Howard County	0	247,842	0
Total	13	1,861,431	101,184

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¹ In Maryland law, Baltimore City has the status of a county.



NO, that is ZERO, Independent School Districts and Special Districts

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Baltimore City versus the Rest

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Inside the Beltway decline

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BUT no coalition with Baltimore City

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Ad-hoc Cooperation

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Cooperation Around Systems Maintenance versus Lifestyle Issues

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Results of Interviews with Elected Executives - I

- Cooperation occurs in “easy” areas
- Not so in “tough” areas (schools, disparities, housing)
- Parochial interests, autonomy, lack of citizen support prevent more cooperation



Results of Interviews with Elected Executives - II

- Lack of fragmentation as both good and bad
- No “bail-outs” for Baltimore City
- Race... and class, too



Limited Cooperation

No Governance

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WHY?

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Fragmentation (or Structure) Does Not Matter

- Outcomes similar to those in Highly Fragmented Regions



The Usual Suspects

- Regardless of Fragmentation



Factors Affecting the Adoption of Regional Governance in the US

- Time and complexity involved
- A dislike for more government
- Movement of power away from the existing local political base



Factors II

- Uncertainty involved in a change to Metro
- Political territorial imperative
- Anti-diversity-protection of enclaves



Factors III

- Protection of financial base
- Inter-jurisdictional economic competition Public choice-vote with feet
- A sense of removal from “my” local politician



Factors IV

- Unwillingness of state government to “get involved”
- Local government autonomy
- Fear of new taxes to support Metro services



Factors V

- Ease of incorporation and annexation
- Lack of federal and state leadership
- Opposition of nearly all players



END

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