

# Fostering Inter-Local Collaboration to Overcome the Zero-Sum Game

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# Problems for Regions Experiencing Population Decline/Stagnation

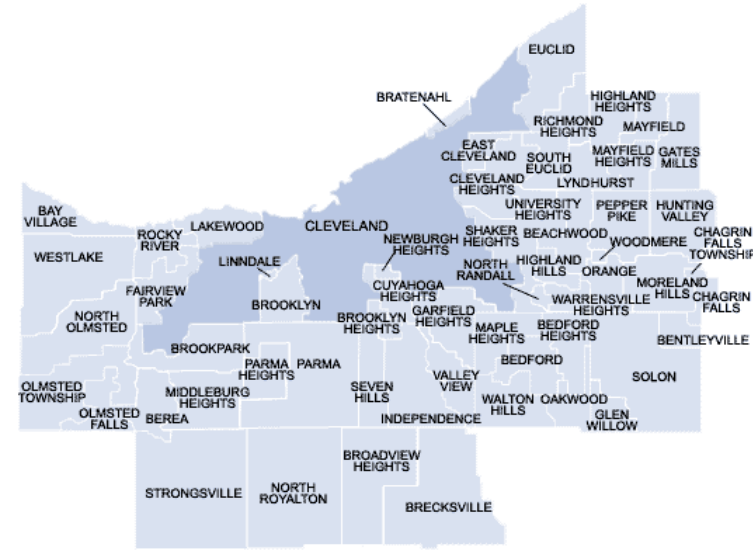
- Diseconomies of scale
- Legacy systems and infrastructure
- Sprawl

# Options for Overcoming Collective Action Problems

- Consolidation (mergers) or annexation
- Interlocal collaboration
  - Special districts for collaboration
  - Nongovernmental organizations for collaboration
  - Interlocal agreements
  - Informal networks
- Distinctions (but also connections) among the flavors
- Collaboration → other collaboration

# Political Context of Legacy City Regions

- High levels of fragmentation of local government
- Racial and economic segregation
- Central cities with political and institutional legacies
- Sometimes (and in Ohio):
  - home rule
  - Republican state control with Democratic Party dominance in cities and suburbs



Rank	Metro Area	Black-White Dissimilarity
1	Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	81.5
2	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	78.0
3	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL	76.4
4	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	75.3
5	Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	74.1
6	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	73.2
7	St. Louis, MO-IL	72.3
8	Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	69.4
9	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington PA-NJ-DE-MD	68.4
10	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	67.8
11	Syracuse, NY	67.8
12	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	67.5
13	Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	67.5
14	Dayton, OH	66.4
15	Indianapolis-Carmel IN	66.4
16	Birmingham-Hoover, AL	65.8
17	Pittsburgh, PA	65.8
18	Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	65.7
19	Baltimore-Towson MD	65.4
20	Toledo, OH	65.3
21	Rochester, NY	65.3
22	Springfield, MA	65.3
23	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	64.8
24	Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford Ct	64.8
25	Chattanooga, TN-GA	64.6

Source: Brookings analysis of 2010-2014 American Community Survey data  
 Rust color denotes "Rust Belt" region metro area  
 Dissimilarity index represents the percentage of one group that would need to move to neighborhoods to be distributed in same proportion as other group

# Collaboration for Regionalism



Western Reserve  
Land Conservancy

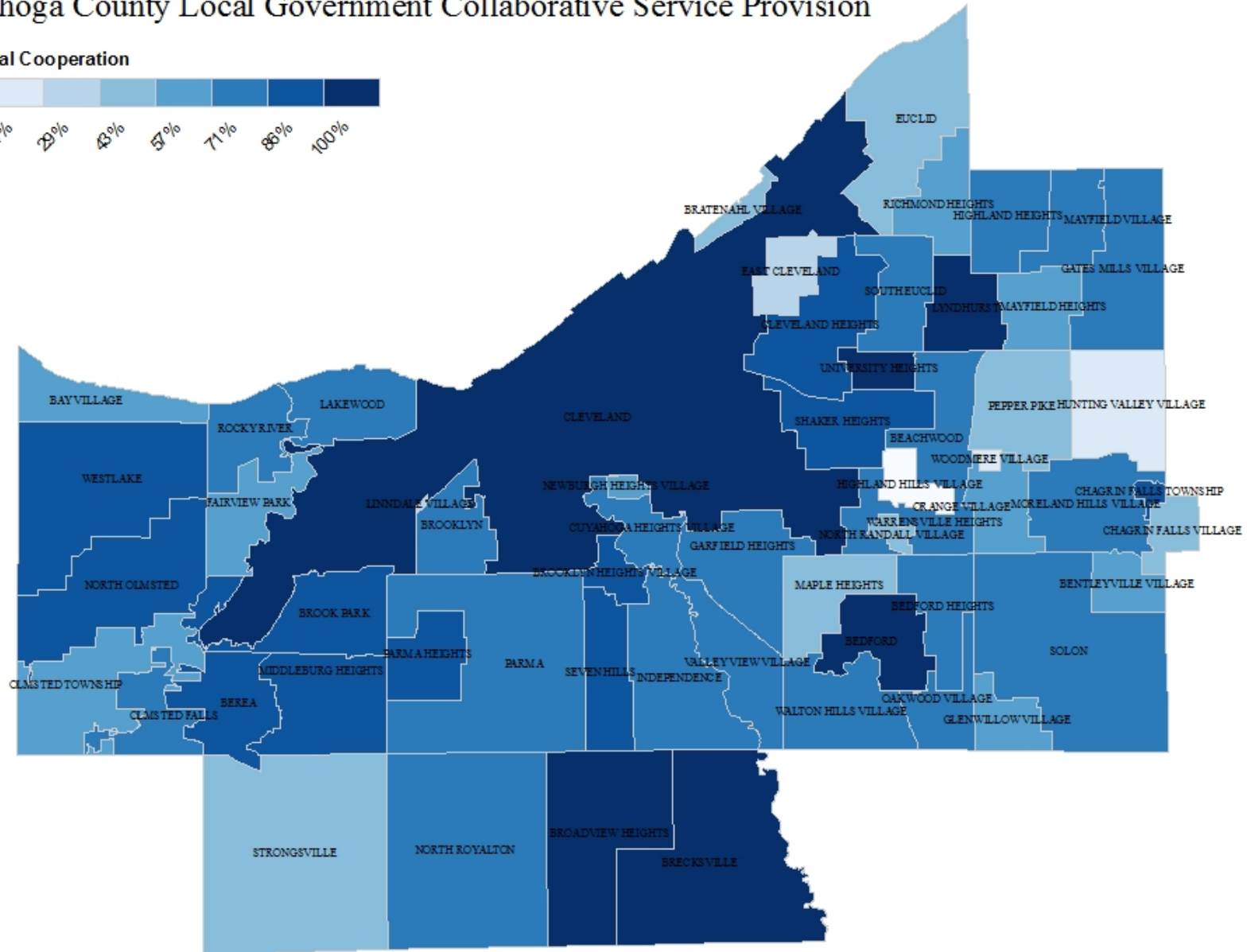
land • people • community



**Ohio** | **Balanced Growth**

# Cuyahoga County Local Government Collaborative Service Provision

## Municipal Cooperation





# Implications of NEO Study

- Exurban localities in legacy city regions may be using interlocal collaboration in ways that exacerbate inequality and urban core decline
- These same localities appear to be less likely to participate in regional planning initiatives designed to benefit the region as a whole
- Incentive structures in this context appear to lead to continued sprawl and hollowing out of core.



# Reasons for Optimism

- We know:
  - Successful collaboration leads to new forms and applications of collaboration
  - Interlocal efforts build networks of trust and information sharing
  - Highly fragmented regions foster learning, network development
  - Given local-incentive structures in legacy city context, organic incentives are unlikely to draw in many exurban communities to real regional action
- Takeaways
  - Regional and state actors may be able to use available levers to alter the incentive structures for these exurban communities
  - What would this look like? How could it work?