

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Opinion

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Gaughan's flawed study compares apples, oranges

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The News featured three articles on Kevin Gaughan's study of local governments. I checked the numbers Gaughan used to make his analysis and it is quite obvious he selected specific numbers to get the result he wanted. If we are going to do this kind of study, let's do it honestly and compare apples to apples.

A better comparison is to take the total General Fund Portion of the City of Buffalo budget for 2006 and divide it by the population used by Gaughan. I get a number of \$1,474 as a cost of government per person. I do the same with the Town of Marilla's budget and I get a number of \$403. The City of Buffalo also receives \$2 for every \$1 the Town of Marilla receives in sales tax revenue on a per-person basis.

I suggest we get someone to conduct a fair study using true numbers to determine the truth of Gaughan's philosophy about government. Is it possible that our small town governments could be more efficient than our large city and county governments?

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