

## A Call for a Village Resident Referendum Vote within the Village of Brockport

In 2010, the legislators of New York State passed the Government Reorganization and Citizens Empowerment Act, referred to as the GRACE Act, which outlined the issues with excessive & redundant local government entities within NY State. The legislation was designed to help **eliminate the unnecessary cost of local village & special district governments**, as well as reducing the overall Taxation Rate within New York State. As most state residents are aware, NY is the highest taxed state in the nation and the GRACE Act was created to address this issue.

The main focus of the GRACE Act was on Village Government, **which places an unfair “double-tax” on those residents living within Village boundaries**. This extra tax is a one that Town Residents are not required to pay. In many cases those Town residents also use the Village Proper to support daily life, but they do not contribute or support the Village Budgets with shared taxation. The State Legislators identified 600 opportunities to reduce the issue with excessive, unfair taxation, by enabling easier requirements to dissolve a Village within the State.

The GRACE Act outlined the methods to dissolve local governments that the State of NY has deemed non-essential and also **eliminate undue tax burden to Village Residents**. The GRACE Act also lowers overall taxes paid in NY State to support these smallest level of local government which exceeds \$2 Billion dollars per year in total.

State Legislators were hopeful that each Village Government, and its Leadership, would follow the advice outlined in the GRACE Act, but they also understood that it was going to be a challenge to have Village Leaders volunteer to “downsize” themselves. So they added a method for CITIZENS to become EMPOWERED to force these Village Governments to consider creating a Government Reorganization Plan and work for the best interest of taxpayers.

**This signed Village Referendum Document is calling for the creation of that Village Reorganization Plan.**

### **What you should know about signing this document which calls for a Referendum Vote on Village Dissolution:**

This Referendum Request, will be submitted to the Village Clerk between the end of June and July 24, 2020. Once submitted, the Village Leaders will set a date for a Village wide Referendum Vote within 30 days of our filing of Referendum. NY Government Reorganization has a well-defined timeline that may place the Referendum Vote for dissolution up to the Brockport Village Electorate on or near this year's November 3 Election Day, providing we collect enough signatures by voter's supporting the GRACE Act. Your signature will help that effort & plan.

### **Here's what you should know about the future Village of Brockport Referendum Vote on the GRACE Act:**

A vote of YES on the Referendum **means initiating the process of getting a *state funded* Government Reorganization Study & Plan completed**. That Plan will outline the benefits & recommendations of Village Dissolution or Consolidation and include specifics on how services provided by the Village will be affected, and how much tax savings will be seen. The Brockport Village Reorganization Plan will be completed within 210 days of when the Village Referendum Vote was passed, and then goes on for review by Village Residents soon after.

A vote of YES on the Referendum means that the Village Reorganization Plan will be released to the public by the Village Leaders upon completion. **The Village Reorganization Plan is created by an independent third party, and will be reviewed through a public hearing**, where Village Resident input will modify the plan as needed.

Final reorganization of any Village government will span almost 1 year after the initial vote passes, and only after review & acceptance of the Recommended Plan. There are also provisions in the GRACE Act to cancel a plan.

Learn more about the GRACE Act here: <https://ecna.us/nys-govt-reduction-act-village-dissolution/>