

Merger of Municipalities

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Issue

How can two municipalities voluntarily merge into one?

Summary

The merger of two municipalities, or the creation of a new one, can only be accomplished by special act. The General Assembly is authorized to pass special legislation concerning the “formation, consolidation or dissolution of any town, city or borough” (Conn. Const., Art. X). But the law requires that any special legislation concerning the powers, organization, or form of local government be requested by the affected municipalities ([CGS § 2-14](#)).

While there are a number of cases in Connecticut history where a city within a town has been consolidated with the town government, we could not identify any instances where multiple municipalities merged to become one. However, in our review of Hartford Courant archives, we identified several instances where such mergers were considered, including the merger of New London and Waterford in the 1960s and Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, and Seymour in the 1970s.

Requesting Special Legislation

A proposal to create, dissolve, or consolidate a municipality can be brought before the legislature in three ways:

1. the town or city council or board of directors, burgesses, or aldermen adopts a resolution by a two-thirds vote endorsing the action;
2. the board of selectmen or a majority of the town meeting resolve to adopt the action; or
3. 10% of the municipality’s electors sign a petition supporting the action.

The town clerk must file a certified copy of the resolution or the petition with the secretary of the state at least 10 days before the start of the legislative session ([CGS § 2-14](#)).

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