

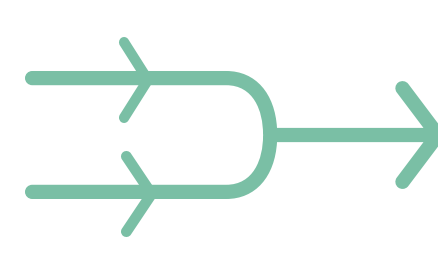


GREATER ESSEX 2020

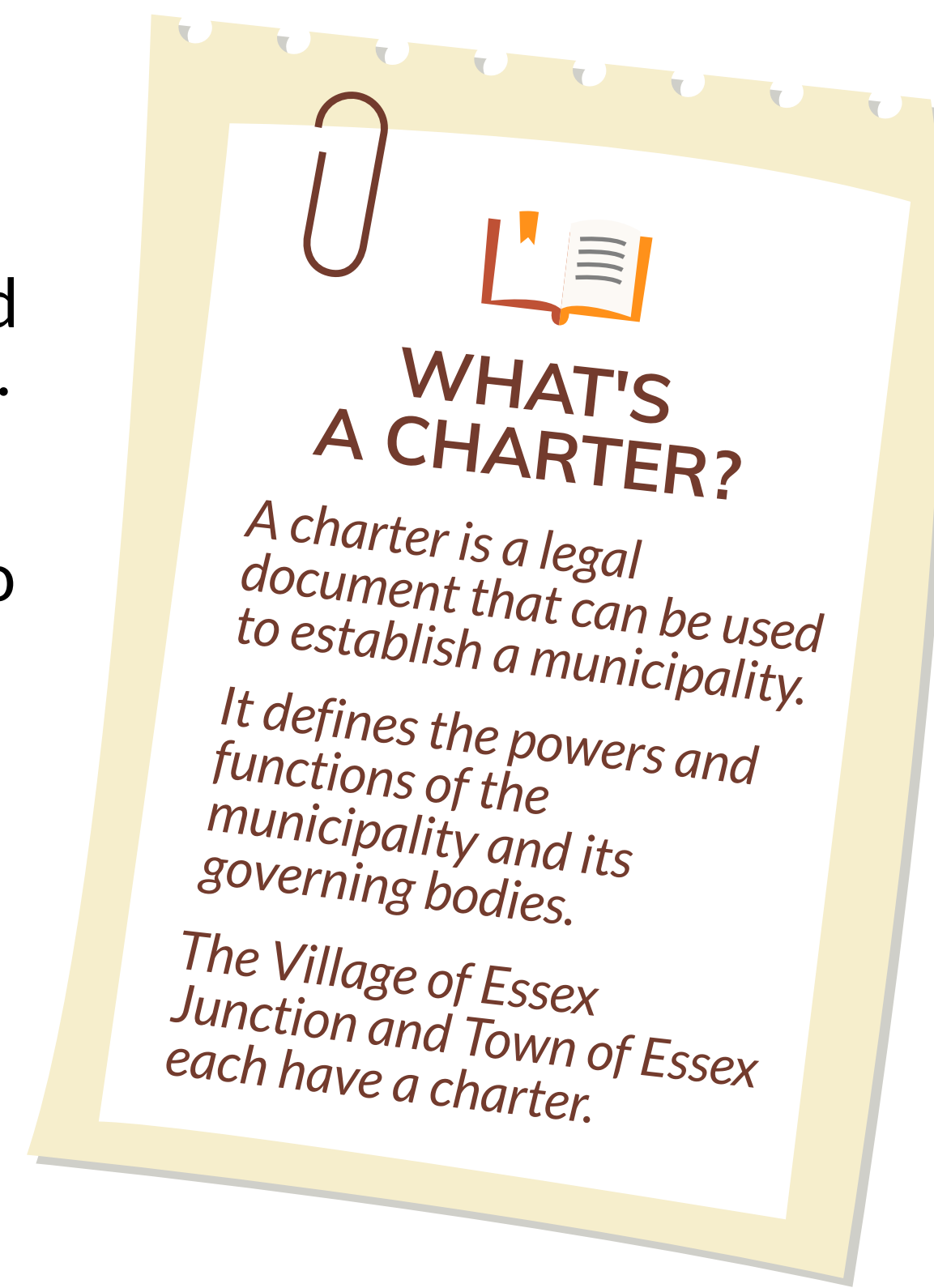
ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS
about the NOVEMBER 2020 MERGER VOTE

FIRST THING'S FIRST: WHAT ARE WE VOTING ON?

The Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction are currently **two municipalities** with **two separate charters**, sharing some municipal services under contract. Town and Village residents are all residents of the Town -- Village residents are residents of both.

 The **Town of Essex Selectboard** and the **Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees** are exploring a potential merger of the governance of the two municipalities under a single charter to form a single government entity.

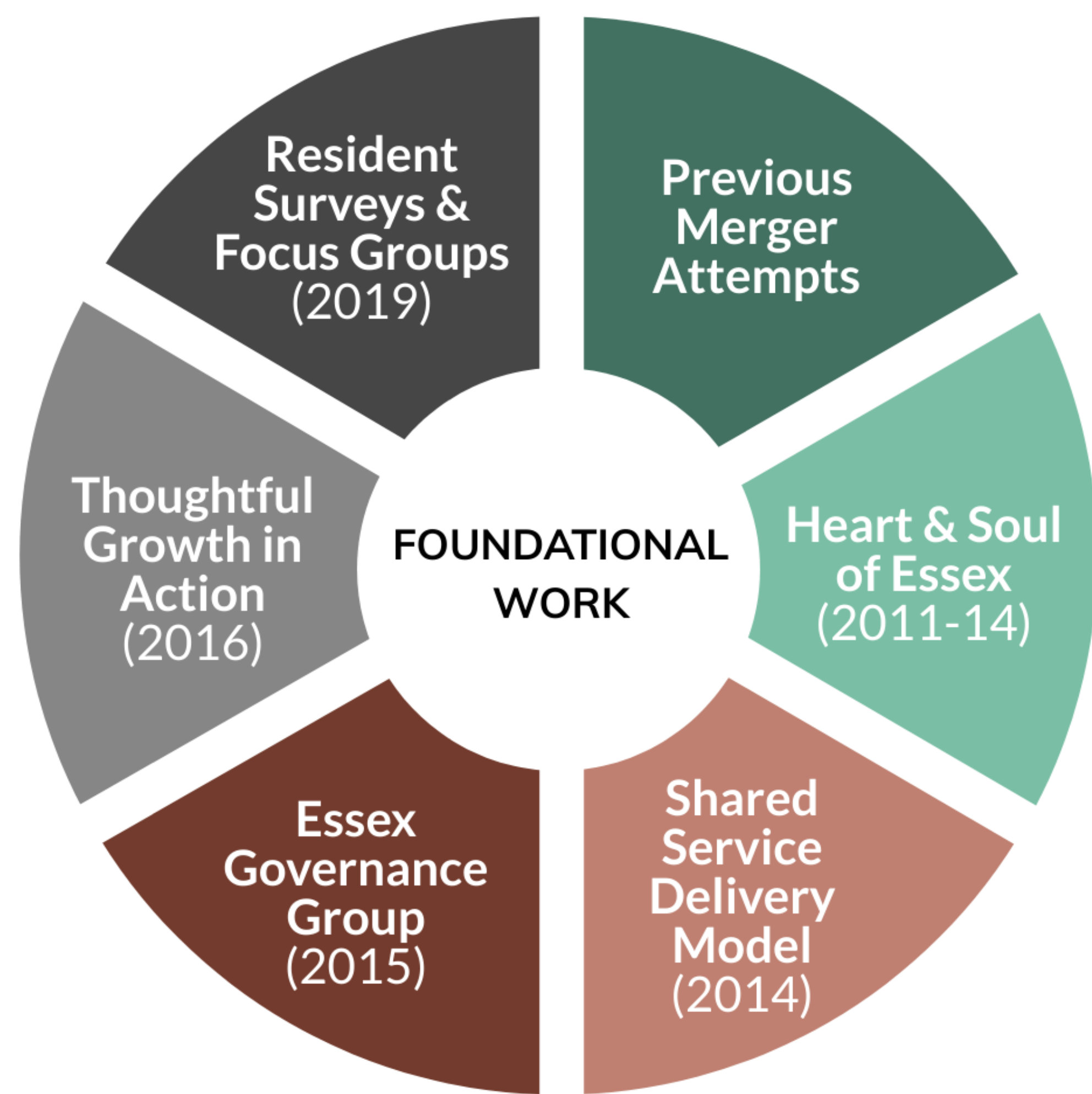
Following extensive research, collaboration, and a robust public engagement process, the community will vote on **November 3, 2020** on whether to proceed.



WHY EXPLORE A MERGER?

The Village Board of Trustees and Town Selectboard believe we will be stronger together as one united community. We can work as one to:

-  Plan for the future
-  Restore and enhance our infrastructure
-  Attract and retain a vibrant business community
-  Improve our services
-  Protect our natural resources
-  Overcome challenges we face
-  Establish ourselves as Vermont's premier livable community



KEY CHALLENGES:

There are still a number of issues to resolve leading up to a community decision, including:

-  Taxation
-  Governing board structure & elections
-  Community identity

CURRENTLY:

The Town and Village function **TOGETHER** in many ways:

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 - Manager's Office (One Unified Manager)
 - Police Department
 - Clerk's Office
 - Finance Department
 - Essex Area Senior Center
 - Public Works Department

 These departments and services are paid for by all members of the Essex community.

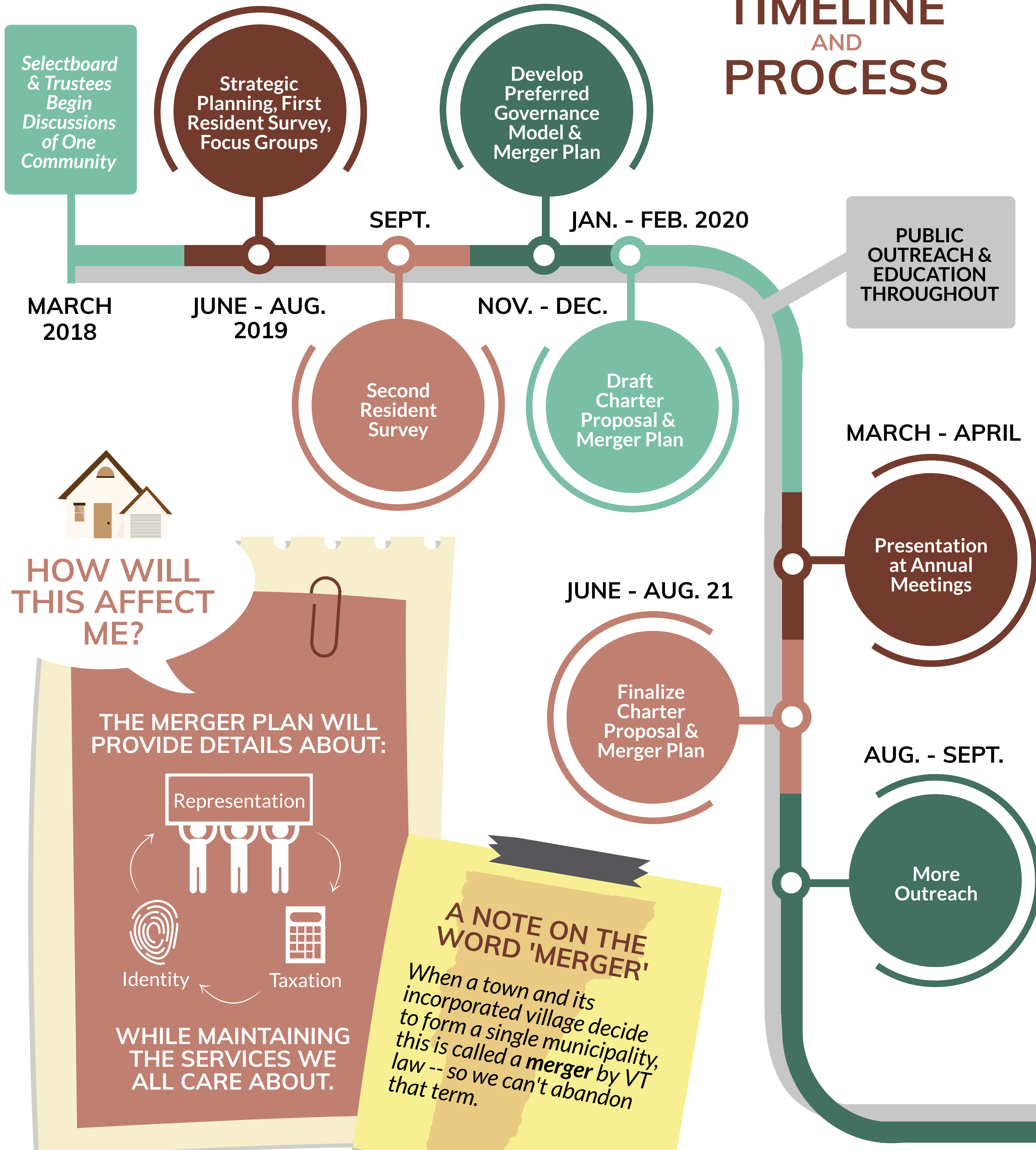
 Consolidations have saved more than \$2.8 million combined from fiscal years 2014-2020.

The Town and Village still budget **SEPARATELY** for these services:

- 
 - Fire Department
 - Libraries
 - Community Development
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Capital Planning
 - Elected & Appointed Boards

WHAT'S NEXT? 

TIMELINE AND PROCESS



COMMUNITY INPUT

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THIS PROCESS!

The Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction want to hear your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and aspirations for the future of our community. Are we on the right track?

- ✓ SHARE YOUR IDEAS
- ✓ TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS
- ✓ READ THE WEEKLY COLUMN IN THE ESSEX REPORTER AND FPF
- ✓ ASK QUESTIONS
- ✓ BROWSE OUR FAQ

Stay in touch at:

greateressex2020.org

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME?

THE MERGER PLAN WILL PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT:

- Representation
- Identity
- Taxation

WHILE MAINTAINING THE SERVICES WE ALL CARE ABOUT.

A NOTE ON THE WORD 'MERGER'

*When a town and its incorporated village decide to form a single municipality, this is called a **merger** by VT law -- so we can't abandon that term.*