

# The Role of the Canton in Commune Mergers

# Themes

1. The Role of the Canton in Commune Mergers.
2. The Merger Project Process.
3. The Commune Landscape of Aargau.

# Approaches to Commune Structural Reforms

## 1. **Top down (results-oriented approach)**

- Forced mergers
- Vision of a community structure as a guiding rule

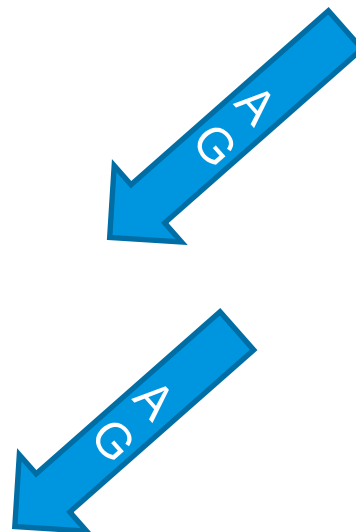
## 2. **Incentive-based approach**

- Financial incentive system for commune mergers
- Possibly with definition of a fusion perimeter

## 3. **Participatory approach**

- Removal of obstacles to mergers
- Cantonal contact point: advice, support for commune mergers

## 4. **Sole initiative of the communes** (no active promotion by the canton)



# Financial Support by the Canton I

## 1. Project Cost Contributions

Pre-project: CHF 5,000 per commune; main project: CHF 25,000 per commune

## 2. Merger Flat Rate: CHF 400,000 per Commune

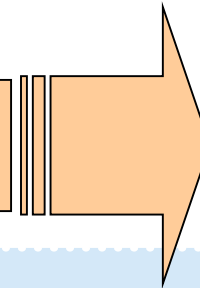
Goal: Contribution to expenses for reorganization of merged commune

## 3. Merger Contribution

Goal: Compensation of communes with below-average tax rates

## 4. Revenue Sharing Guarantee for Eight Years

Goal: Reduction of "marriage penalty"




# The Merger Project Process in Five Phases



Project initiation

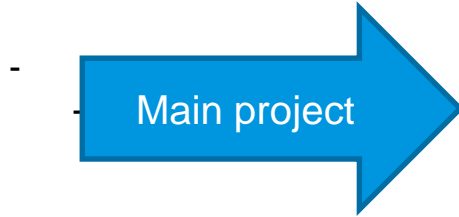
- **Local councillors**  
(possible proposal at communal assembly)



Preliminary  
clarifications  
Pre-project

- **Project planning**
- **Feasibility study, merger impact estimate**
- Study regarding closer cooperation or merger
- Population survey
- Basic agreement

# The Merger Project Process in Five Phases



- In-depth merger analysis with financial plan



- Communal assembly resolutions
- Plebiscites
- Approval by Grand Council

# The Merger Project Process in Five Phases



Implementation

- Elections to local council and commissions
- Adjustment of regulations
- Reorganization of administration



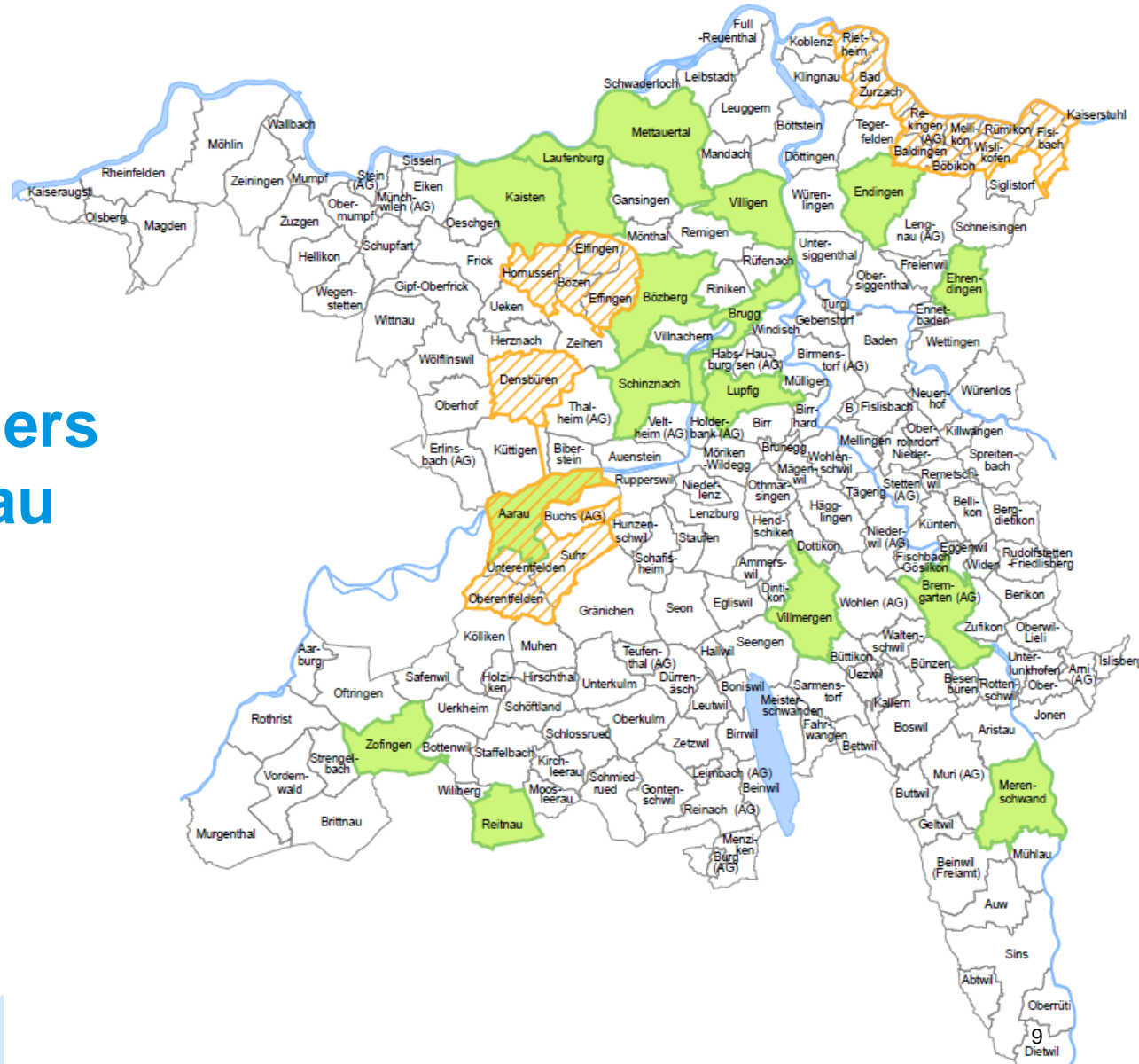
Start of the new commune

## The Commune Landscape of Aargau

Time period	Separations	Mergers	Number of communes
1803-1883	11	2	240 to 249
1884-2000	1	16	249 to 232
2001-2020	0	17	232 to 210



# Commune Mergers in Canton Aargau 2002-2020



## Merger Project Rheintal+ Extraordinary Communal Assembly on 23 May 2019

Commune	Yes-votes	No-votes	Present	Turnout
Bad Zurzach	395	10	414	18%
Baldingen	56	17	74	39%
Böbikon	52	12	68	51%
Fisibach	31	136	167	62%
Kaiserstuhl	59	25	86	39%
Mellikon	43	20	68	46%
Rekingen	144	7	152	29%
Rietheim	97	55	153	39%
Rümikon	51	7	61	34%
Wislikofen	85	12	99	40%