

**Barnstable County Department of Human Services
“Monitoring the Human Condition on Cape Cod Studies”**

Population Dynamics: (First Half Decade: 2000-2005)

Barnstable County: Permanent, Year Round Residents

- 0.6% Decrease in total number of Residents. Loss of nearly 1400 People

Massachusetts: Permanent Year-Round Residents

- 2.6% Decrease in total number of Residents. Loss of over 165,000 People.

Age Dynamics: 2000-2005

Barnstable County: Permanent Year Round Residents

- 9% Decrease in total number of Children (<18years). Loss of more than 3,900 children.
- 0.7% Decrease in number of persons over age 65 years. Loss of 350 elders
- 2% increase in Median age. From 44.6 to 45.6 years.

Massachusetts: Permanent Year Round Residents

- 3% Decrease in total number of Children (<18years) Loss of Nearly 50,000 children
- 7% Decrease in number of persons over age 65 years. Loss of nearly 64,000 elders.
- 5% increase in median age from 36.5 to 38.2 years.

People are leaving Sandwich, Cape Cod, and Massachusetts.

Middle income w/ 2+ children hardest hit.

Sandwich Public School Enrollment Decreased by 200 students this year (FY08).

The largest single year decline in Sandwich history in terms of # & %. (5.2%)

This decrease is 592 students or 14% since 2002.

Kindergarten loss 44 children alone.

Survey from Schools show the majority of people simply left Town.

WHY???????

1) US Census Bureau - Massachusetts FY 2007 =

- Mass. Total tax Burden (State/Local/Fed) = 34.4% of income. #7 in US.
- Total State & Local Tax Burden per capita = \$5,419. #4. (CT, NY, NJ)
- Total State Tax Burden per capita = \$3013. #9.
- State Individual Income Tax Bill per capita = \$1,629. #2 (CT)
- Median Property Tax Burden on Homes (2006) = \$3,195. #5 (NJ, NH, CT, NY)
- Federal Tax Burden @ 23.8% of income. #4
- Federal Spending per Dollar of Federal Taxes (2005) = .82cents back/\$1.
(This is #40 in US. i.e. only 10 states receive a lesser % back.)

2) Sandwich Single Family Tax Bill FY07 @ \$3986 Highest on Cape Cod & Top 1/3 in State (Mass. DOR).

>>>>>> FY95-FY07 Sandwich Tax Bills + 112% = 9.3%/year! (LRP)<<<<<<<<<

3) Sandwich= High cost of Real Estate. Average Home Value \$428,600. (LRP)

4) Averaging 2 foreclosures per month, 25% of Home Sales coming in BELOW Assessed value. (Sandwich Principal Assessor)

5) Mass. 2003-2006 Job Growth only 1% = #47 in US. (Only OH, LA, MI lower)

6) Current Homeowners Insurance Crisis on Cape Cod and coastal area.

Stagnant wages and rising cost of living, Health Care, food, heating oil, insurance
People can no longer tap equity in home to pay for living expenses.

The Sandwich Taxpayers Association - sandwichtaxpayer@yahoo.com

This is the Environment in which We are being asked:

**Should the Taxpayer just keep footing the bill by replacing retired debt with more new debt?
Or**

After Years of laboring under some of the most punishing Tax Bills in the Nation can we get a small break?

Yes we NEED certain things. STA had advocated for:

1) Improvements in Public Health/Safety Centralized Fire/Police & Grant for East Sandwich FD as interim stopgap.

2) Old Harbor Inlet Restoration

3) Recreational Fields project

Rather than relying on the TAXPAYER we need NEW GROWTH & Reduced Government costs!

The Golden Triangle Sale (to include the New Council on Aging Facility), Marina Expansion; Tax Title Sales, TIF; EDIC; Covenant Committee and next step of combining Town/School activities & efficiencies, Town/School CFO. Task Force- student decline and school redistrict/reorganize/vacating building.

Reduce Rate-of Growth of School Budget to compensate for reduced enrollment & increased Ch70 and utilize resources for municipal projects. _ Public Health/Safety Ex) \$50 per pupil metric. Found. Enroll 3560 x 50 = \$178,000.

Last year = \$6,694,018 + 178,000 = \$ 6,872,018. Base amount of CH70 FY08.

Plus Foundation Growth to fund the "Down-Payment" of Fully Phased-In Foundation Aid (Target Aid).

In speaking with Supt. Young: We are willing to wait for Budget to be completed for final determination as to how or if this scenario can be realized.

>>> Teachers eliminating indemnity plans and agreeing to a contract we can afford as a town while providing a top quality education for our children!!!!<<<<<

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The Bottom Line is this:**

People are Leaving and those staying are struggling with the increased burdens of rising cost of living and high taxes.

The Taxpayer should be the LAST RESORT for NEW Capital Projects.

When the Sandwich Taxpayers Association is satisfied that ALL OTHER OPTIONS have Been Exhausted in New Growth and Efficiencies in Government THEN & ONLY THEN will we discuss New Capital projects thru Debt/Capital Exclusions or Overrides.

We will continue to work with the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and various other Boards and Committees in Town, as we always have done, to aid in achieving these goals.

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