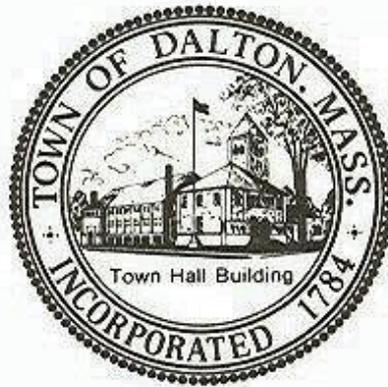


# Dalton, Massachusetts Annual Town Meeting

## State of the Town

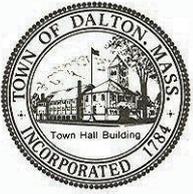
Revision 1

May 4, 2009

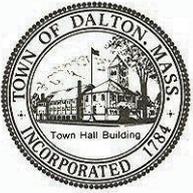


<http://www.dor.state.ma.us>  
<http://dalton-ma.gov>

Dalton Select Board:  
John Boyle, Chairman  
William Chabot  
Louisa Horth  
Stuart Sargent  
Thomas Szczepaniak

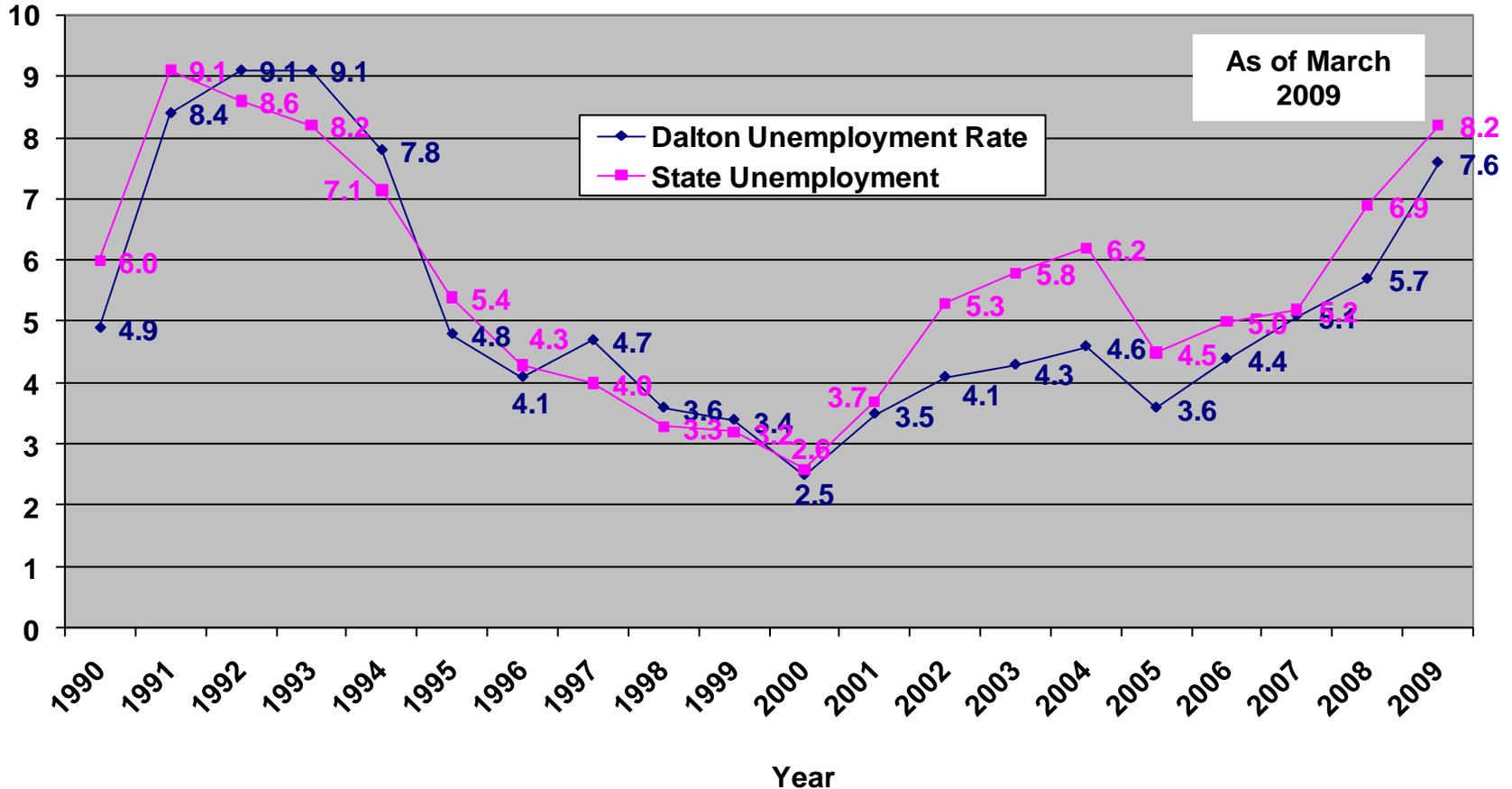


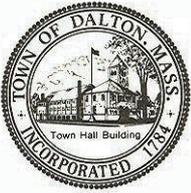
# State of the Town as seen through the eyes of the Commonwealth



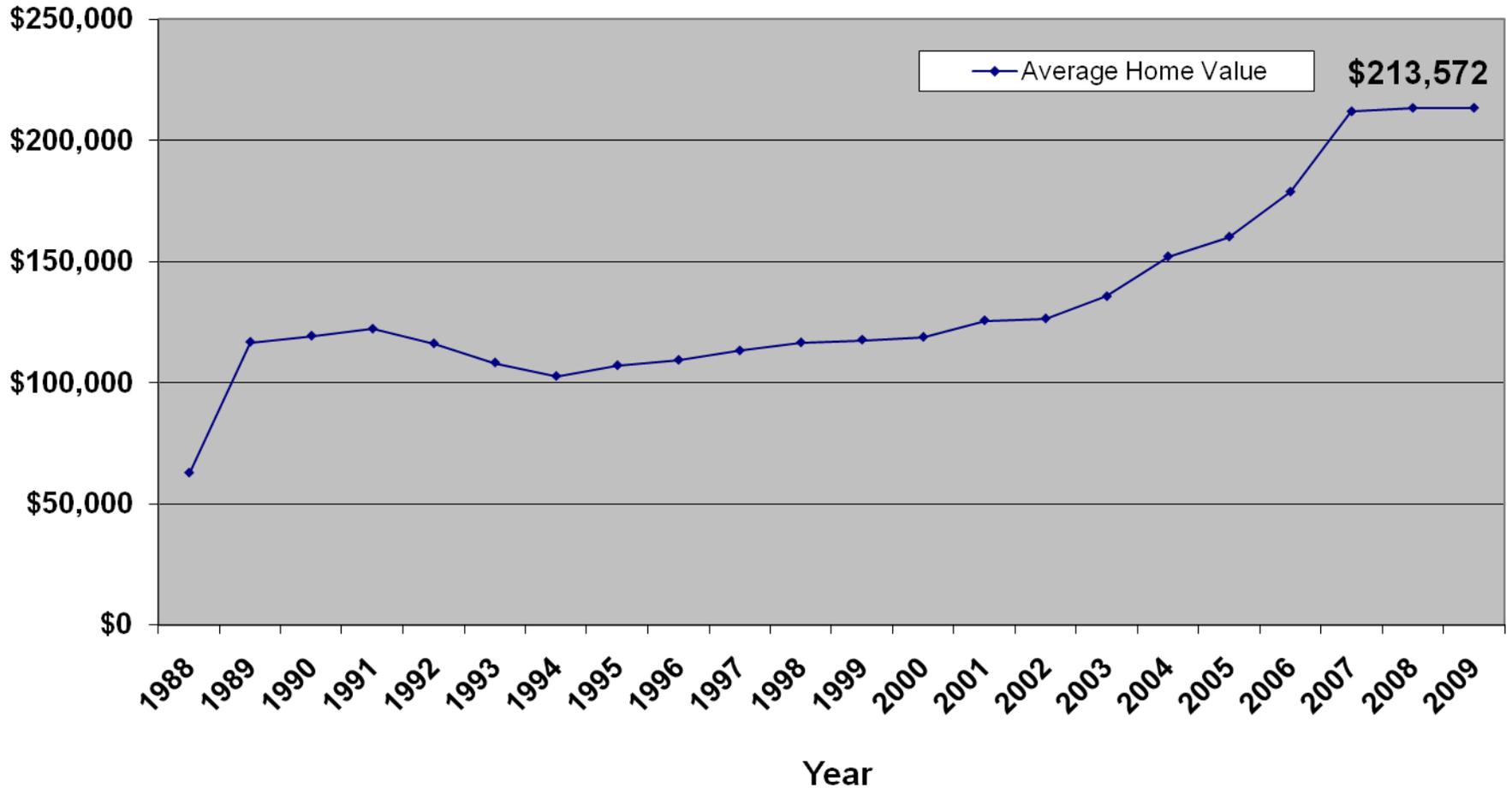
# Dalton's Unemployment Rate

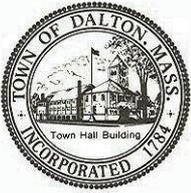
## Dalton vs. State Unemployment Rate Percentage



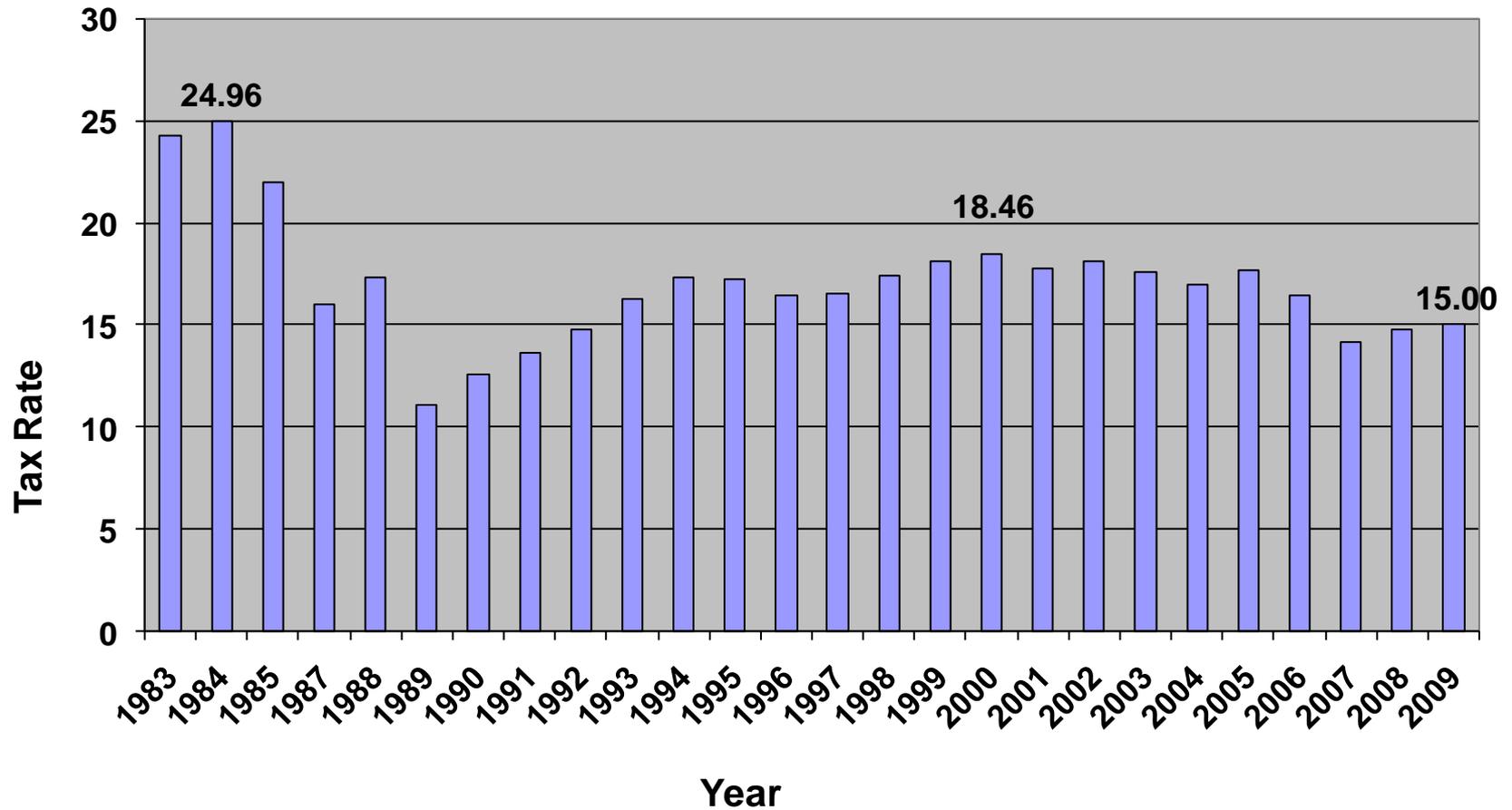


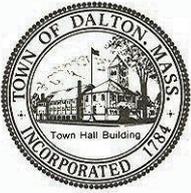
# Dalton's Average Home Value



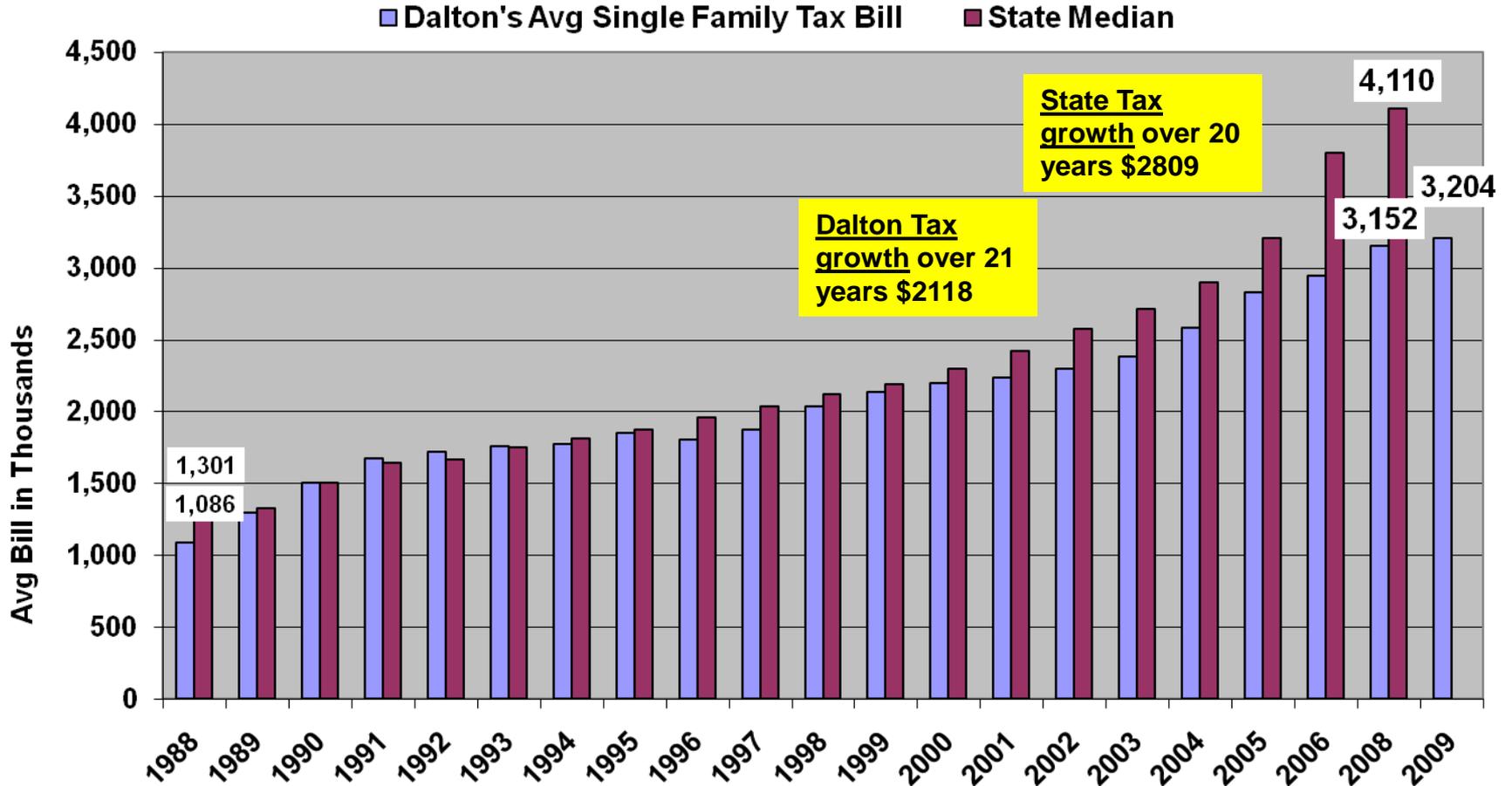


# Dalton's Residential Tax Rate/1000

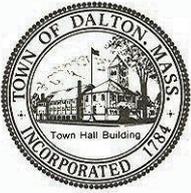




# Average Single Family Tax Bill

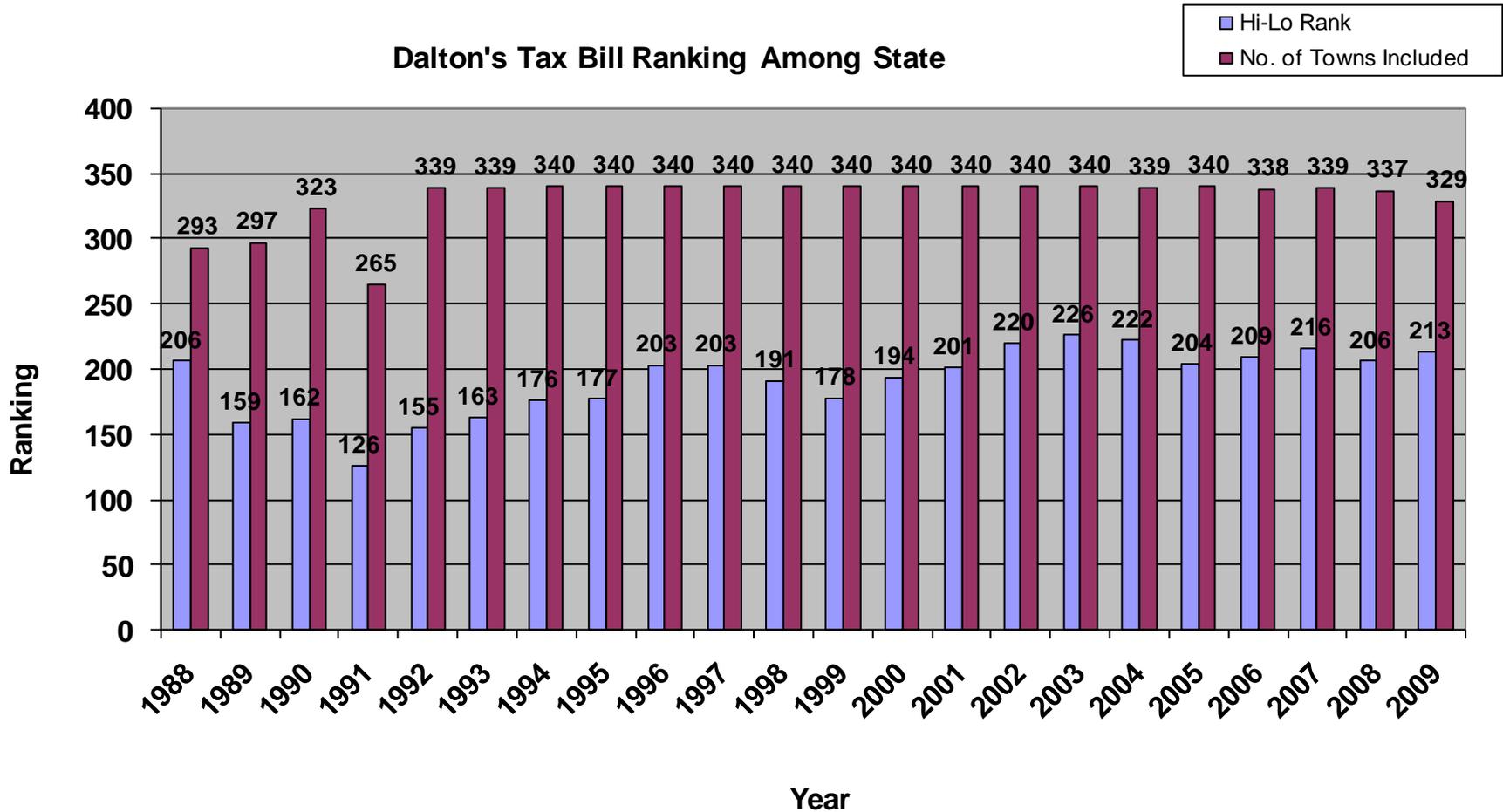


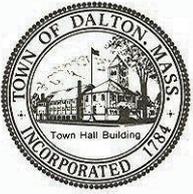
2009 State Tax  
Average not  
available



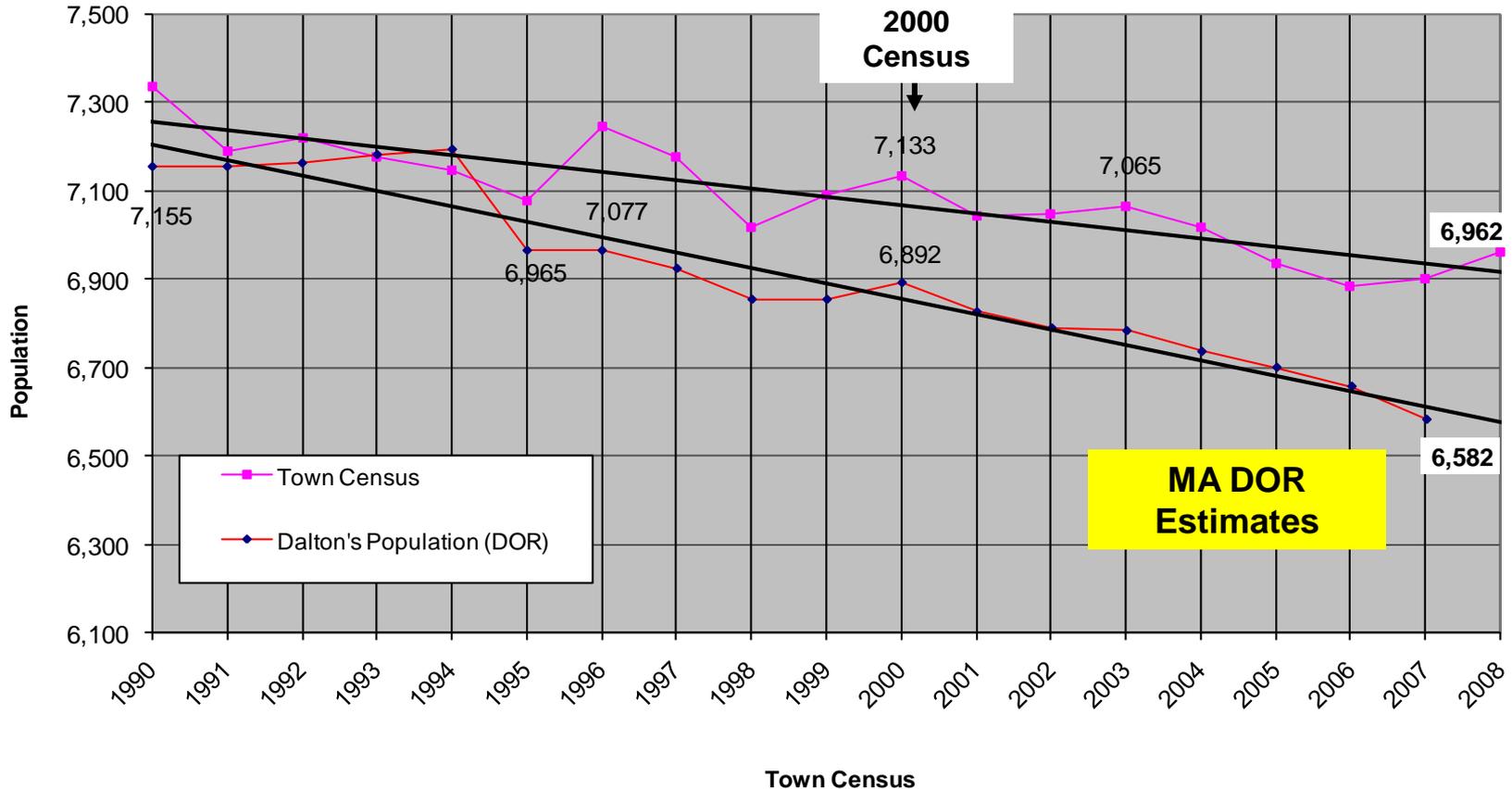
# Dalton's Tax Bill Ranking

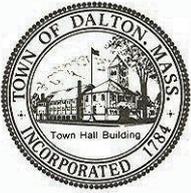
Dalton's Tax Bill Ranking Among State



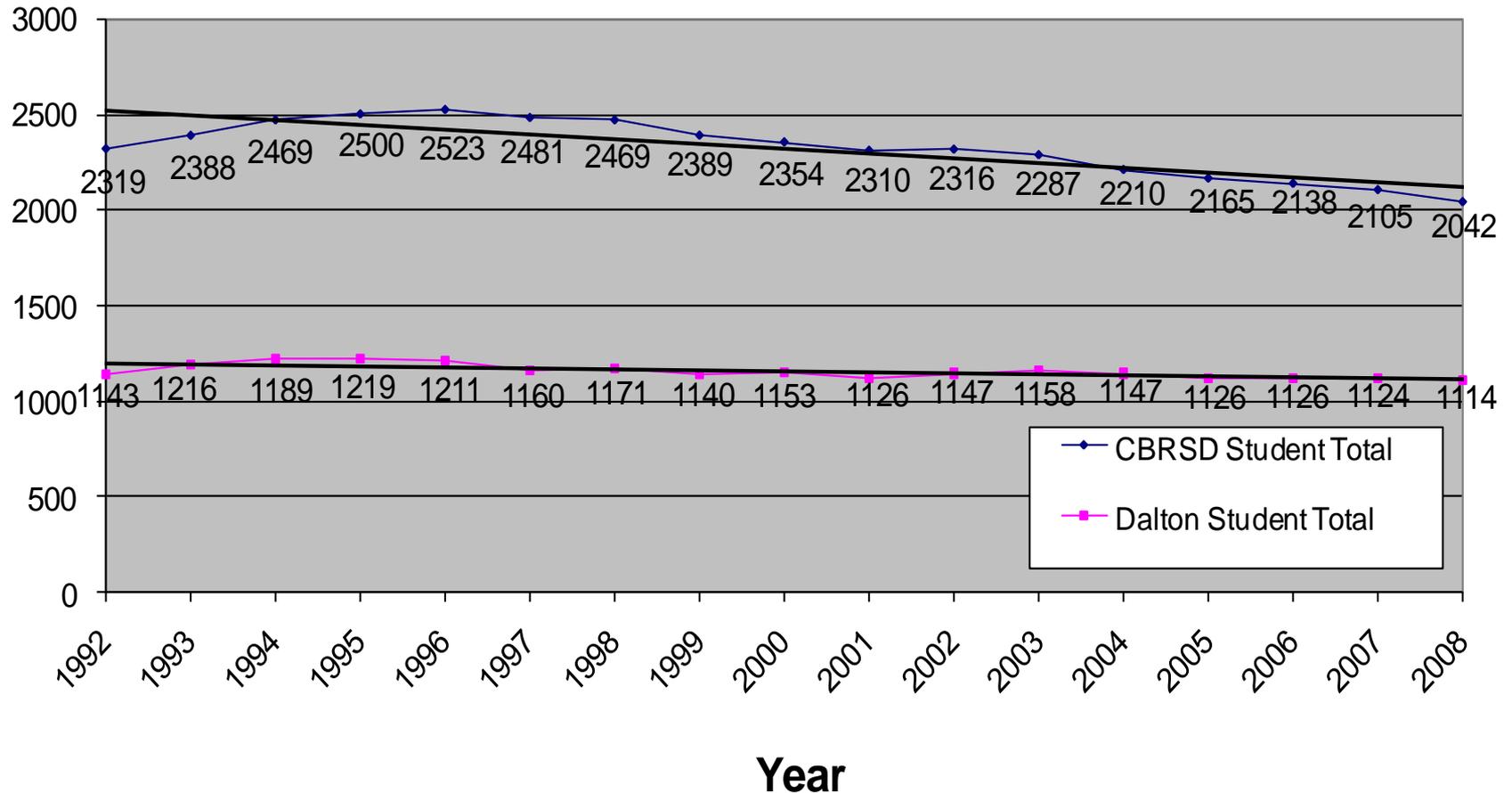


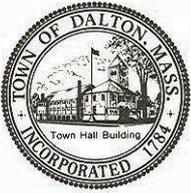
# Dalton's Population (DOR)



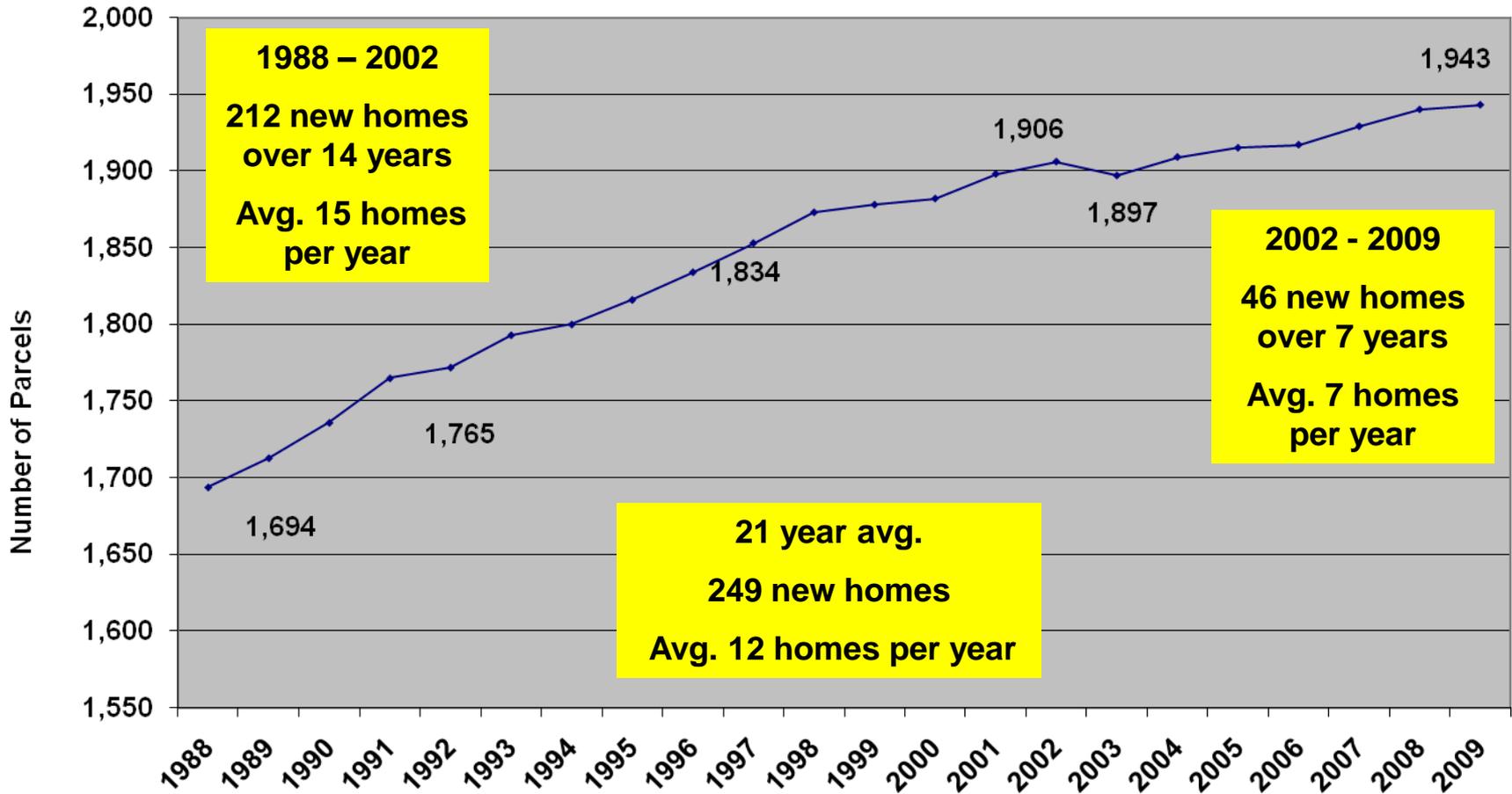


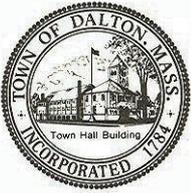
# Dalton CBRSD School Enrollment





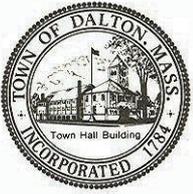
# Dalton's Parcel Growth





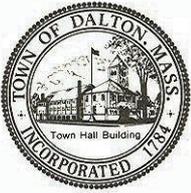
# State of the Town Summary as seen by the Commonwealth

- State of the Town would continue to be assessed as overall good when compared to State averages
- Positive
  - Tax rate 15%. Highest 20 Year point was 18.46% in 2000
  - Average Single Family Tax rate significantly lower than state average (~\$906). Managed by proposition 2 ½.
  - Overall tax ranking remains in the middle of the states median.
  - Unemployment is up 1.9% from last year.
    - Under by 1.1% of the States 8.2%.
- Of concern
  - Town's overall population has a steady rate of decline, but slow.
  - Dalton's Student population is relatively flat-lined, while overall student population continues to decline.
  - Parcel growth avg. over 21 years for 2009 is about 12 new homes per year, but 7 year growth is about 7 homes per year.
    - New homes equal new income and tax revenue
- Summary:
  - From the States eyes and compared to other towns in the commonwealth, Dalton remains fiscally sound, but we see the same economic strain as other cities and towns.



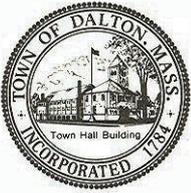
# State of the Town as seen through the eyes of the Town

## Looking at Expenditures



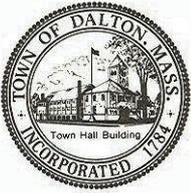
# General Fund Expenditures Overview

- General Fund Expenditure data is submitted to the Division of Local Services by the Town. Expenditures are from the general fund and do not reflect spending from:
  - Special Revenue
  - Enterprise
  - Capital projects
  - Trust Funds
  - **OPERATING BUDGET ONLY**
- “Public Works” category may vary because of how many communities account for spending on sewer, water, utilities, and other public works functions in enterprise or special revenue funds
- Capital outlay and construction expenditures are also excluded in order to encourage fair comparisons
- Intergovernmental transfers within departmental budgets, such as regional school assessments, are reported within their respective functions (i.e. education) and are not in the “intergovernmental” column.



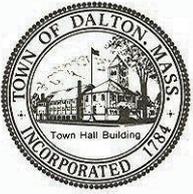
# General Fund Categories

- General Fund Categories
  - General Government
    - Legislative
    - Executive
    - Account/Auditor
    - Collector
    - Treasurer
    - Town Counsel
    - Public Building / Properties Maintenance
    - Assessors
    - Operation Support
    - License and Registration
    - Land Uses
    - Conservation Commission
    - Other
  - Police
  - Fire – (N/A, Separated from town budget in 1996)
  - Other Public Safety
    - Emergency Medical Services
    - Inspection
    - Other
- Education
- Public Works
  - Highways / Streets Snow & Ice
  - Highways / Streets other
  - Waste Collection & Disposal
  - Sewerage Collection & Disposal
  - Water Distribution
  - Street Lighting
  - Other
- Human Services
  - Health Services
  - Clinical Services
  - Special Program
  - Veteran's Services
  - Other
- Culture and Recreation
  - Library
  - Recreation
  - Parks
  - Historical Commission
  - Celebrations
  - Other

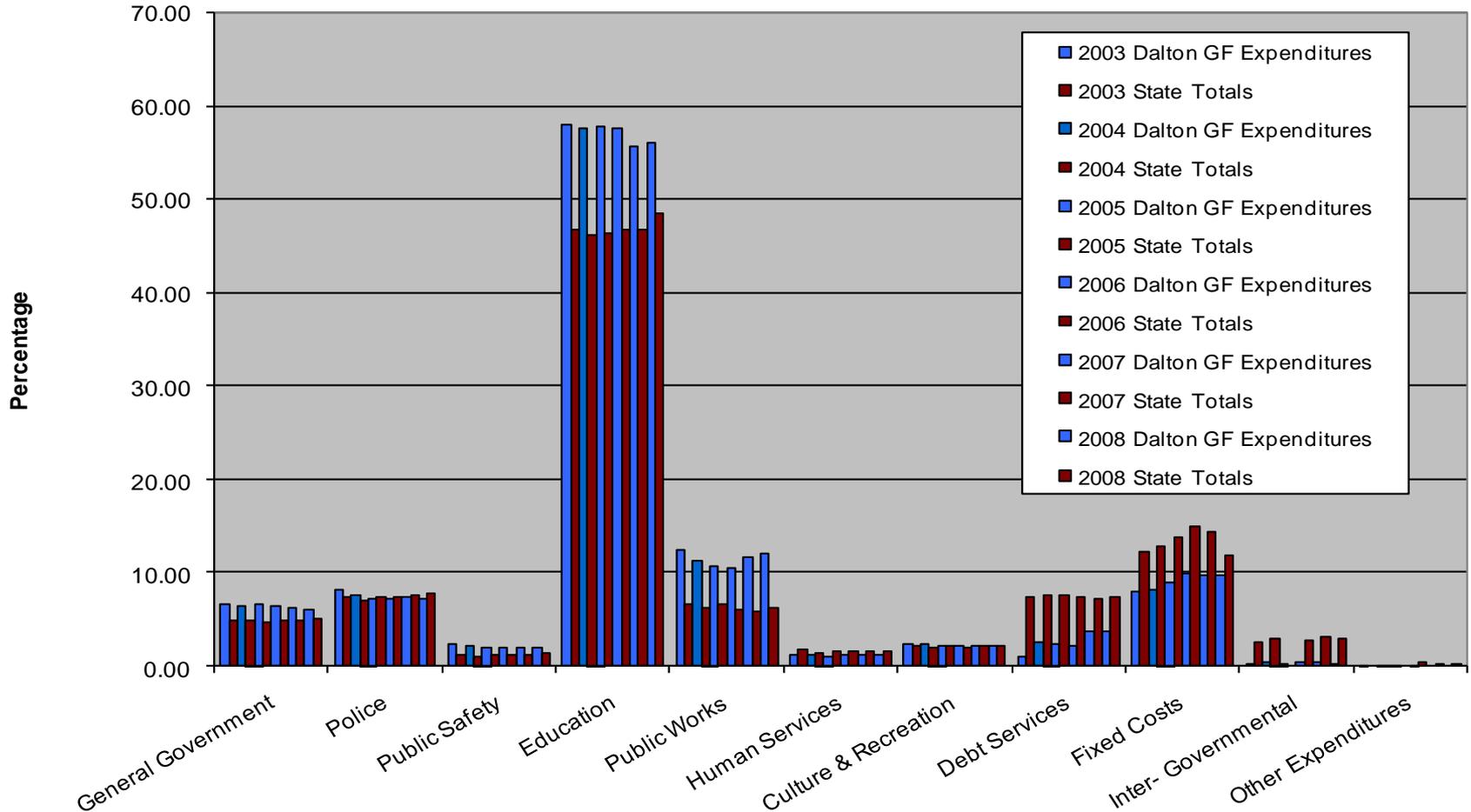


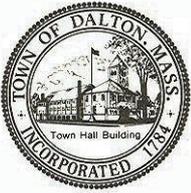
# General Fund Categories - Continued

- Debt Service
  - Retirement of Debt Principal
  - Interest on Long Term Debt
  - Interest on Short Term Debt
  - Other Interest
- Intergovernmental Assessments
  - Intergovernmental
- Fixed Cost
  - Worker's Compensation
  - Unemployment
  - Health Insurance
  - Other Employee Benefits
  - Other Insurance and Retirement
- Other Expenditures
  - Court Judges
  - Other Unclassified Expenditures

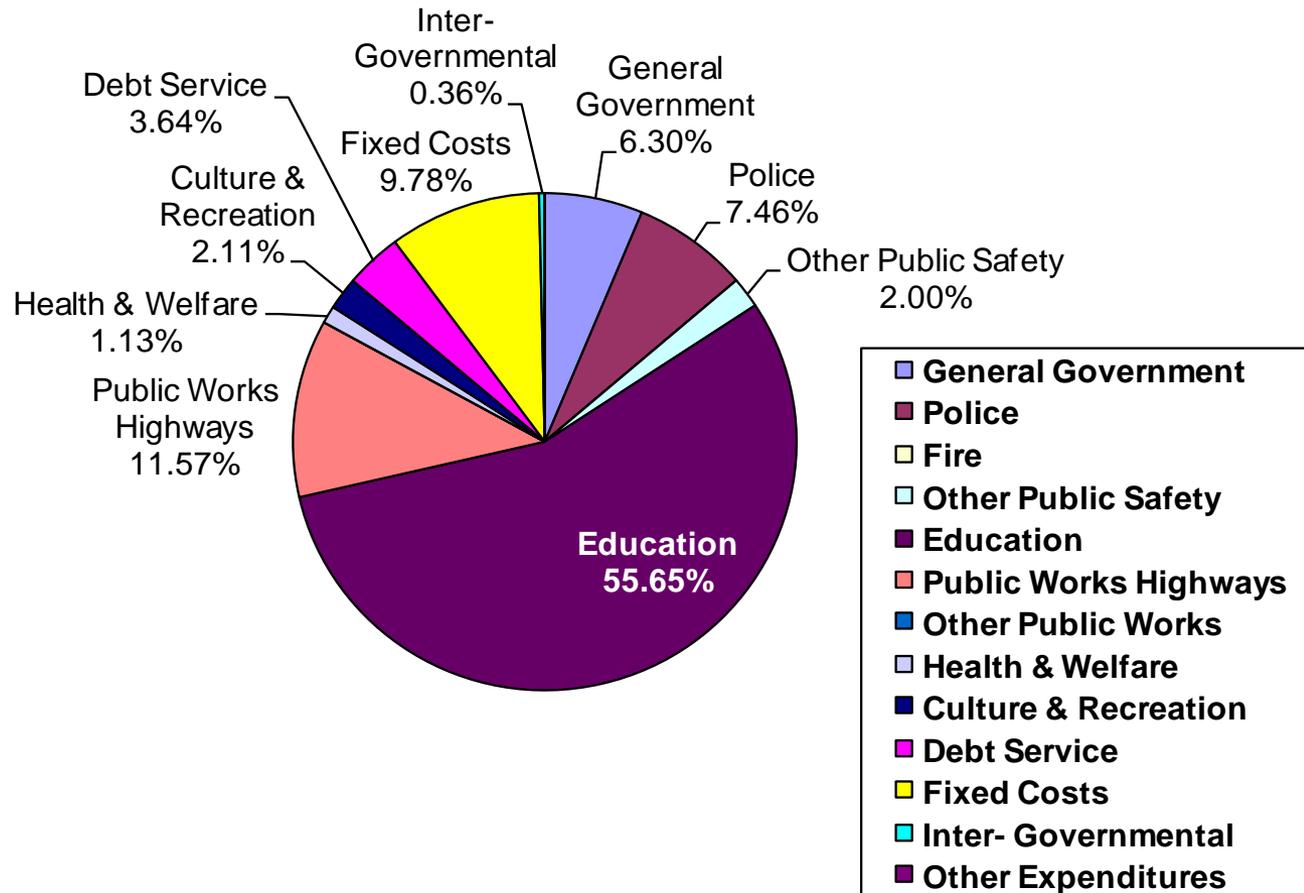


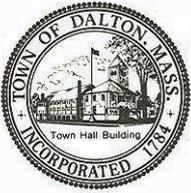
# Dalton vs. State GF Expenditures (Last 6 Years)



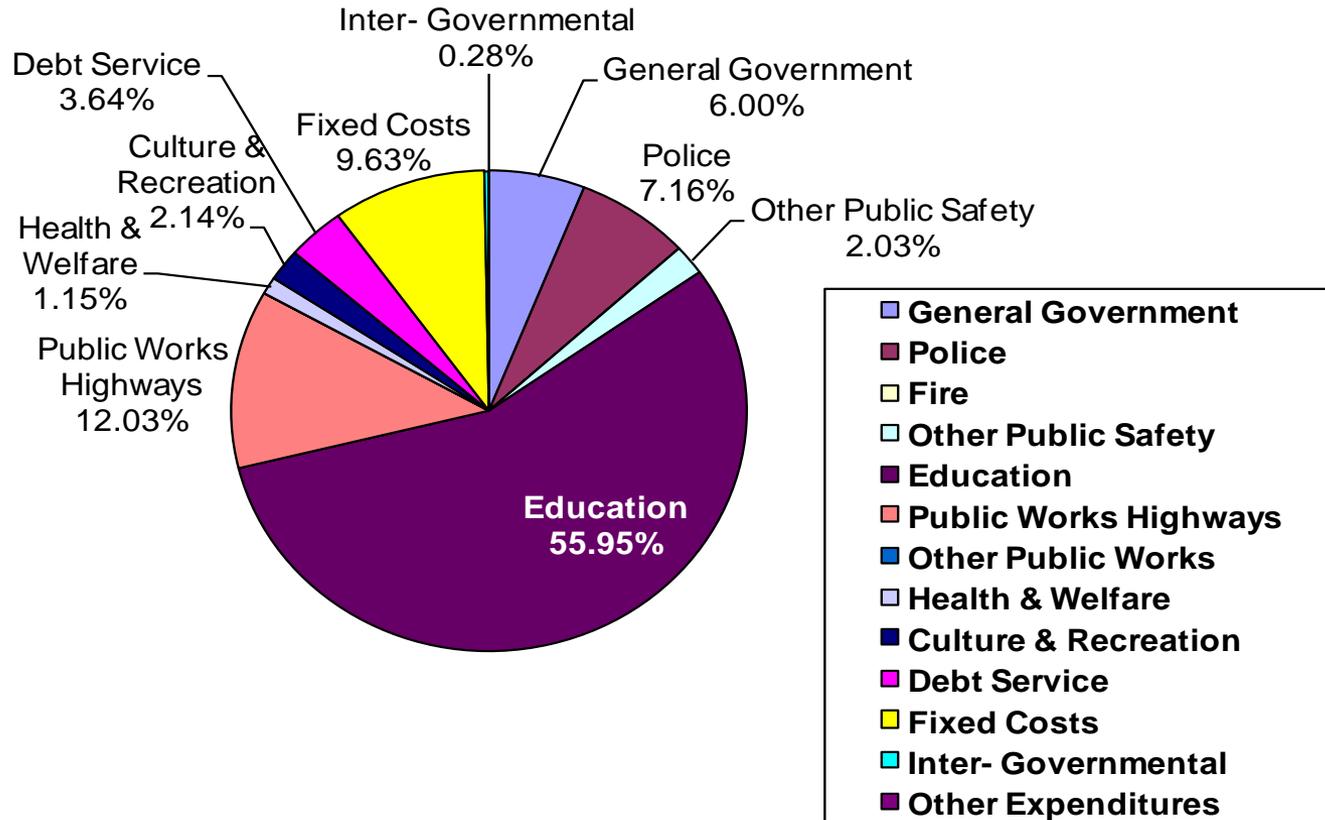


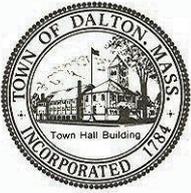
# Dalton's FY 2007 Total Expenditures (Actual)



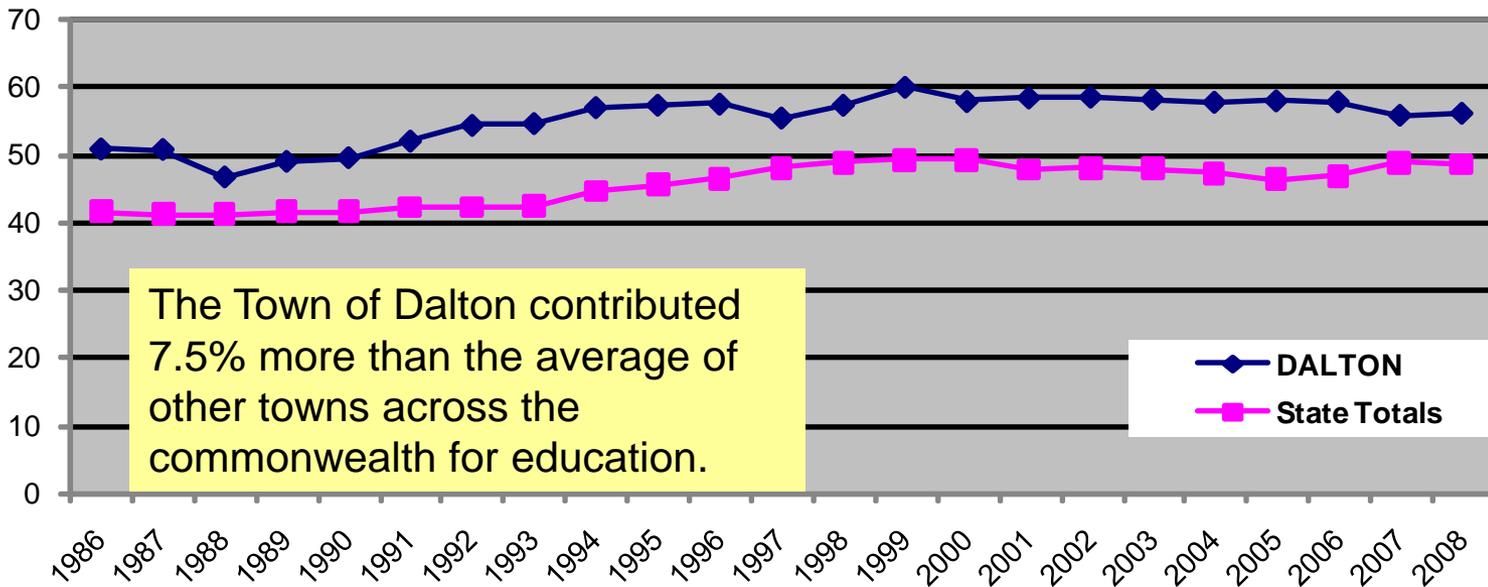


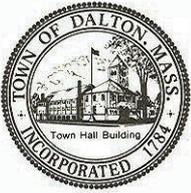
# Dalton's FY 2008 Total Expenditures (Actual)





# Dalton Expenditures for Education vs. State

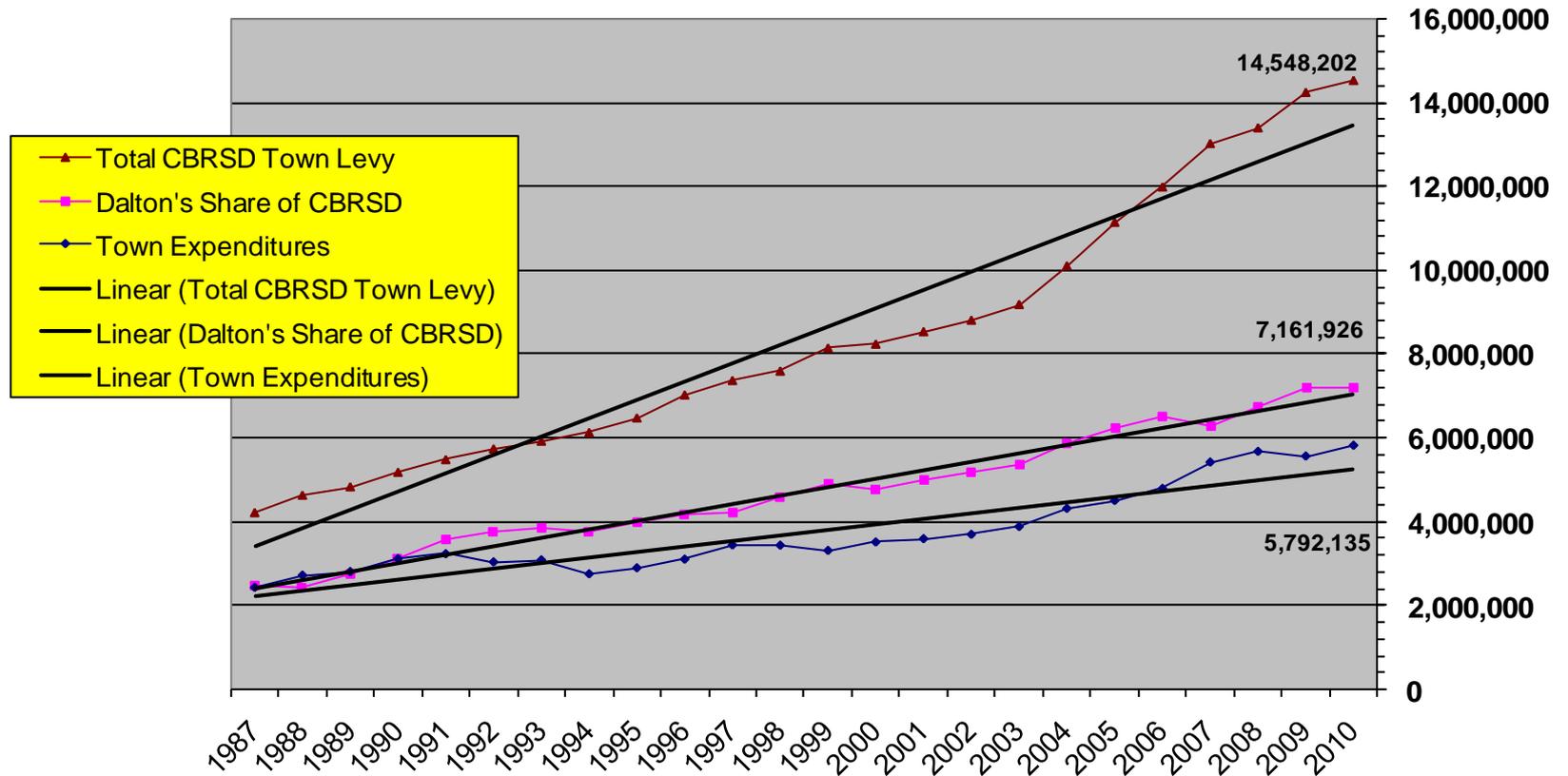


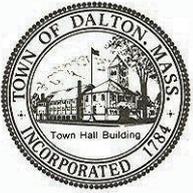


# General vs. CBRSD Expenditures

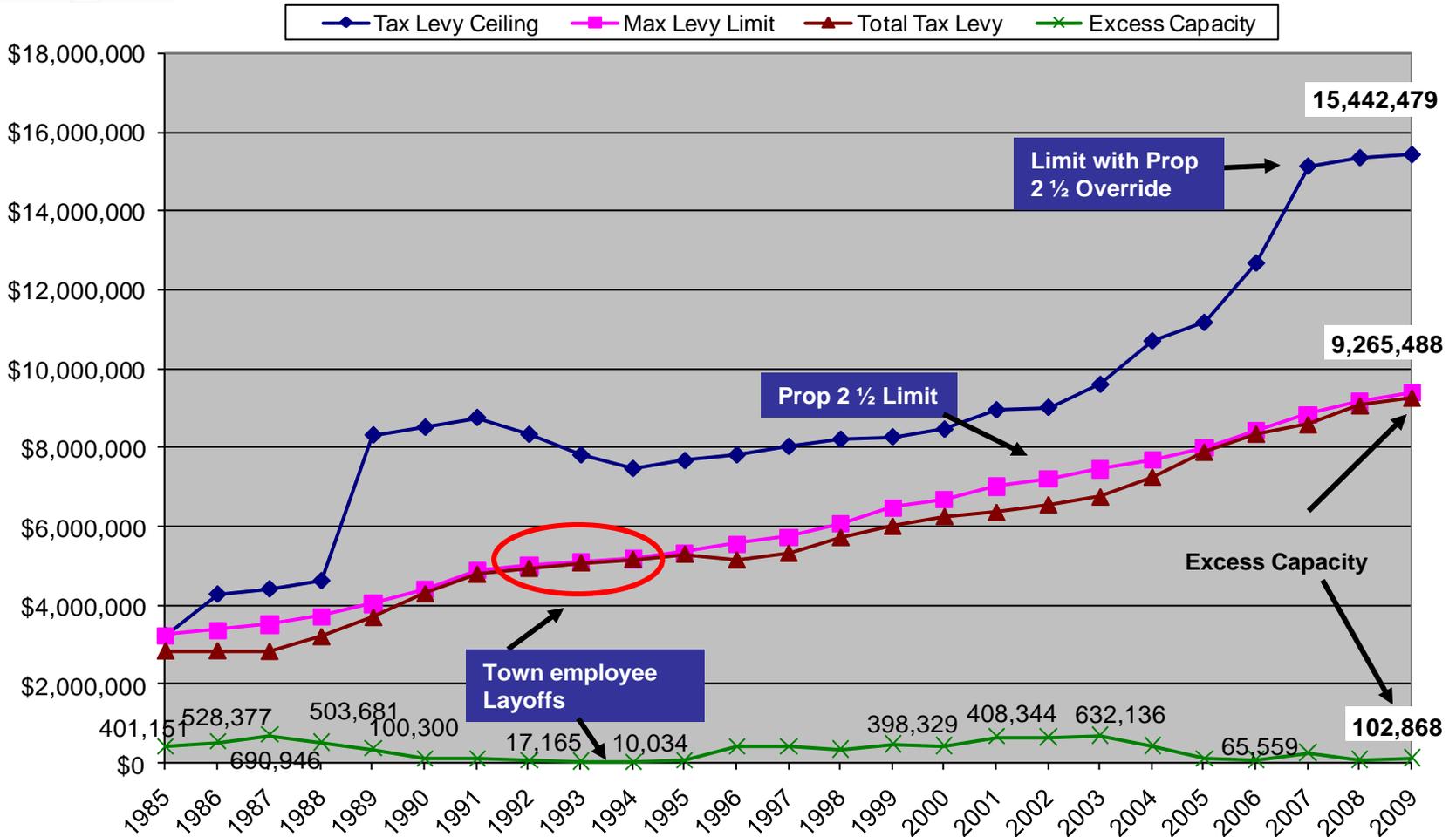
## Final Adoption (March 12, 2009) – (-0.16%)

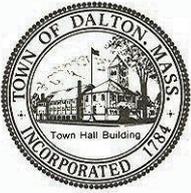
### Expenditures





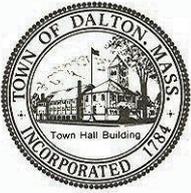
# Proposition 2.5 Excess Levy Limit





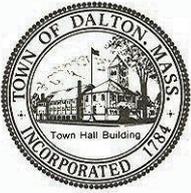
# FY08 Avg. Single Family Tax Bill Comparison

DOR Code	Municipality	Assessed Value	Parcels	Average Value	Tax Rate	Single Family Tax Bill	Hi-Lo Rank	# of Towns Included
121	HANCOCK	67,688,460	289	234,216	2.96	693	337	337
209	NORTH ADAMS	377,917,300	2,619	144,298	11.32	1,633	329	337
058	CHESHIRE	220,897,600	1,088	203,031	8.27	1,679	328	337
225	OTIS	428,833,900	1,491	287,615	6.20	1,783	327	337
022	BECKET	389,245,600	1,661	234,344	8.11	1,901	325	337
263	SAVOY	48,506,300	283	171,400	11.36	1,947	323	337
195	MOUNT WASHINGTON	52,329,300	145	360,892	5.52	1,992	320	337
345	WINDSOR	85,811,300	438	195,916	10.68	2,092	316	337
004	ADAMS	300,890,200	2,139	140,669	15.02	2,113	315	337
313	WASHINGTON	45,238,800	243	186,168	12.18	2,268	310	337
132	HINSDALE	176,921,100	819	216,021	11.06	2,389	306	337
069	CUMMINGTON	81,309,900	342	237,748	10.09	2,399	303	337
236	PITTSFIELD	2,124,664,500	11,234	189,128	13.15	2,487	294	337
233	PERU	61,487,700	337	182,456	14.07	2,567	286	337
108	GOSHEN	96,822,700	495	195,601	13.27	2,596	281	337
237	PLAINFIELD	47,410,900	249	190,405	13.97	2,660	271	337
150	LEE	445,806,600	1,797	248,084	11.76	2,917	244	337
349	WORTHINGTON	119,002,700	472	252,124	12.05	3,038	233	337
070	DALTON	414,263,400	1,940	213,538	14.76	3,152	206	337
148	LANESBOROUGH	273,725,500	1,200	228,105	14.38	3,280	190	337
249	RICHMOND	319,166,900	734	434,832	8.19	3,561	160	337
283	STOCKBRIDGE	566,030,400	1,087	520,727	6.92	3,603	154	337
152	LENOX	691,929,890	1,595	433,812	8.82	3,826	138	337
340	WILLIAMSBURG	200,924,000	710	282,992	13.52	3,826	139	337
326	WEST STOCKBRIDGE	321,150,600	682	470,895	8.90	4,191	108	337
113	GREAT BARRINGTON	786,035,300	2,075	378,812	11.28	4,273	103	337
341	WILLIAMSTOWN	742,896,000	1,888	393,483	11.78	4,635	87	337



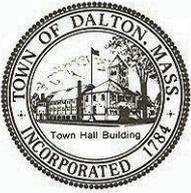
# FY09 Avg. Single Family Tax Bill Comparison

DOR Code	Municipality	Assessed Value	Parcels	Average Value	Tax Rate	Single Family Tax Bill	Hi-Lo Rank	# of Towns Included
237	PLAINFIELD			0		0		
249	RICHMOND			0		0		
345	WINDSOR			0		0		
121	HANCOCK	68,024,750	290	234,568	2.98	699	327	327
209	NORTH ADAMS	379,946,300	2,627	144,631	11.71	1,694	319	327
058	CHESHIRE	221,029,800	1,089	202,966	9.02	1,831	317	327
022	BECKET	415,310,100	1,676	247,798	7.98	1,977	316	327
225	OTIS	477,843,200	1,512	316,034	6.39	2,019	313	327
195	MOUNT WASHINGTON	52,848,300	146	361,975	5.72	2,070	311	327
004	ADAMS	303,964,600	2,147	141,576	15.36	2,175	310	327
263	SAVOY	48,049,100	286	168,004	14.28	2,399	303	327
313	WASHINGTON	47,668,900	248	192,213	12.86	2,472	298	327
069	CUMMINGTON	76,597,000	339	225,950	11.04	2,494	295	327
132	HINSDALE	189,415,300	829	228,486	11.14	2,545	289	327
236	PITTSFIELD	2,122,632,300	11,250	188,678	13.67	2,579	287	327
233	PERU	60,245,700	338	178,242	14.49	2,583	286	327
108	GOSHEN	97,064,135	502	193,355	13.89	2,686	274	327
150	LEE	453,881,000	1,807	251,179	12.17	3,057	236	327
349	WORTHINGTON	119,360,900	473	252,349	12.17	3,071	235	327
070	<b>DALTON</b>	<b>414,970,300</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>213,572</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>327</b>
148	LANESBOROUGH	266,307,800	1,200	221,923	14.56	3,231	208	327
283	STOCKBRIDGE	573,210,500	1,089	526,364	6.78	3,569	165	327
340	WILLIAMSBURG	202,230,000	714	283,235	13.87	3,928	140	327
152	LENOX	701,644,890	1,597	439,352	9.08	3,989	133	327
326	WEST STOCKBRIDGE	314,850,095	678	464,381	9.25	4,296	112	327
113	GREAT BARRINGTON	830,725,500	2,091	397,286	11.36	4,513	97	327
341	WILLIAMSTOWN	790,121,000	1,893	417,391	11.40	4,758	86	327



# Town of Dalton Today

- **General Government (Town Clerk, Accountant, Assessors, Treasurer, Collector, Administrative Assistants, Council on Aging and Library Directors) operating hours remain at 4 days (minus holidays) or 32 hours per week – (52 weeks per year) Note: Eliminated one assistant clerk position in FY09**
  - **Town Manager, Police Chief, Hwy Superintendent, Police Sgt., Hwy Forman, contracted for 40 hours per week**
- **Police officers work 40 hours per week plus overtime, as required - 7 days per week. Note: Two crossing guards were cut in FY09, one police officer reassigned under a state grant in FY09.**
- **Communications Department works 40 hours per week plus overtime, as required – 7 days per week**
- **Public works (Hwy Department) works 40 hours per week plus overtime, as required – nights/weekends as required Note: Eliminated one Hwy position in FY09.**
- **Town Nurse & Veterans Services on limited number of hours during the week. Note: Nurse hours were cut in FY09.**
- **Building Inspector, Health Agent, Animal Control Officer, Emergency Management Director on limited hours during the week. Note: Eliminated the Burial agent position in FY09.**
- **Library open 6 days per week (Mon - Sat) on limited hours. Note: Library hours were cut in FY09.**
- **Town's parks & recreation programs are outsourced and managed by a town approved appropriation grant to the CRA. Note: Youth program funding was cut in FY09.**
- **Volunteers support numerous town functions on their own free time (most after normal working hours) supported by appointed volunteers or elected officials.**
  - **Beautification Commission, Cemetery Committee, Council on Aging Board of Directors, Cultural Council, Historical Committee, Web Site Committee, Memorial Day Committee, Development and Industrial Commission, Traffic Commission, Storm Water Management Committee, Open Space Committee, Community Development Committee, Housing Authority, Planning Board, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Finance Committee, Tree Warden, Select Board, Sewer Commission, Parks Commission and Licensing Board, Dalton Public Free Library Board of Trustees**



# Town of Dalton FY08 Summary

- **Economy a major concern across the commonwealth.**
- **Taxation borders the Levy limit capped by Proposition 2 ½. Very little proportionally is left of our rainy day fund (Stabilization and Free Cash) to pay debt services. This impacts our ability to use the interest to pay for bonding.**
- **To stay under the levy limit the Select Board supported an increase of CBRSD operating budget to the Town of Dalton of no more than 2% this year.**
  - Dalton's CBRSD assessment this year is -0.16%
  - Total School district assessment 2%.
- **As shown, the Town's manageable portion of the taxes (minus education) is approximately 44% of the total Town's tax assessment to support town services.**
- **Town Services are directly impacted by State Aid. State aid is used to improve our services and roadways (e.g. South Street, Library Grant, Police, etc...and supplement education). As a town we've looked ahead to invest in improvements. This is necessary to attract new businesses and home buyers.**
  - **Examples: South Street and Town Hall renovations**
- **State recently reported a larger than anticipated revenue shortage. Additional cuts on the Town budget may be required to balance FY10.**
- **Bottom Line: Current economy remains a challenge, but the Town of Dalton remains fiscally sound. It couldn't be done without the entire town working together. The select board truly appreciates the support the people of Dalton give in providing the many services that keep Dalton a great place to live.**
- **Thank-you for your continued town support.**