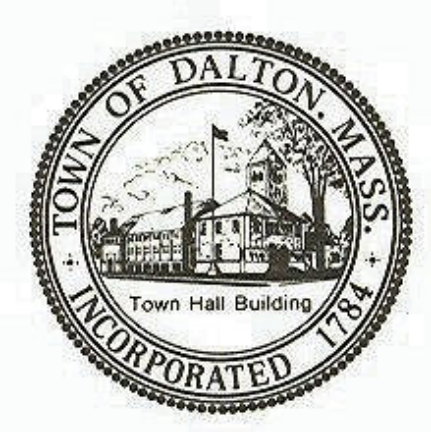
Dalton, Massachusetts
Annual Town Meeting

State of the Town

May 7, 2007

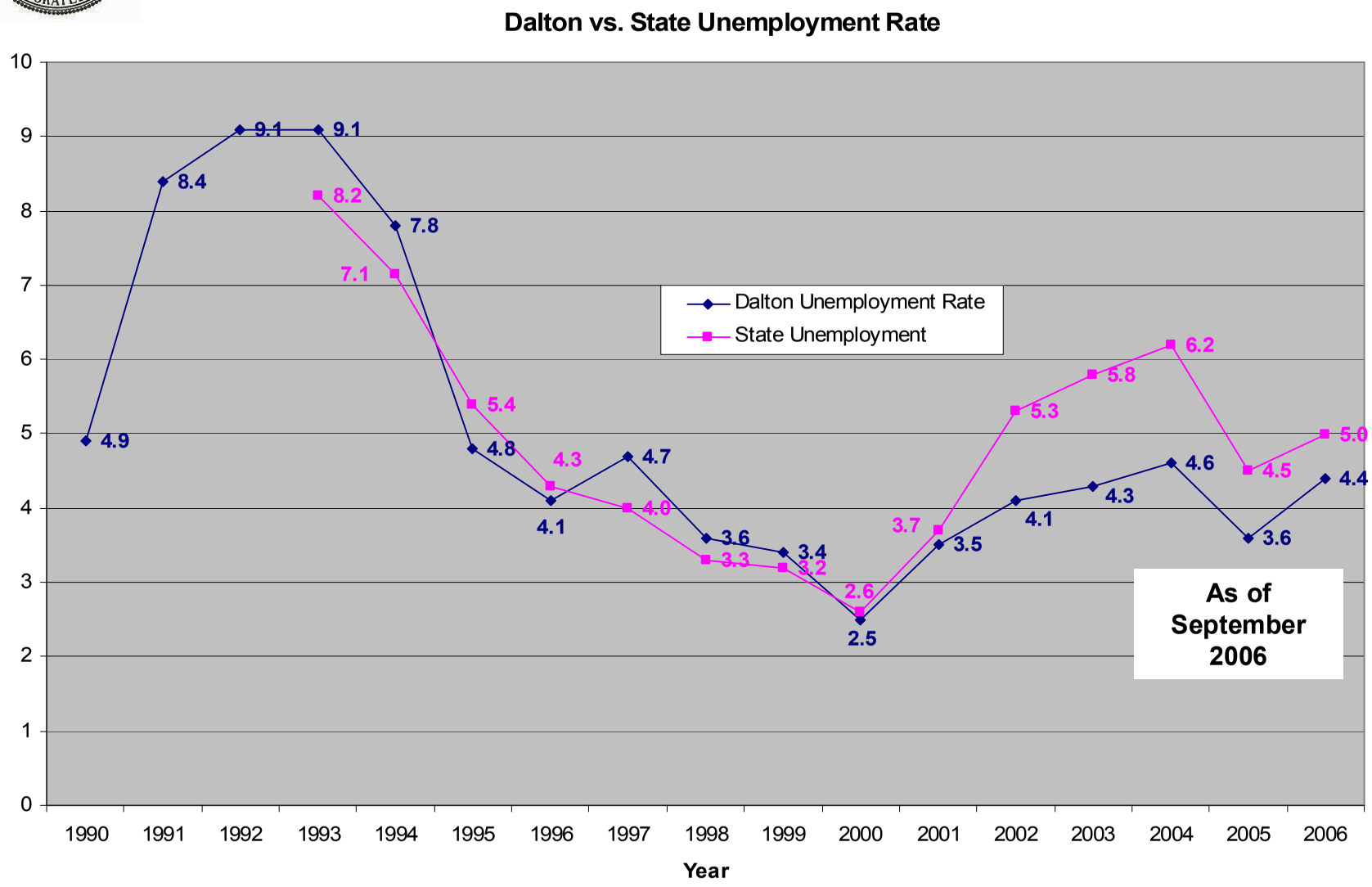


Dalton Select Board:
Tom Szczepaniak, Chairman
David Fairfield
William Chabot
Russell Sears
Louisa Horth

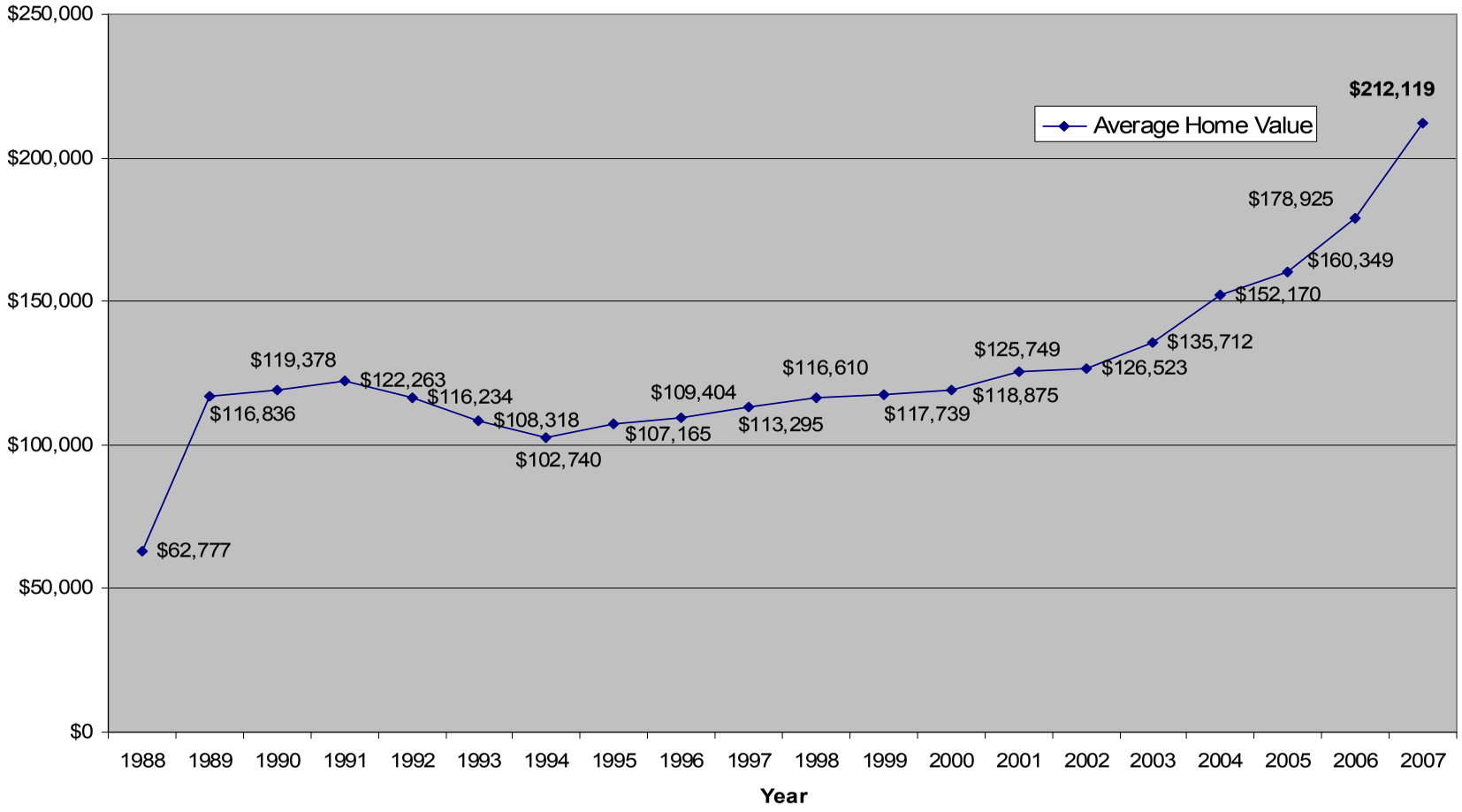
http://www.dor.state.ma.us
http://dalton-ma.gov

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

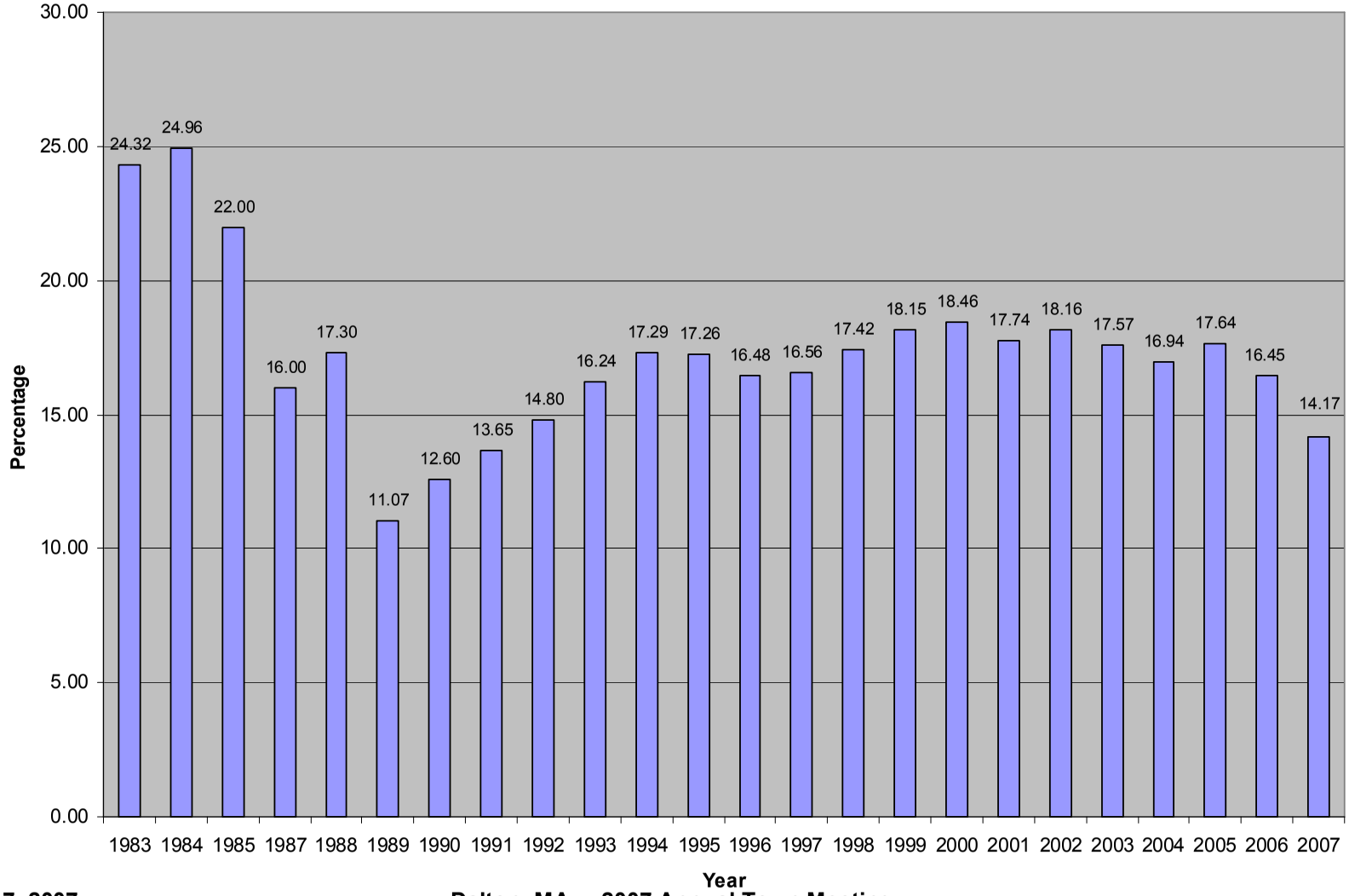
Dalton's Unemployment Rate



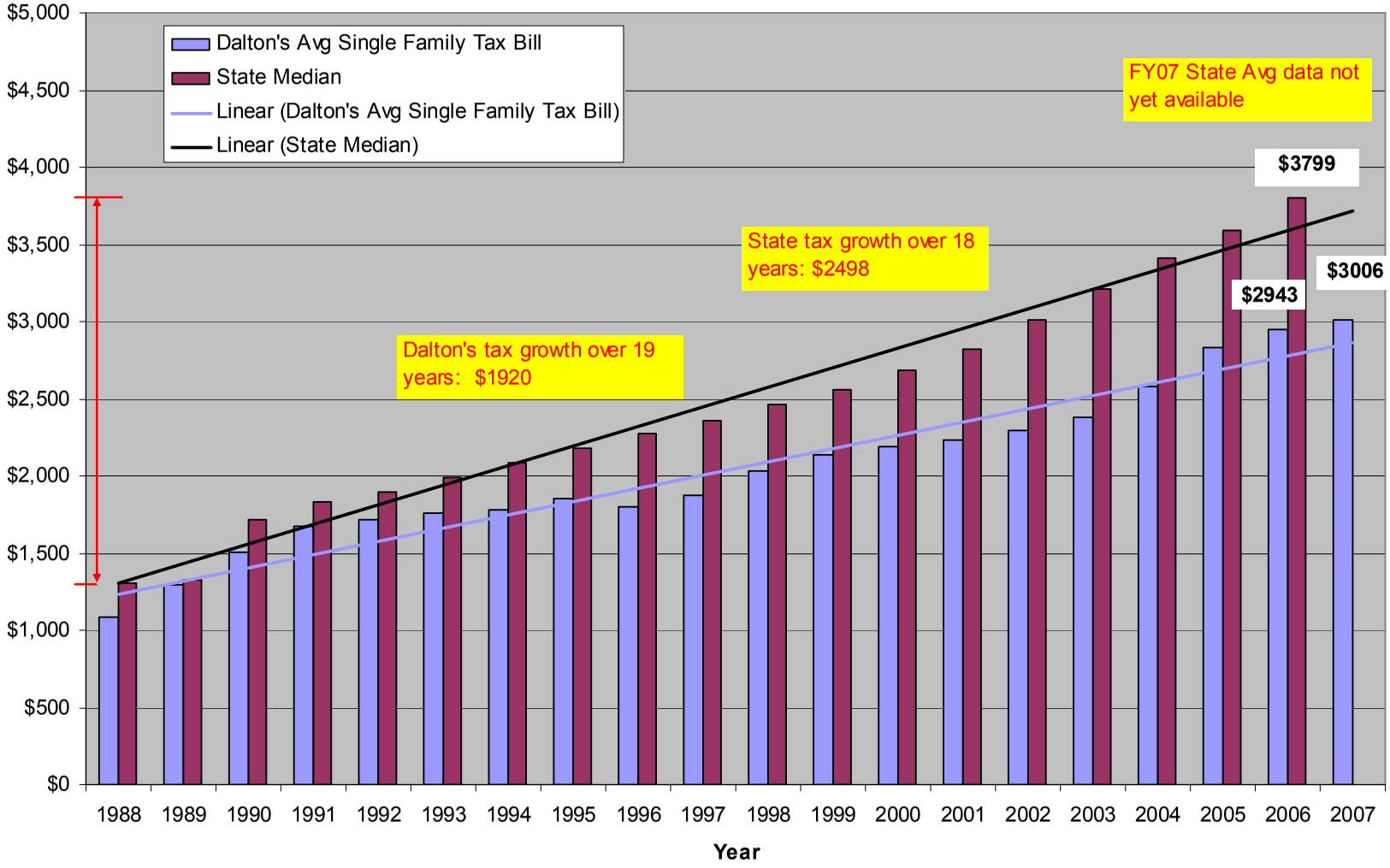
Dalton's Average Home Value



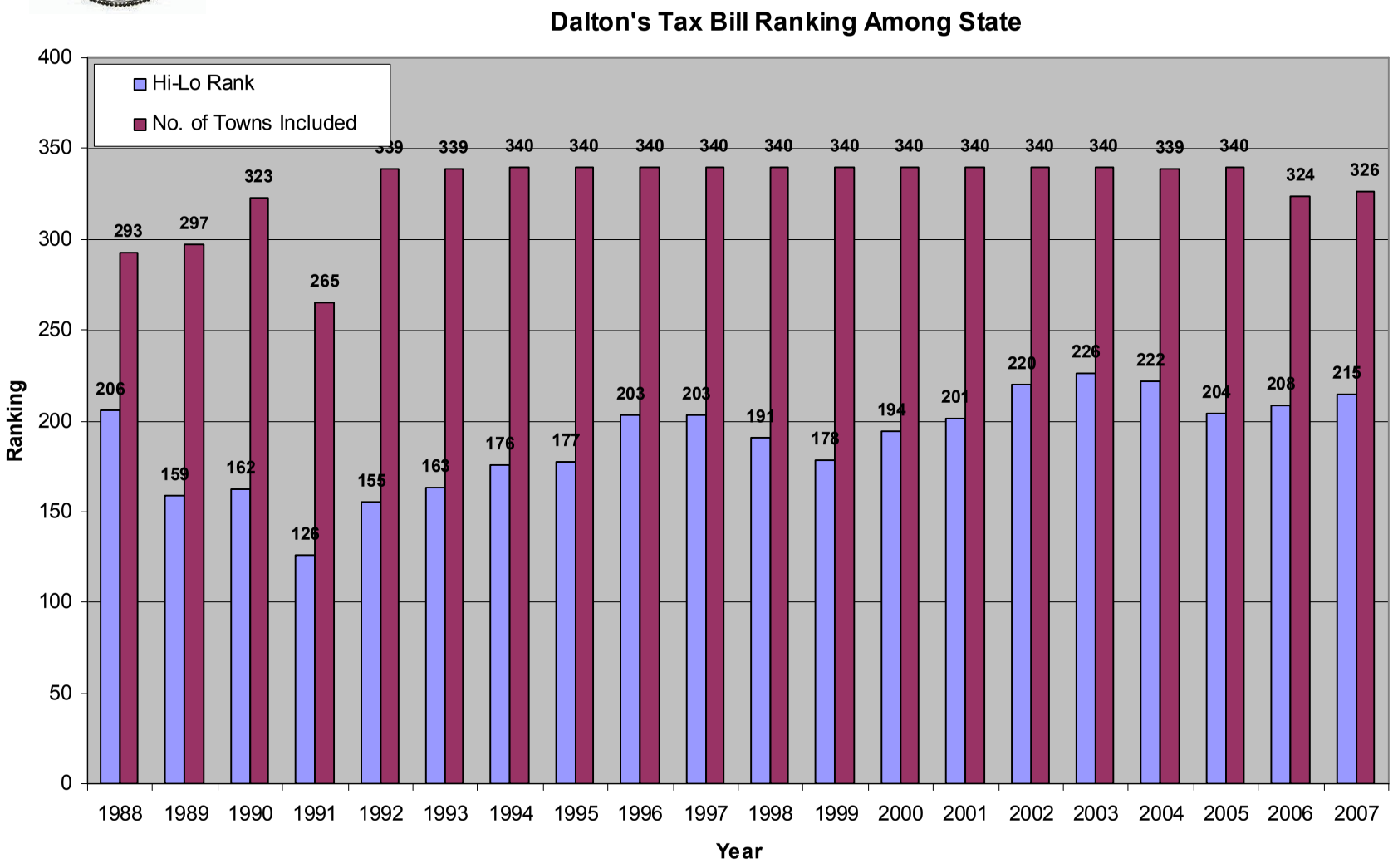
Dalton's Tax Rate



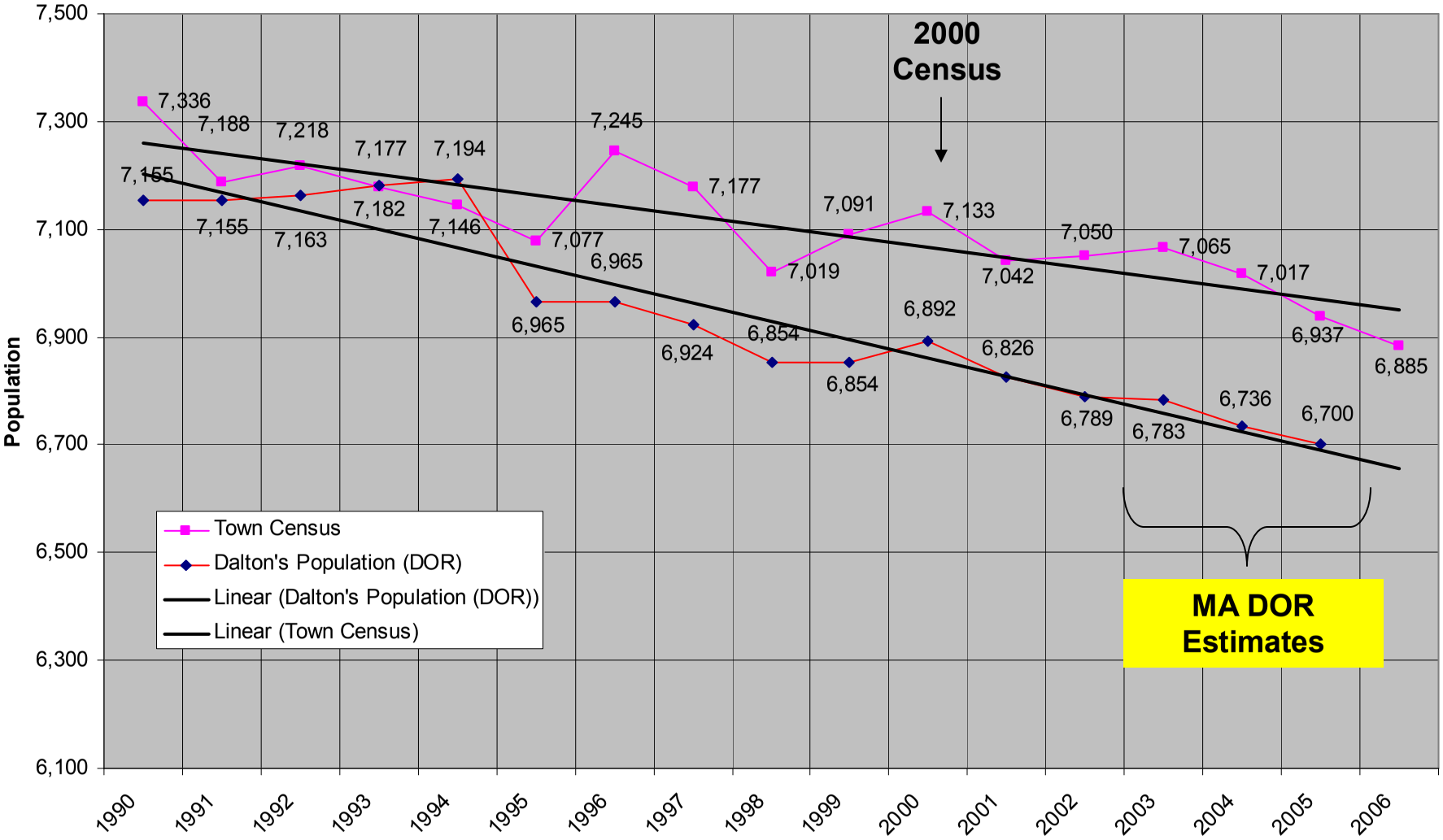
Average Single Family Tax Bill



Dalton's Tax Bill Ranking

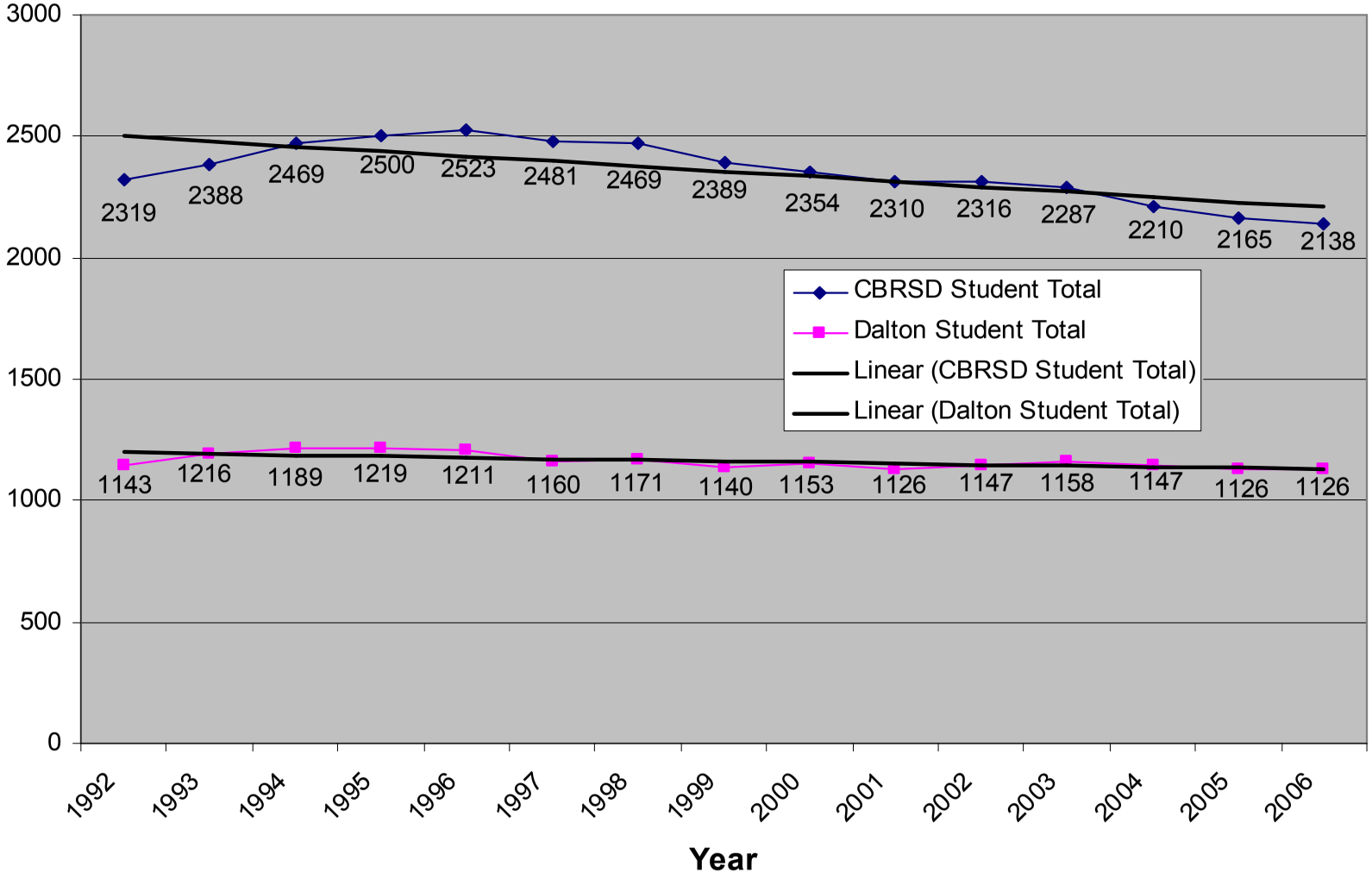


Dalton's Population (DOR)

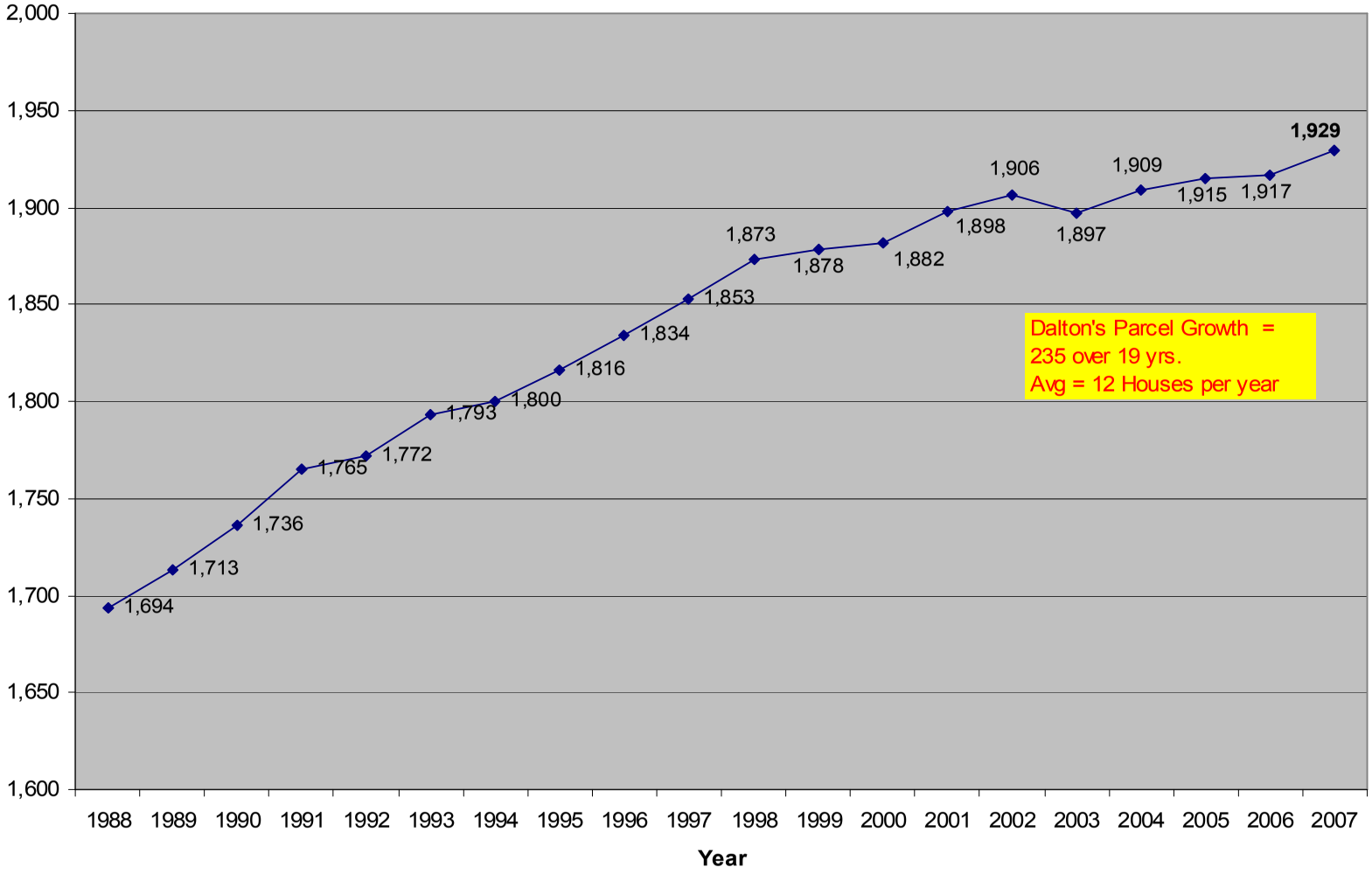


July 1 Town Census Year

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
  - Unemployment is up near a whole percent from last year.
    - Under by **.6%** of the States 5.0%.
  - Home owner value continues to increase.
    - Avg. home value has increased by about $85,500 over five years.
  - Tax rate down. Lowest since 1991.
  - Average Single Family Tax rate significantly lower than state average (~$800)
  - Overall tax ranking remains in the middle of the states median.

- Of concern
  - Town's overall population continues to decline
  - No change this year to Dalton's Student population as reported 3/5/07
  - Parcel growth for 2007 equals 12 new homes.
    - New homes equal new income and tax revenue

- Summary:
  - From the States eyes, Dalton remains fiscally sound.

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.

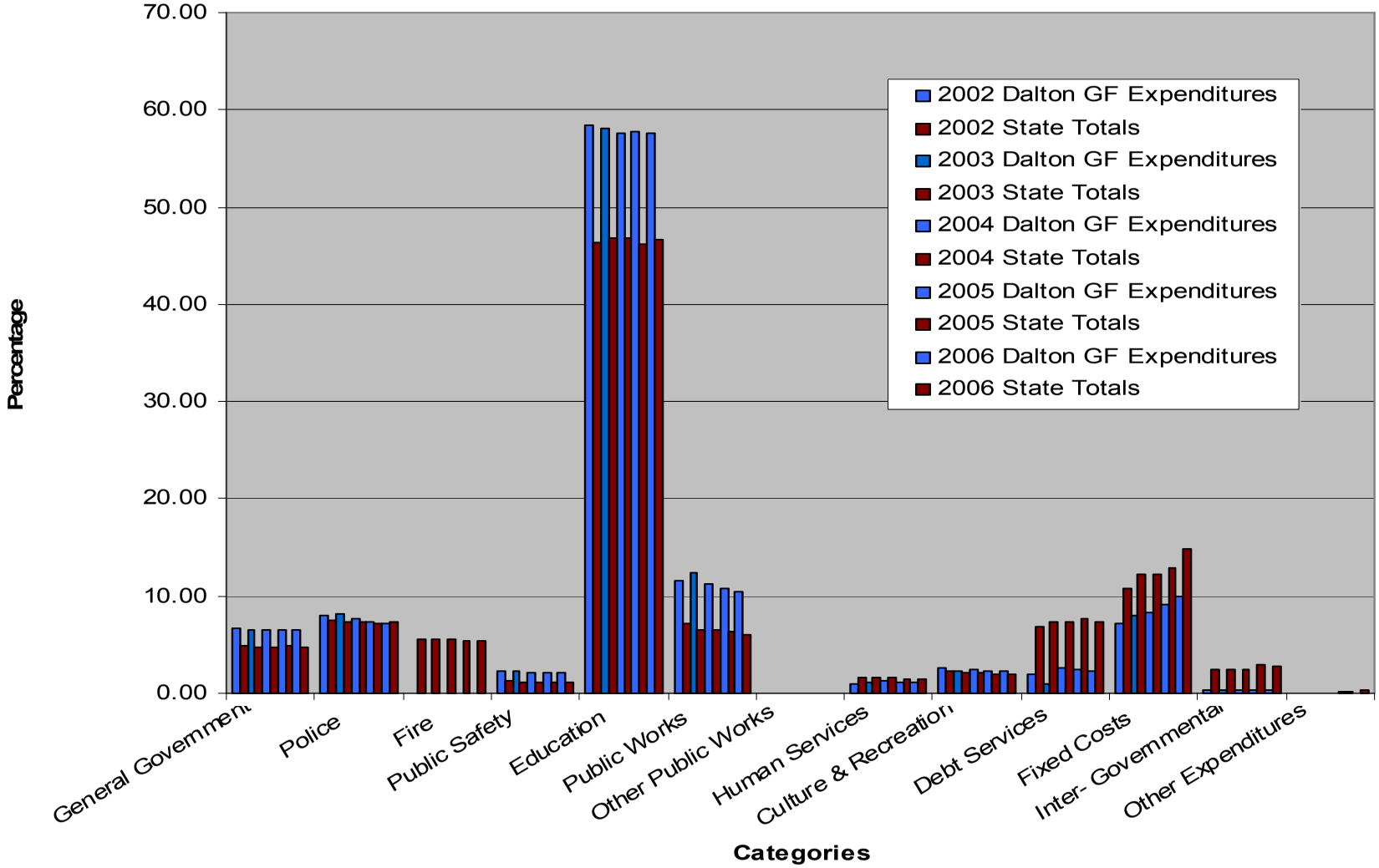
General Fund Categories

- 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

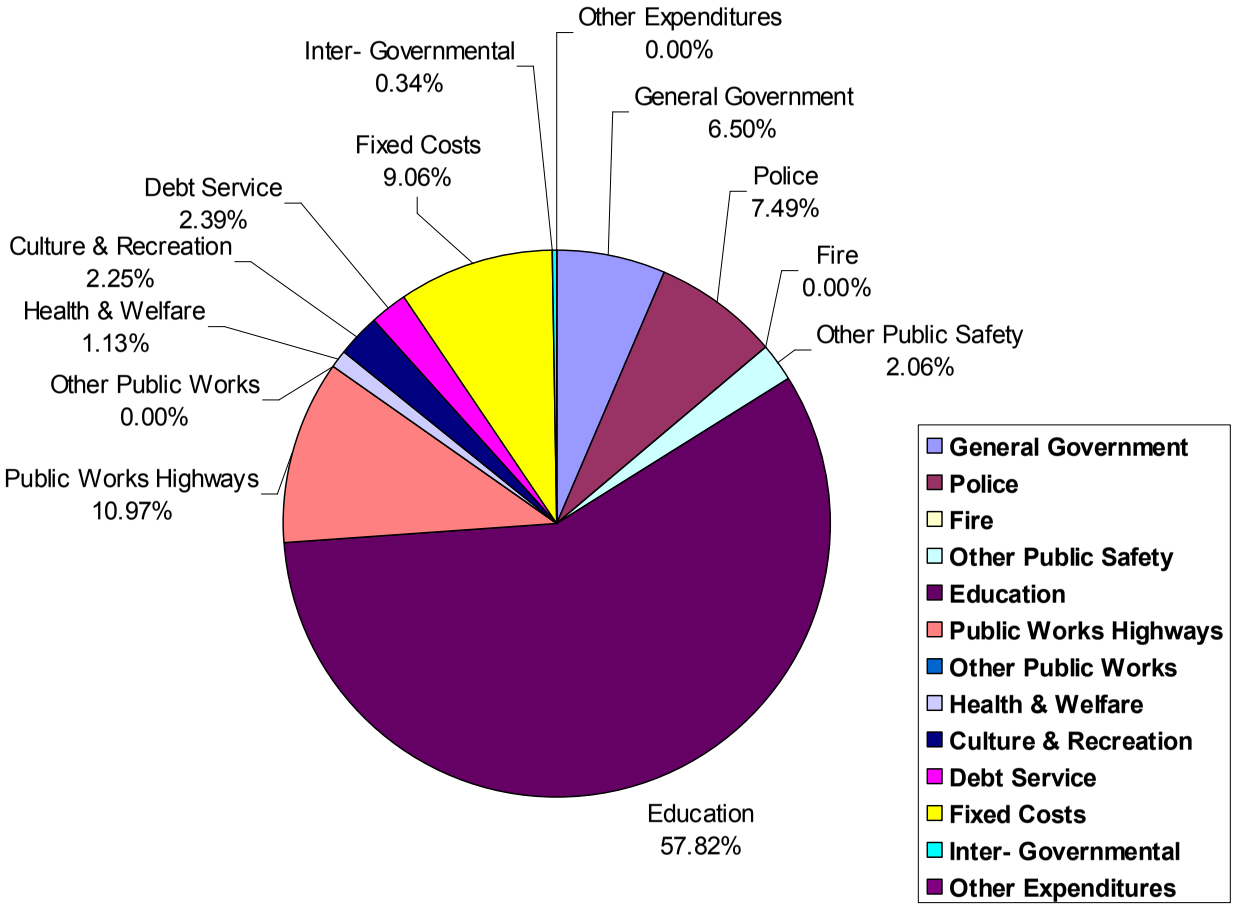
- Debt Service
  - Retirement of Debt Principal
  - Interest on Long Term Debt
  - Interest on Short Term Debt
  - Other Interest
- Intergovernmental Assessments
  - Intergovernmental
- Fixed Cost
  - Worker's Compensation
  - Unemployment
  - Health Insurance
  - Other Employee Benefits
  - Other Insurance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

Dalton vs. State GF Expenditures (Last 5 Years)



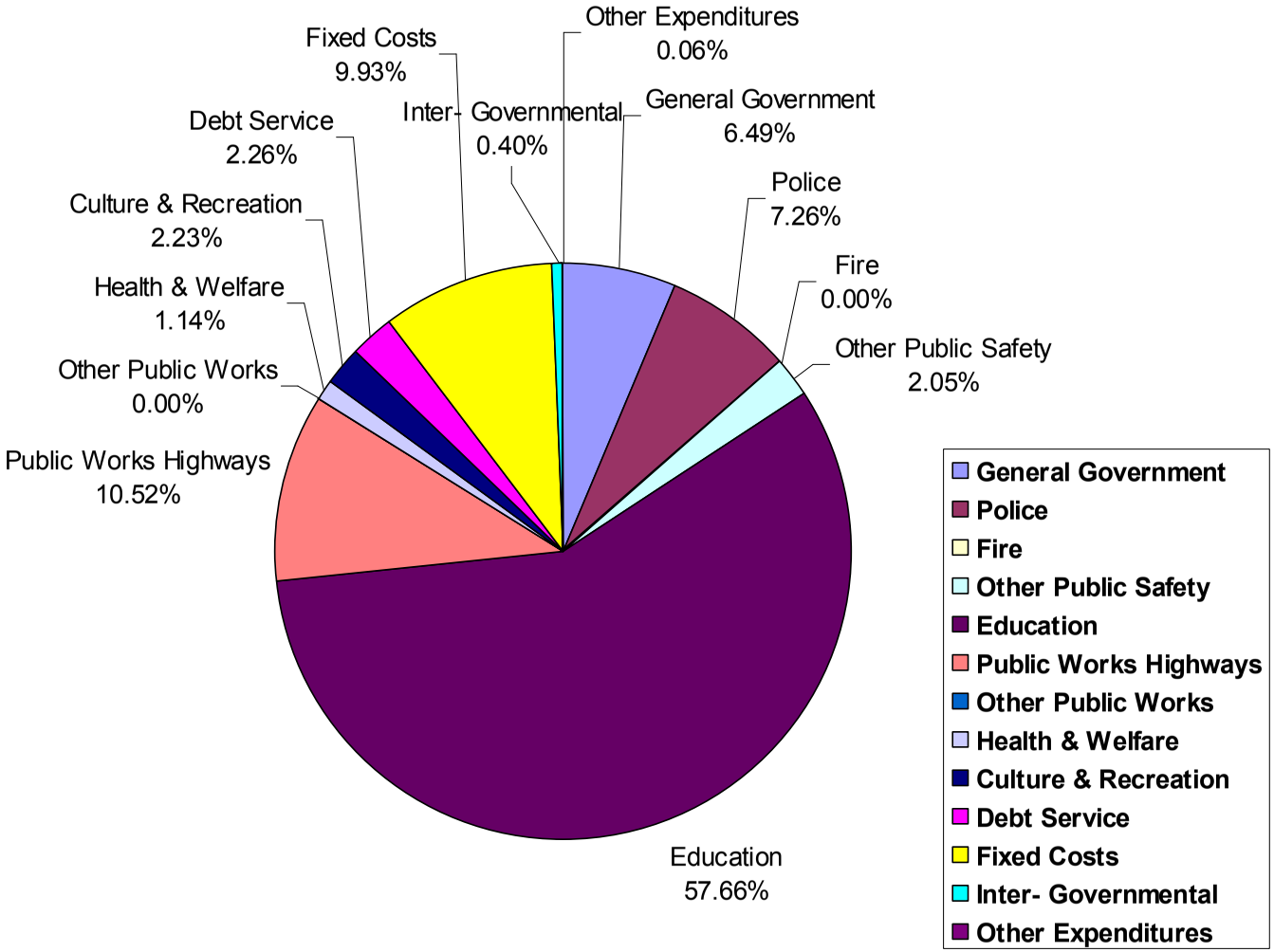
Dalton's FY 2005 Total Expenditures (Actual)

Town Expenditures accounted for 42% of Total Taxpayer Dollars in FY05

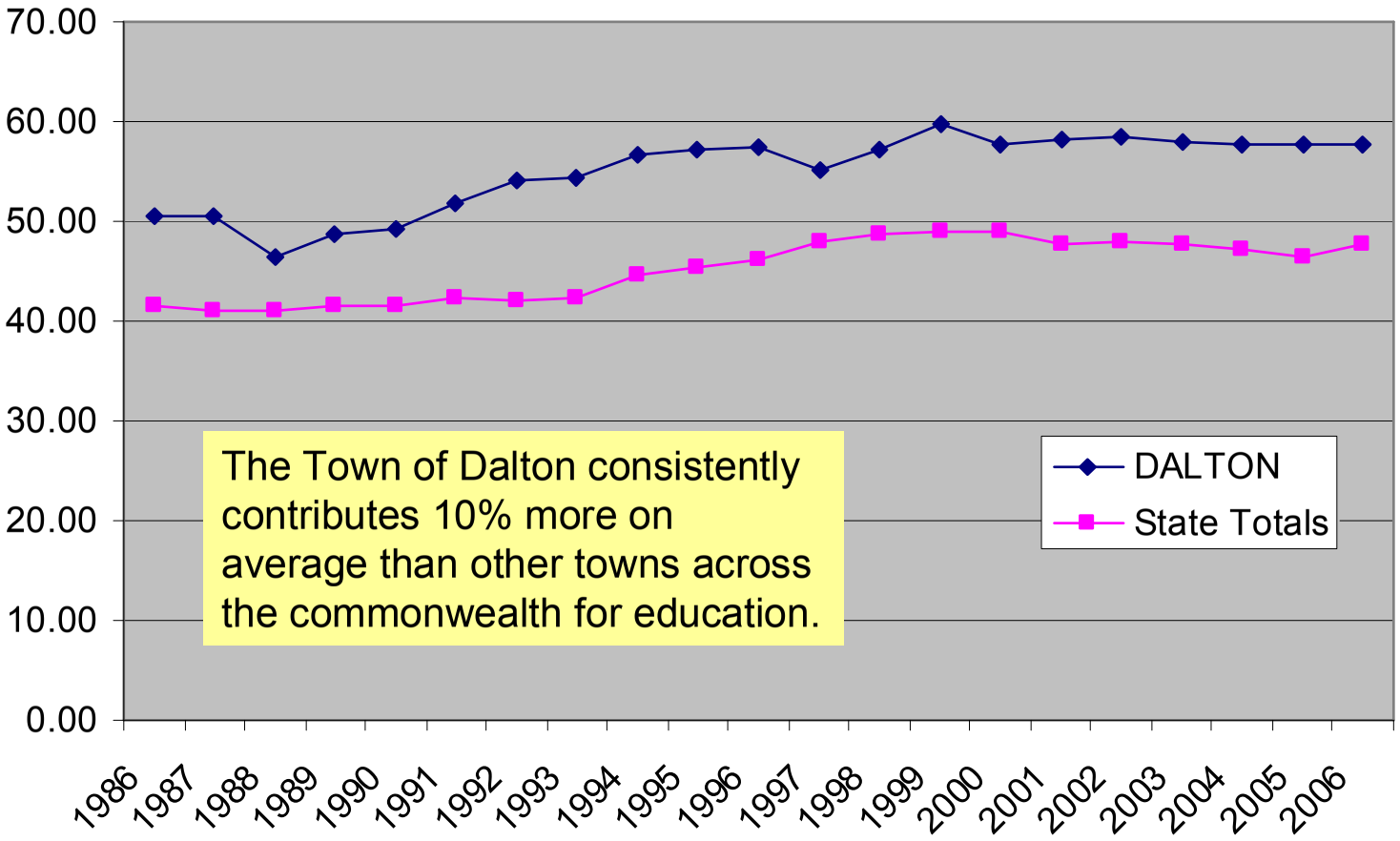


Dalton's FY 2006 Total Expenditures (Actual)

Town Expenditures accounted for 42% of Total Taxpayer Dollars in FY06

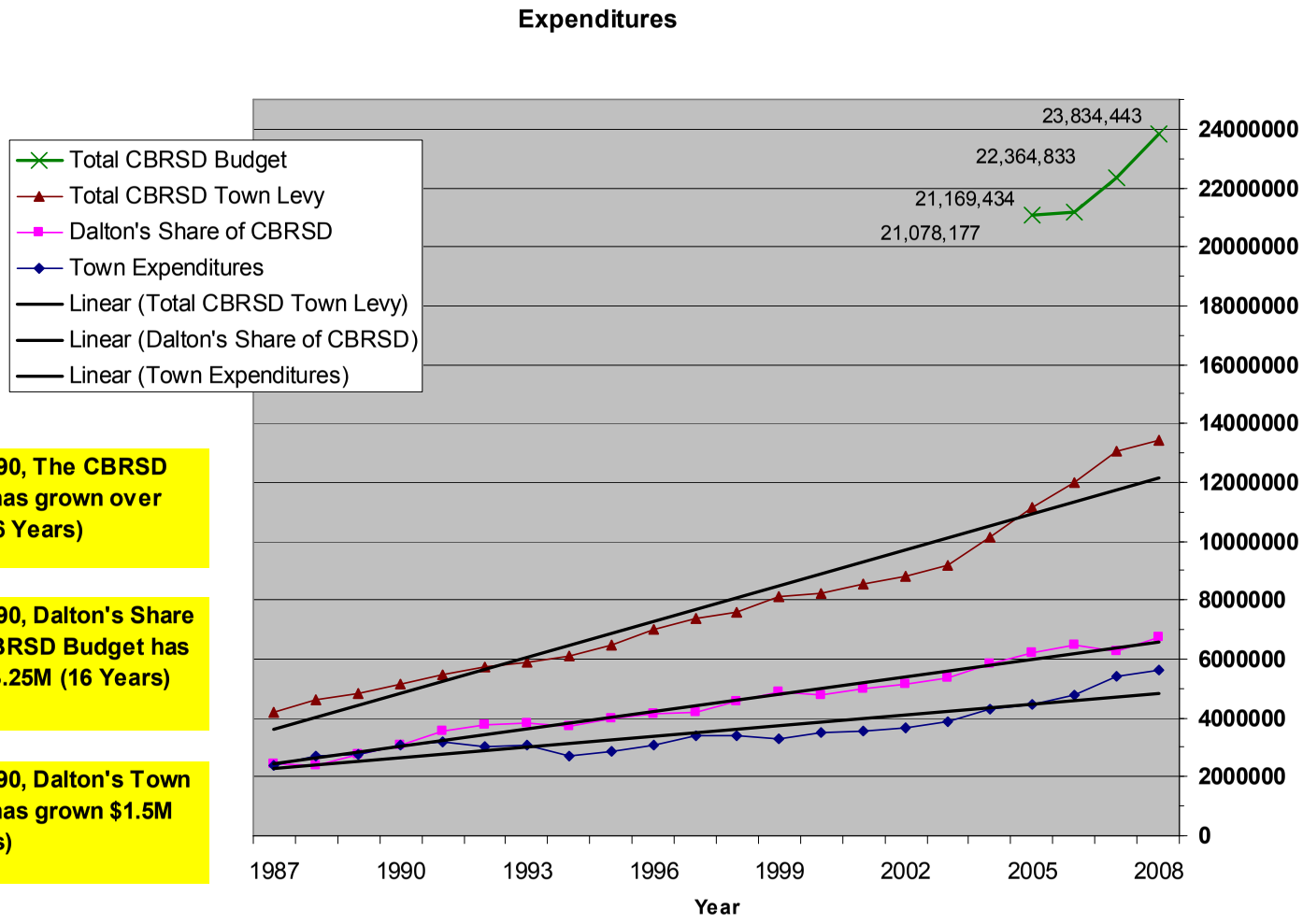


Dalton Expenditures for Education vs. State



The Town of Dalton consistently contributes 10% more on average than other towns across the commonwealth for education.

General vs. CBRSD Expenditures

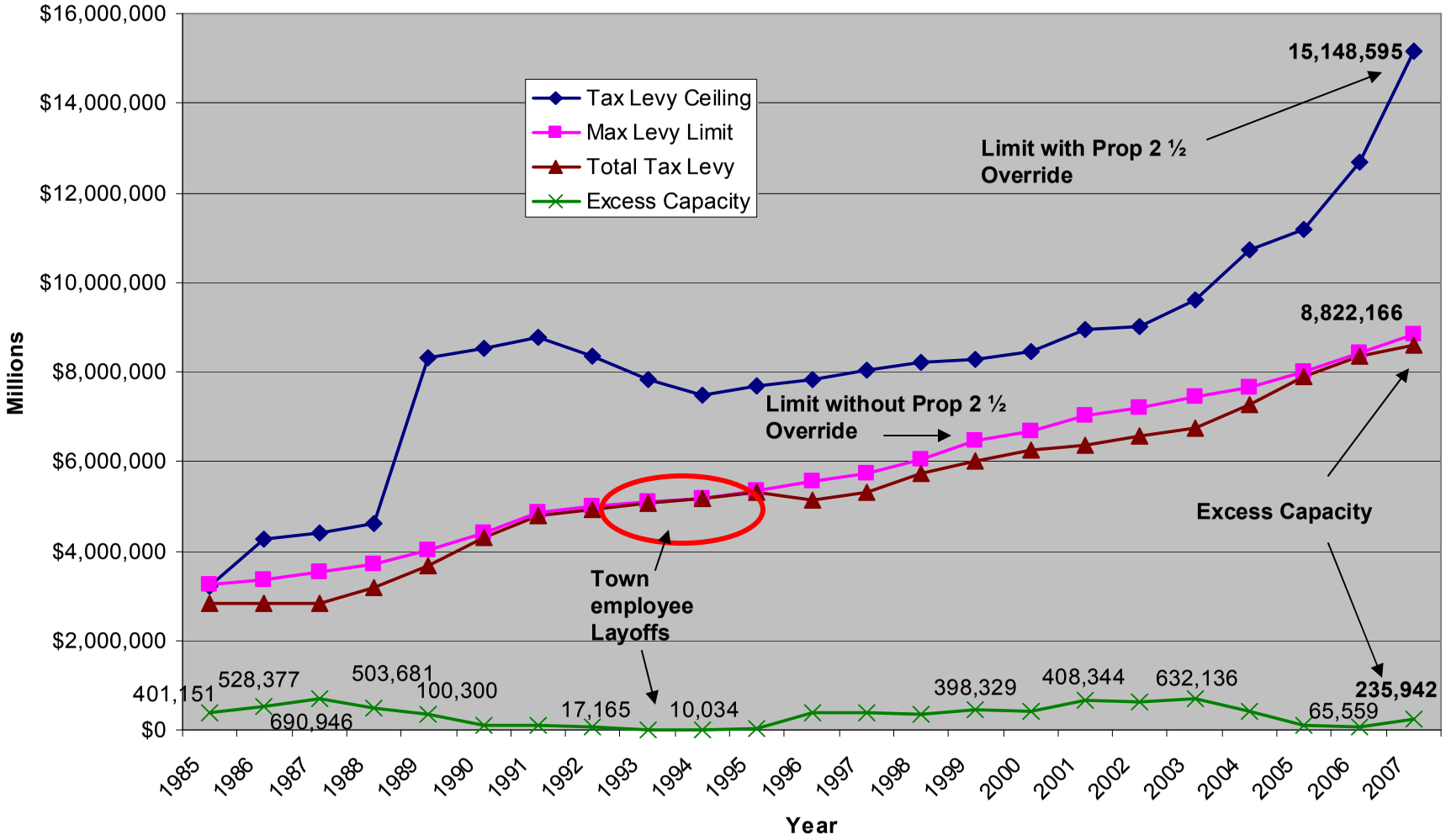


Since 1990, The CBRSD Budget has grown over $5.5M (16 Years)

Since 1990, Dalton's Share of the CBRSD Budget has grown $3.25M (16 Years)

Since 1990, Dalton's Town Budget has grown $1.5M (16 Years)

Proposition 2.5 Excess Levy Limit



FY06 Avg. Single Family Tax Bill

Massachusetts Department of Revenue
Division of Local Services
Municipal Databank/Local Aid Section

Fiscal Year 2006 Average Single Family Tax Bill

DOR Code	Municipality	Assessed Value	Parcels	Average Value	Tax Rate	Single Family Tax Bill	Hi-Lo Rank	# of Towns Included
004	ADAMS			0		0		
108	GOSHEN			0		0		
121	HANCOCK			0		0		
209	NORTH ADAMS	315,957,300	2,604	121,335	11.57	1,404	321	324
058	CHESHIRE	181,884,600	1,076	169,038	9.10	1,538	319	324
225	OTIS	408,075,900	1,460	279,504	5.80	1,621	317	324
195	MOUNT WASHINGTON	45,797,300	144	318,037	5.22	1,660	316	324
263	SAVOY	40,219,100	289	139,166	13.08	1,820	313	324
022	BECKET	320,990,200	1,607	199,745	9.15	1,828	311	324
313	WASHINGTON	37,700,600	240	157,086	12.92	2,030	307	324
345	WINDSOR	69,359,400	430	161,301	12.80	2,065	305	324
132	HINSDALE	153,786,800	801	191,994	11.11	2,133	300	324
237	PLAINFIELD	47,886,600	245	195,456	11.60	2,267	291	324
069	CUMMINGTON	65,347,500	334	195,651	11.64	2,277	288	324
236	PITTSFIELD	1,674,040,000	11,172	149,842	15.65	2,345	284	324
233	PERU	45,450,500	324	140,279	17.67	2,479	261	324
349	WORTHINGTON	92,985,200	469	198,263	13.43	2,663	240	324
150	LEE	353,398,000	1,768	199,886	13.39	2,676	238	324
070	DALTON	342,999,000	1,917	178,925	16.45	2,943	208	324
148	LANESBOROUGH	213,589,900	1,186	180,093	16.48	2,968	200	324
283	STOCKBRIDGE	483,030,000	1,078	448,080	6.74	3,020	189	324
249	RICHMOND	271,543,700	732	370,961	8.80	3,264	161	324
340	WILLIAMSBURG	176,496,900	698	252,861	13.38	3,383	151	324
152	LENOX	579,624,590	1,575	368,016	9.32	3,430	148	324
341	WILLIAMSTOWN	656,643,000	1,868	351,522	11.90	4,183	91	324
113	GREAT BARRINGTON	583,285,500	2,037	286,345	13.46	3,854	109	324
326	WEST STOCKBRIDGE	247,882,000	654	379,024	10.74	4,071	97	324

FY07 Avg. Single Family Tax Bill Comparison

Massachusetts Department of Revenue
Division of Local Services
Municipal Databank/Local Aid Section

Fiscal Year 2007 Average Single Family Tax Bill

DOR Code	Municipality	Assessed Value	Parcels	Average Value	Tax Rate	Single Family Tax Bill	Hi-Lo Rank
022	BECKET			0		0	
058	CHESHIRE			0		0	
108	GOSHEN			0		0	
121	HANCOCK			0		0	
209	NORTH ADAMS	341,628,100	2,616	130,592	11.13	1,453	320
225	OTIS	420,144,900	1,484	283,117	6.04	1,710	318
195	MOUNT WASHINGTON	50,787,200	143	355,155	5.13	1,822	316
263	SAVOY	49,255,700	284	173,436	10.77	1,868	315
004	ADAMS	285,407,300	2,136	133,618	15.21	2,032	309
345	WINDSOR	71,940,600	430	167,304	12.90	2,158	305
313	WASHINGTON	43,663,400	240	181,931	11.90	2,165	304
132	HINSDALE	164,252,400	813	202,032	10.86	2,194	301
069	CUMMINGTON	72,003,700	338	213,029	10.76	2,292	298
236	PITTSFIELD	1,874,598,000	11,217	167,121	14.25	2,381	287
237	PLAINFIELD	49,349,000	247	199,794	12.18	2,433	281
233	PERU	48,864,600	332	147,183	16.92	2,490	275
150	LEE	392,721,800	1,787	219,766	12.26	2,694	253
349	WORTHINGTON	109,749,700	474	231,539	12.07	2,795	244
070	DALTON	409,176,600	1,929	212,119	14.17	3,006	215
148	LANESBOROUGH	241,795,900	1,190	203,190	15.56	3,162	189
283	STOCKBRIDGE	528,512,300	1,081	488,911	6.85	3,349	168
249	RICHMOND	330,001,200	733	450,206	7.78	3,503	153
340	WILLIAMSBURG	199,991,700	708	282,474	13.00	3,672	142
152	LENOX	671,182,690	1,582	424,262	8.66	3,674	141
113	GREAT BARRINGTON	712,457,900	2,057	346,358	11.40	3,948	117
326	WEST STOCKBRIDGE	307,350,700	670	458,732	8.80	4,037	108
341	WILLIAMSTOWN	724,825,000	1,880	385,545	11.48	4,426	88

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)
  - 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
- 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
- Town Nurse & Veterans Services on limited number of hours during the week
- Building Inspector, Health Agent, Animal Control Officer, Emergency Management Director on limited hours during the week
- Library open 6 days per week (Mon - Sat) on limited hours
- Town's parks & recreation programs are outsourced and managed by a town approved appropriation grant to the CRA
- Numerous town functions (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) serve on their own time (most after normal working hours) supported by appointed volunteers or elected officials.

Town of Dalton FY07 Summary

- **Very little has changed since last year. No big changes seen in the foreseeable future.**
- **Taxation borders the Levy limit capped by Proposition 2 ½, requires the use of rainy day fund (Stabilization and Free Cash).**
- **To stay under the levy limit the Select Board supported an increase of CBRSD operating budget of no more than 5%.**
  Note: Consumer Price Index Inflationary rate = 3.92%
- **As shown, the Town's manageable portion of the taxes (minus education) is approximately 43% of the total Town's tax assessment.**
- **Town Services are directly impacted by State Aid. State aid is used to improve our services and roadways (e.g. South Street and Library Grant). As a town we've looked ahead to invest in improvements. This is necessary to attract new businesses and home buyers.**
- **State reported that it was looking at an approximate 1.2 Billion dollar deficit.**
  - **House Speaker Sal DiMasi, is quoted in the February 2007 Beacon: "There shouldn't be any expectations of great increases" in local aid, Chapter 70 education aid, or other spending aid programs.**
- **Bottom Line: Your Town budget continues to successfully support a variety of town services (i.e. paving, snow plowing and clearing of our roads, Police, Library services, Council on Aging (our elderly), Parks, Cemeteries, Veterans services, recreational services for our youth, general government and a tremendous amount of volunteer effort to support most of these services.**