

Perspectives

CENSUS REVEALS 50 FASTEST-GROWING METRO AREAS

Numbers Show Some Areas With Huge Population Gains

The U.S. Census Bureau reported in early April that the Atlanta, GA metro area posted the largest numerical gain of the nation's 361 metro areas by adding 890,000 residents from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006. Atlanta's population, which stood at 4.11 million in 2000 skyrocketed to more than 5 million and continues to grow at an alarming rate.

Similar population booms are impacting other cities. Dallas - Fort Worth, TX added 825,000 people in six years and broke the 6 million mark; Houston, TX saw an increase of 850,000, taking it's population to just short of 5.5 million; Phoenix, AZ added 787,000 people for a population a bit over 4 million; and Riverside-San Bernadino-Ontario, California registered an increase of 771,000.

These new figures show that 14 metro areas in the U.S. now have populations of 4 million or more.

The Census Report cited a loss of 292,000 in the New Orleans, LA metro area, a 22.2% decline, as well as a 7.4% decline in Gulfport-Biloxi, MI – resulting

from Hurricane Katrina. Two other major cities where population is decreasing include Pittsburgh, PA (a loss of 60,000) and Cleveland, OH (a loss of 34,000).

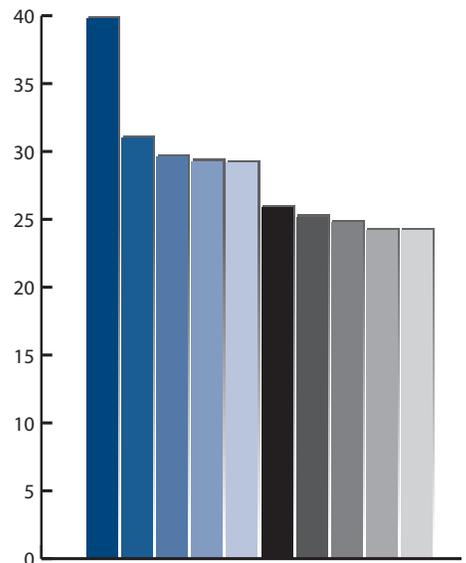
The 50 fastest-growing metro areas were almost evenly divided between the South and West – 23 in the West and 25 in the South. Of the 50 fastest-growing locales, not one was in the Northeast.

The Census data found that more than 80% of all U.S. metro areas (305 out of 361) had a larger population on July 1, 2006 than on April 1, 2000. It also noted that as of July 1, 2006 – a total of 249.2 million people, or 83.2% of the U.S. population – lived in metro areas.

Looking at the growth rates on the following chart, it is easy to understand how so many small and mid-sized communities across the nation are overwhelmed trying to cope with today's massive population growth. *Note that CO, FL, NV, NC, GA and AZ are states absorbing huge numbers of illegal immigrants.*

10 Fastest-Growing U.S. Metro Areas: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006

St. George, UT	39.8%
Greeley, CO	31.0%
Cape Coral – Ft. Meyers, FL	29.6%
Bend, OR	29.3%
Las Vegas – Paradise, NV	29.2%
Provo – Orem, UT	25.9%
Naples – Marco Island, FL	25.2%
Raleigh – Cary, NC	24.8%
Gainesville, GA	24.2%
Phoenix – Mesa – Scottsdale, AZ	24.2%



NPG MEMBERS PETITION SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR

NPG is always pleased when an elected official – especially a Governor – takes the lead in population planning. When South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford recently demonstrated that he was looking to the future and hosted a

statewide Land-Use Conference, we made sure he heard from our members.

Our thanks go out to the dozens of NPG members and supporters in the Palmetto State who recently signed a

petition to Governor Sanford to take his initiative beyond the talking stage and to actively push for the state legislature to create a full-fledged South Carolina

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*A message from
NPG President
Donald Mann*

In a recent speech focusing on immigration, President Bush stated: "This problem has been growing for decades, and past efforts to address it have failed. These failures helped create a perception that America was not serious about enforcing our immigration laws and that they could be broken without consequence."

Those two sentences clearly demonstrate how the "blame game" works in Washington, DC. Even before 9/11, the Bush administration could have led the charge to secure our borders and keep millions of illegals out of our country. It did not. The words "create a perception" are the icing on the cake; in fact, there is no perception about it. The reality is that our government has not been serious about enforcing our immigration laws in the past and does not appear to be serious even today. Except for a few well-publicized raids by Immigration Customs Enforcement agents on select factories in the past few months, enforcement of immigration laws has been almost non-existent across the country.

All of this leads to a key question: Are we, as a nation, finally going to get

tough on illegal immigrants or adjust our policies and laws to make life convenient for them?

Few organizations have been as out-front and vocal on the vital need for strict immigration laws as NPG. We have spent 35 years keeping Congress abreast of research and facts to help guide our nation on this issue. We constantly remind our Senators and Congressmen to look down the road and understand the demographic consequences of unrestricted immigration. It is vital that they put our nation's long-term security foremost when writing any new immigration laws, rather than acting out of political expediency.

This year's Congressional debate on immigration is starting out as a tangled mess of ideas and is sure to have a twisted, uncertain road ahead. Such a high-stakes piece of legislation will bring out all the arm-twisters and high-power lobbyists. Business, labor, immigrant-rights advocates, churches, farmers, and a horde of other special interest groups are going to spend millions pushing their individual agendas. Add to this the growing political pressure on the part of both Democrats and Republicans to pander to the growing Hispanic vote, and there is no telling what kind of legislation will result.

My greatest concern is that Congress is trying to do too much at one time – especially when there is

absolutely no semblance of organization in place to effectively follow through on legislation to "legitimize" 12-20 million illegals. How would they monitor their leaving the country or paying any fines? Most alarming is the fact that the same bureaucrats at the Department of Homeland Security who let today's immigration crisis spin out of control would be in charge of resolving these same issues in the next few years.

Remember, the current debate over illegal immigration is not only about our quality of life in 2007. It's about 2025, 2050, 2075...and many years ahead. With the odds of many children born today living into the 22nd Century, every American owes it to future generations to make sure they can grow and prosper in a safe, livable and sustainable environment. The alternative is to put our nation on track to spin into a cycle of destructive social, economic and environmental chaos.

If ever there was a time to raise your voice and increase your activism in the population/immigration battle, it is now. Here at NPG, we know we cannot change the world overnight, but the activism of our tens of thousands of members may be able to change some votes on Capitol Hill – votes that make a difference! Please pay attention to this debate in the coming months – and let us hear from you that you are behind us 100% with your support.



ELECTED LEADERS SURVEY

Our first ever Survey of Elected Leaders is currently underway. As one of our special 35th Anniversary projects, NPG asked thousands of men and women serving at all levels of government outside of Washington, DC, to give us feedback as to how their constituents and communities are impacted by today's immigration and population problems. We look forward to building a strong base of dedicated leaders who share our goals and are willing to work with us to enact responsible population policies on the state and local levels. Look for the results of this effort in our Summer edition of *Population Perspectives*.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RESPECTING THE LAW?

The well-respected firm of Zogby International recently completed a national poll for the organization Judicial Watch that contained some very interesting numbers. It found that 66% of likely voters believe that more emphasis should be placed on law enforcement when addressing the issue of illegal immigration. However, when the poll numbers are looked at from the opposite angle, the results are quite troublesome. Can it be true that 34% of Americans cannot go on record in support of more law enforcement when it comes to dealing with illegals? Such beliefs held by large numbers of voters underscore the huge problems our nation, states and communities face in enacting and enforcing laws designed to rein-in and curb illegal immigration.

POLITICS 2008

Immigration Won't Be Ignored This Time Around

During the 2004 presidential election, the immigration crisis was just beginning to come into focus on a national scale and was nominally addressed. In 2006, immigration finally became a top campaign topic in dozens of close congressional contests and many voters tied their support to a candidate's position on the issue.

Things will be much different in the 2008 campaigns. Whether running for President, Senator, Congressional Representative, Governor – or a host of state and local offices, few major candidates from either party will be able to avoid the immigration issue during interviews and debates. With Congress concurrently writing new immigration legislation as the campaign progresses, a large percentage of voters are sure to hold the candidates accountable.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, NPG cannot and does not get involved in elections. However, we do welcome an aggressive debate on immigration as our nation selects our

next President. We also urge our members and supporters to challenge candidates for all elected offices to put forth responsible solutions to today's immigration and population crises before they spin too far out of control.



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LOOKING BACK...

As part of NPG's 35th Anniversary celebration, we are proud to reflect on the wisdom and insight shared by so many of the notable scientists, researchers and academics who have shared our goals and helped to advance our mission. The following is a short excerpt from an introduction titled "The Human Way" that celebrated author Isaac Asimov penned as an Introduction to NPG President Don Mann's 50-page booklet titled *Urgently Needed Now: A National Policy to Reduce U.S. Population*, published in 1980.

"...Of all the species on Earth, only the human being, as far as we know, is blessed with foresight; only we know the past and visualize the future. All other species, as far as we know, live in the present only. Why, then, must we behave as other species do?"

Why can't we limit population, or even decrease it, voluntarily, before the catastrophe strikes? And why can't we do it by some other means than by raising the death rate?

We are the only life-form intelligent

enough to understand the mechanics of the reproductive process. Instead of waiting for the rise in the death rate, can we not deliberately and voluntarily lower the birth rate? We can underuse our reproductive capacity. We can limit our replacement potentiality....

This is not nature's way, but it is the *human* way, and of what value is it to be human if, in this supreme crisis of the human species, we behave like unintelligent animals?"

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY!

Use NPG's Educational Information to Help Spread the Word!

The first Earth Day, held in 1970, served as a catalyst to launching Negative Population Growth in 1972. As our nation has grown much more conscious of our fragile natural surroundings, most Americans have made environmental advocacy a year-round activity. Here at NPG, we have a rich treasure-trove of educational materials related to population and the environment that we regularly send to libraries and schools. We also produce brochures, fact sheets, posters and bumper stickers. However, through the years we have found that one of the best ways to spread our message across the country is through the activism of dedicated NPG members. Those who share our philosophy and goals are the best agents to help alert countless Americans about the disastrous consequences of skyrocketing population and out-of-control immigration.

In these days of heightened debate about global warming, ongoing droughts, urban sprawl and overbuilding on our

fragile coastlines, there are innumerable local events where audiences who are receptive to NPG's message gather. If

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you are interested in manning a booth at a local fair or speaking out at community forums, we will send you an assortment of NPG materials. Call us at 703-370-9510, fax us at 703-370-9514 or send an email to npg@npg.org. Be sure to include a mailing address and contact number. Remember, a vast array of population-related information can also be accessed via our website at www.npg.org.



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NPG JOURNAL IS A BIG HIT!

Sign Up Today to Receive Your FREE Copy!

If you have yet to sign up to receive our bi-weekly *NPG Journal* via the Internet, please send us your e-mail address today. We have received very positive feedback on the interesting commentaries, news items, informative statistics and quotes carried in this quick-read news source and it proves to be a great conduit for us to share timely articles about population-related news. In recent months, the *NPG Journal* covered stories as diverse as traffic problems in once-remote Idaho, the scarcity of doctors in booming Wyoming,

the push for land conservation in fast-growing North Carolina, and fire department shortages in Alabama. It is our hope that seeing how various communities and states are being impacted by — and are responding to — unexpected and unplanned population booms reminds readers that the population crisis affects all Americans. This is why we must stand united and continue to raise our voices against those who advocate growth, no matter what the costs. In addition, the more we show people how population pressures

impact our nation and society in so many diverse ways, the more credibility we gain in pushing our demands to cut immigration and create a National Population Policy aimed at stabilizing U.S. population.

Act today to receive your own complimentary copy of the NPG Journal by completing the enclosed card and returning it to us today in the postage-paid envelope provided.

IT'S THE NUMBERS, STUPID!

Making Sure Congress Understands What's At Stake

As the national debate over immigration — both legal and illegal — gains more traction, dozens of organizations are launching massive campaigns to focus the public and Members of Congress on one or more aspects of what is at stake. Jobs, housing, separation of families, cultural impacts, and a host of attendant problems, certainly figure into the debate.

Here at NPG, we share the concerns about these issues. Rather than deluge Congress with truckloads of reports and scientific surveys, we've learned that numbers can be very persuasive. Telling our fellow citizens and officeholders at all levels that soaring population growth is already overwhelming many cities, counties and states simply reinforces something they can already see with their own eyes. Using real numbers based on the U.S. Census Bureau's interim projections to show that America must brace to absorb more than 100 million people in the next 43 years quickly draws attention. It is difficult for anybody to look at that figure without asking: Where will we put all these people?

NPG's concise 4-page Forum Paper, *It's the Numbers, Stupid!*, published in 2003, remains our most popular publication. If you have not read it we encourage you to review it in our Publications section on our website, www.npg.org, to learn how simple measures taken by our nation today can prevent population chaos in the future. As author Lindsey Grant notes: "We are moving toward population levels we used to associate with China and India. Is that where we want to go?"

NPG is determined to make future population numbers central to the coming immigration debate in Congress. During the immigration debate last year, few things astounded Senators more than the tangible numbers projecting a surge of 60 million additional people over and above current population projections in the next two decades if our nation continues down the wrong path on this issue.

Before this year's immigration debate commences on Capitol Hill, NPG will forward a copy of *It's the Numbers, Stupid!* to all Senators and Congressmen. In addition, we will continue to work to derail major parts of

the proposed legislation by building our advertising and education efforts around the disastrous consequences of lax immigration laws, chain-migration (immigrants bringing their extended family to the U.S.) and any "politically correct" policies that fail to effectively crack down on illegal immigrants who break the law.



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ANNOUNCING ... NEW NPG FACT SHEETS

Here at NPG, education is our primary mission. And in today's fast-moving world, there is an ever-growing need for sharp, focused and concise information.

For this reason we are launching a new long-term project to present facts and information in a quick-study format that stimulates people — especially students — to recognize the ever-growing dangers of overpopulation. Our goal is to energize more activists to get involved in protecting our future.

In the past few months, our NPG staff created three new Fact Sheets titled *Effects of Overpopulation* with special focus on the topics of *Water and Air Pollution, Sprawl and Development and Wildlife and Habitat Destruction*. Other Fact Sheets on additional topics will be added in the coming months.

Each Fact Sheet is a short, two-page summary of information, facts and figures providing a quick, easy-to-grasp overview of essential knowledge. We seek to distribute these Fact Sheets to libraries and post them on our website.

In addition, we are working to distribute them to educators across the country to use as teaching guides. It is crucial that we awaken younger generations of Americans to the overcrowded nation in which they will live if we fail to address our soaring population today.

Our new NPG *Effects of Overpopulation* Fact Sheets serve as a terrific supplement to our already extensive library of over 100 Special Reports and Forum Papers. To view them go to our website at www.npg.org and click on Publications.

NPG MEMBERS PETITION SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR *(Continued from page 1)*

Population Policy.

A forward-looking Governor, Sanford has already acknowledged that his state is “at the tipping point” and the conference was aimed at addressing traffic, water quality, development, and other issues being driven by the state’s rapidly rising population. In a state confronted with a soaring population that is expected to absorb more than 1.1 million additional people by 2030 (current population is approximately 4,250,000), he recognizes that long-term planning is essential. Estimates forecast that his state will need 525,000 housing units, 40 million square feet of office space, 45 million square feet of retail space, and 13,000 hotel rooms over that same time period.

It is not easy to get all of the various factions involved in these areas to agree on what needs to be done. Governor Sanford should be praised for getting everybody into one room to begin talking about the role they can play to lessen population pressures.

As can be expected, the conference exposed the giant rifts that exist in any long-range planning.

...Our quality of life is one of the reasons people come to South Carolina, and we need to act now if we’re going to preserve our look and feel for future generations.

Some groups, such as the Home Builders of South Carolina staked claim to their rights stating that, “land use

initiatives should be used as a tool to manage our growth and not stop growth.” Pressure in the state is building to protect more of the fragile wetlands along the coast where there has been a giant housing boom in recent years.

Ann Timberlake, executive director of the Conservation Voters of South Carolina noted that, “At the local level, folks are concerned with the sprawl and traffic and the way that their communities are changing...Our quality of life is one of the reasons people come to South Carolina, and we need to act now if we’re going to preserve our look and feel for future generations.”

Governor Sanford asserted, “The debate over how our state develops in the near future is one that every South Carolinian should care about.”

We applaud Governor Sanford in proving that he is open to putting the spotlight on population issues. We urge all members throughout the country to pressure their Governors to follow Governor Sanford’s lead.



Population Perspectives is a quarterly publication by Negative Population Growth, a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating Americans about the devastating effects of overpopulation on our environment and quality of life.



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