



METROPOLITAN BRIEFING BOOK

2007

Presented by the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies
Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning
College of Urban & Public Affairs
Portland State University





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Investing in
Portland's Future



Welcome to the sixth edition of the Metropolitan Briefing Book!

The Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) was created to connect the resources of higher education to the needs of the six-county, bi-state Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area (Clackamas, Clark, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill Counties). In this spirit, we offer our 2007 Metropolitan Briefing Book. Our theme is regional variety. Variety has been touted as “the very spice of life” (William Cowper) and as “the mother of enjoyment” (Vivan Grey). Our region enjoys a good deal of variety—in its landscapes, in its economy, and in its people, their cultures, and their attitudes. These differences are important to local vitality and beauty. But while we generally view this variety as positive, we also worry about equity. Although we promote regional thought and action, we must understand that each community experiences the problems facing us in a slightly different way and often with significantly different resources.

To provide a better understanding of what differentiates—and unites—our regional communities, we examine differences in public attitudes, demography, and economic prosperity. Craig Wollner and Sheila Martin review results of the 2007 Critical Issues Survey conducted by IMS and Portland State University’s Survey Research Laboratory and identify the economy, education, health care, population growth, public services, and taxes as concerns shared among both citizens and policymakers. Subsequent articles take up these themes. George C. Hough provides a comprehensive outlook on the effects of population growth. Sheila Martin shows that our workforce travels throughout the region to find the best match between worker skills and employer needs and examines the effects of employment patterns. John Tapogna ties trends in educational enrollment, performance, and funding to the demographic changes facing communities. Mike Houck and Jim Labbe discuss the shared sense of place fostered by our natural landscape and address regional efforts to integrate natural and built infrastructure. Jennifer Dill details important variations in how people get around the region and in their experience of travel. Steve Novick identifies the public finance challenges that each of our communities faces in prioritizing and paying for the services they provide their taxpayers. Finally, Ethan Seltzer and Sheila Martin frame the future by posing five questions for citizens and policymakers alike: How can we link education and the economy? How will we accommodate population growth? How can we ensure that emerging “city-suburbs” maintain a regional identity? How can we promote healthy ties between the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area and Oregon and Washington states? How can we overcome a decades-old trend of public distrust of government?

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped produce the Metropolitan Briefing Book. Our sponsors include the Portland Tribune whose commercial printing division printed the 2007 Metropolitan Briefing Book, the Portland Development Commission, Metro, the Port of Portland, and the Multnomah Public Library. We also thank the many people who reviewed early versions of the papers. PSU’s Survey Research Lab again did a great job on the Critical Issues Survey. Our thanks also to Tracy Dillon for editing and Meg Merrick for designing the document. Finally, all of our authors dedicated significant time and effort to the publications.

We have included the IMS mission statement and roster of IMS board members to give you a clear sense of who we are and how we serve the region. You can find out about all of our initiatives and events and download copies of this and related publications from our web site: www.pdx.edu/ims/. We also want to hear from you about how we can make future editions of the Briefing Book better.

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