



Acton 2020

Community Comprehensive Plan

“Burning Issues” Forum
Eat, Work, Shop
What’s Good Business for Acton?
March 3, 2011





Tonight

- Welcome, Information, and Presentation
- Discussion of Hypothetical Scenario – 7:30 to 8:30
- Small Group Discussions – 8:30 to 9:15
- Reconvene to Compare Notes – 9:15 to 9:30





Acton 2020 Comprehensive Plan

- Phase 1 Outreach
- Goals and Objectives
- Inventory
- **Burning Issues**
- Recommended Actions
- Implementation Strategy
- Final Acton 2020 Plan



Economic Development Highlights

Aspects of Economic Development

- Places to Work – Jobs for Acton Residents
- Shopping and Restaurants
- Part of the Property Tax Base





Places to Work

- Acton is an important employment center
- The number of employed residents is roughly the same as the number of jobs in Acton (2010 estimate)
 - 11,248 jobs located in Acton
 - 11,757 Acton residents in the labor force
- But, only 2,418 (21%) of the jobs located in Acton are filled by a resident of Acton (2000 Census).





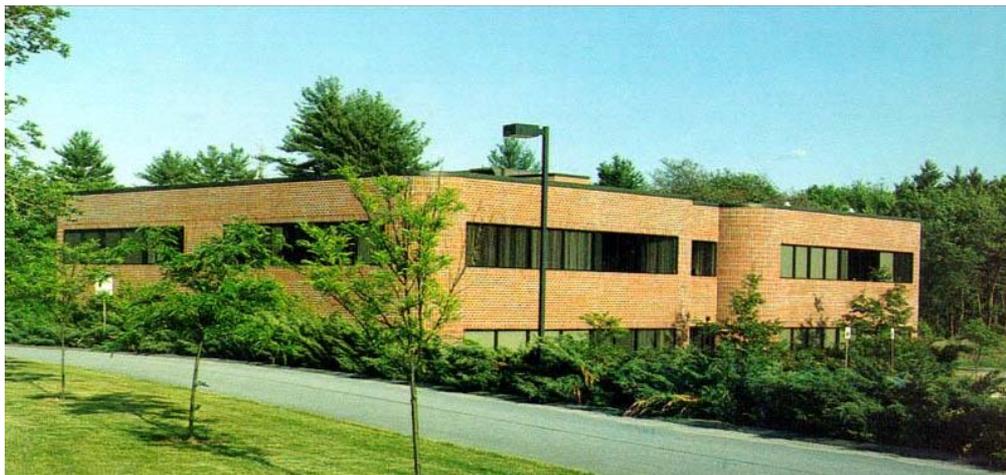
Unemployment

- Unemployment in Acton was 5.6% in September 2010, less than the 8.0% statewide.



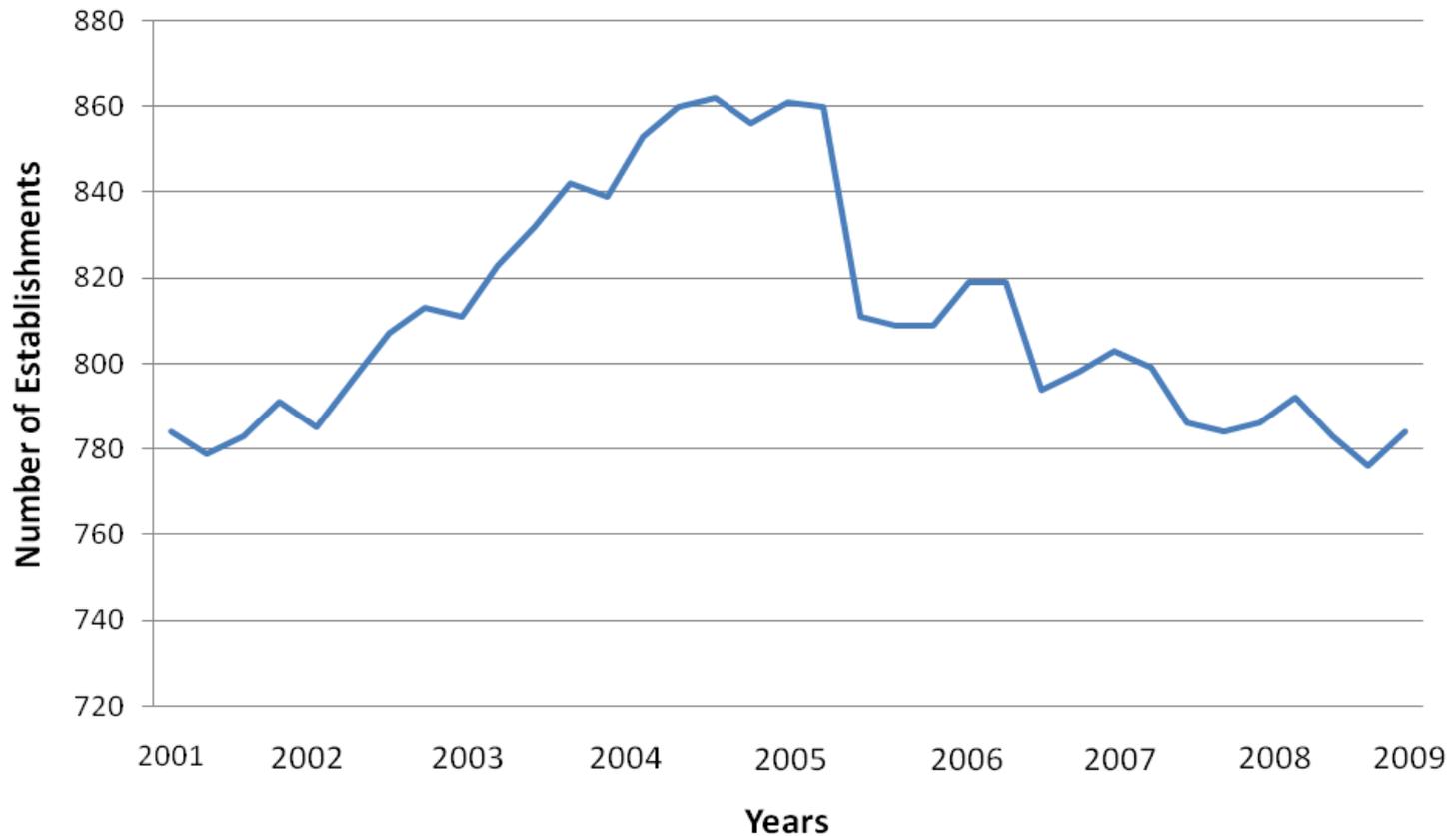
Businesses in Acton

- There were 795 businesses in Acton in mid-2010 that were known to the Mass. Dept. of Workforce Development
- There are about 500 home-based businesses, most of which are not counted in the 795.



Number of Businesses

Number of Establishments in Acton by Quarter: 2001 to 2009



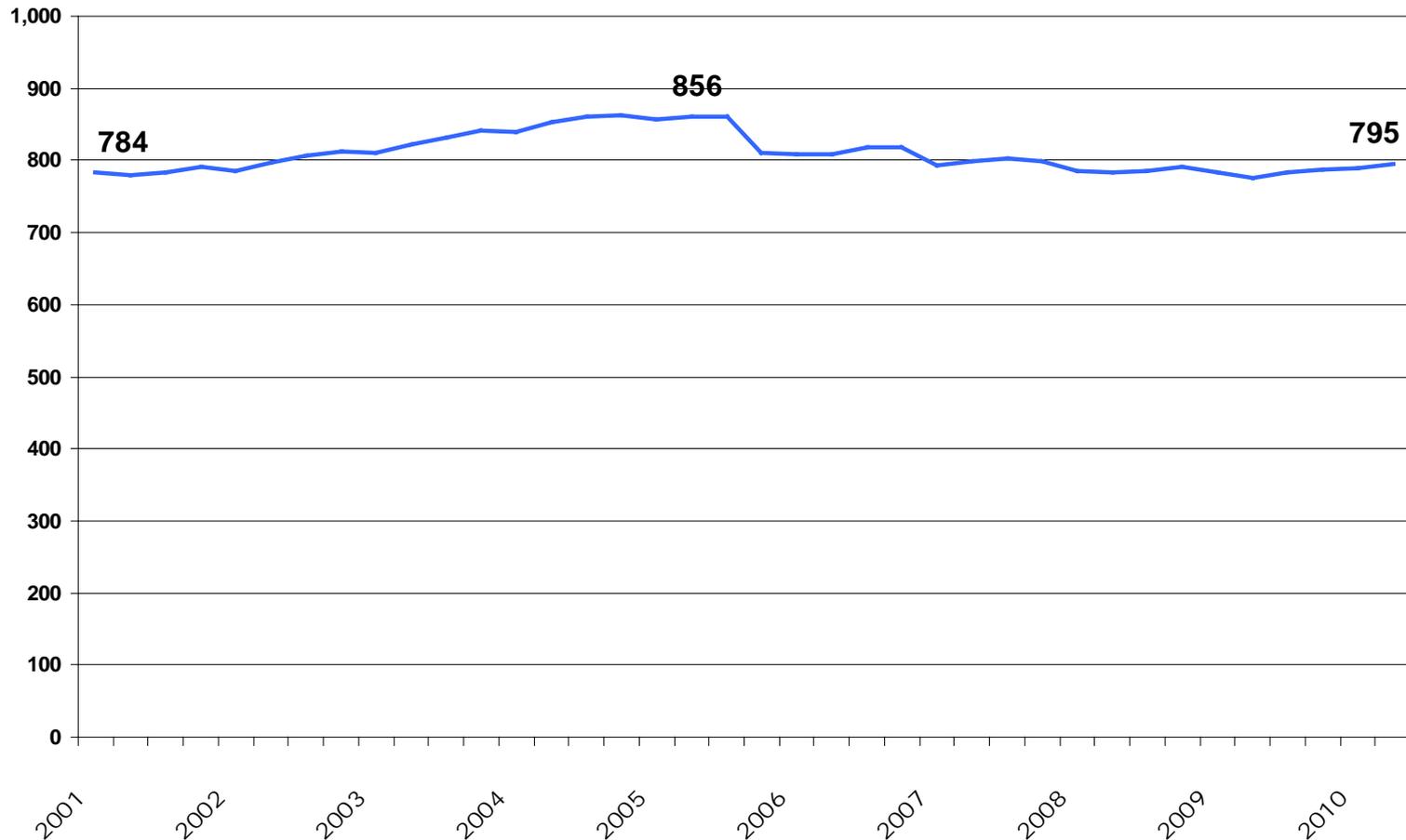
Source: Mass. Dept. of Workforce Development





Number of Businesses

Number of Establishments in Acton



Source: Mass. Dept. of Workforce Development





Business Growth and Decline

- Since 2001, there has been major growth in employment in Acton's businesses in two sectors:
 - Computer systems design and services (+112%)
 - Healthcare and social assistance (+147%)
- The largest sector, retail, has been roughly constant in employment
- Two sectors have declined:
 - Private educational services (-19%)
 - Food services and drinking places (-10%)



Retail Businesses

- 1/3 of Acton residents surveyed do half or more of their shopping in town





Retail Businesses

- 127 retailers in 2007
- The top five categories of retailers in 2007 (ranked by sales):
 - Motor vehicles and parts sales (12)
 - Food and beverage stores (17)
 - Gasoline stations (9)
 - Health and personal care stores (6)
 - Clothing and accessories stores (16)



Restaurants

- 36 sit-down restaurants
 - Including 14 ethnic cuisine
- 18 fast food / take-out establishments



Source: Bella Famiglia





Property Taxes

- Economic development is an important part of the Town's tax base.
- Homeowners and renters shoulder 87% of the tax burden
- Non-residential property pays approximately 13% of Acton's taxes





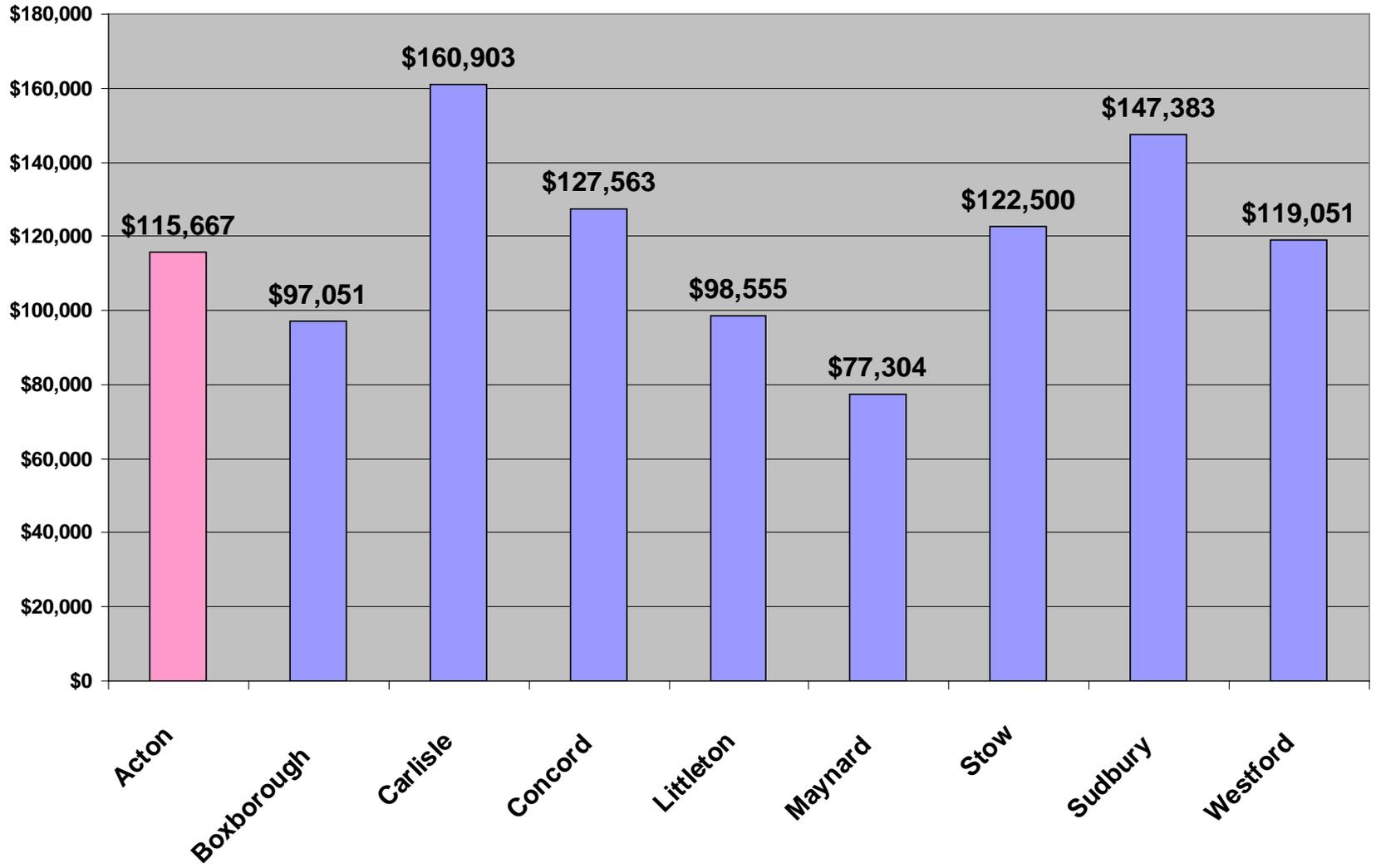
Acton and Surrounding Towns

- Acton is in the middle of the group of surrounding towns in terms of residential taxes and ability to pay them.





Median Household Income, 2009

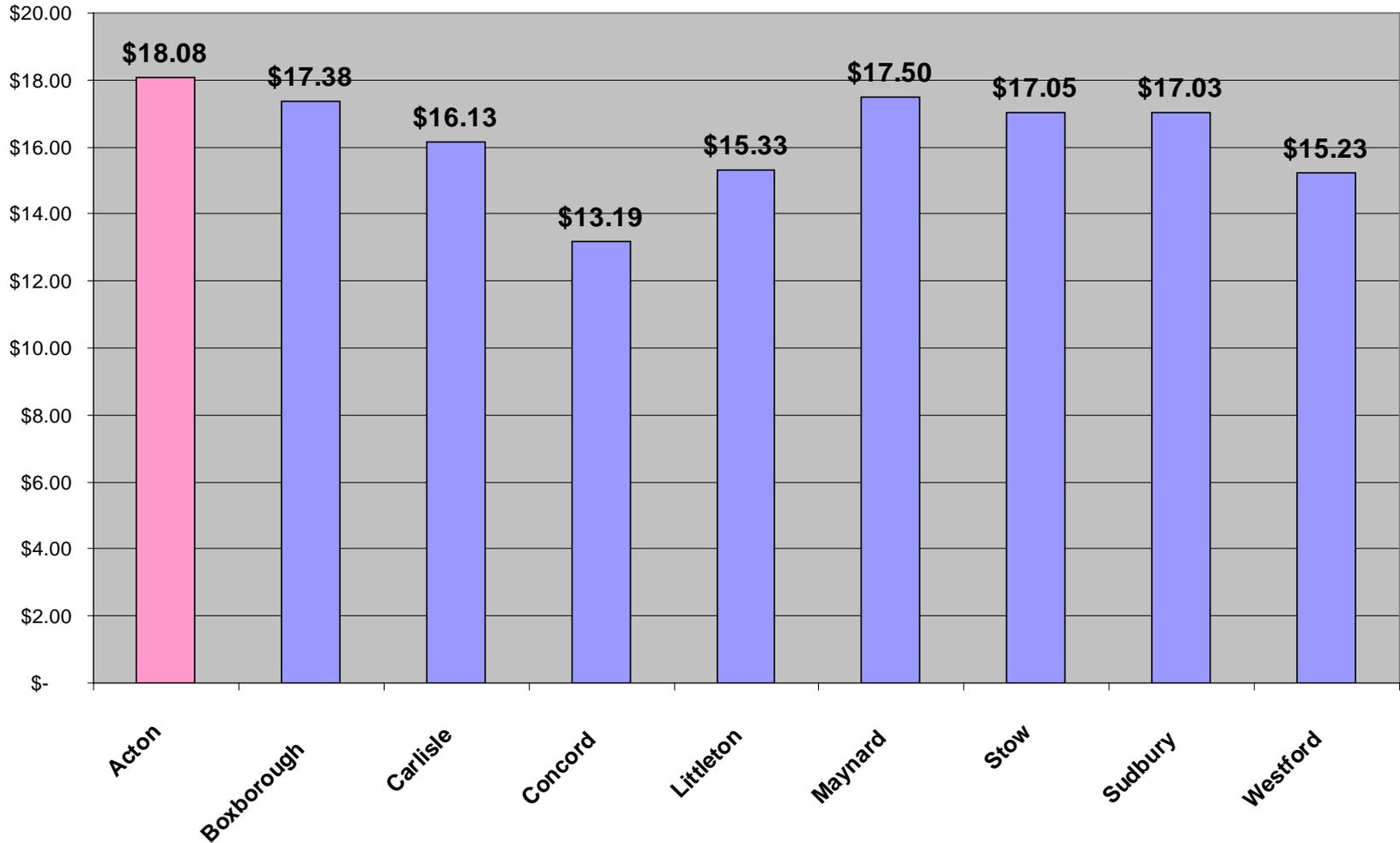


Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey

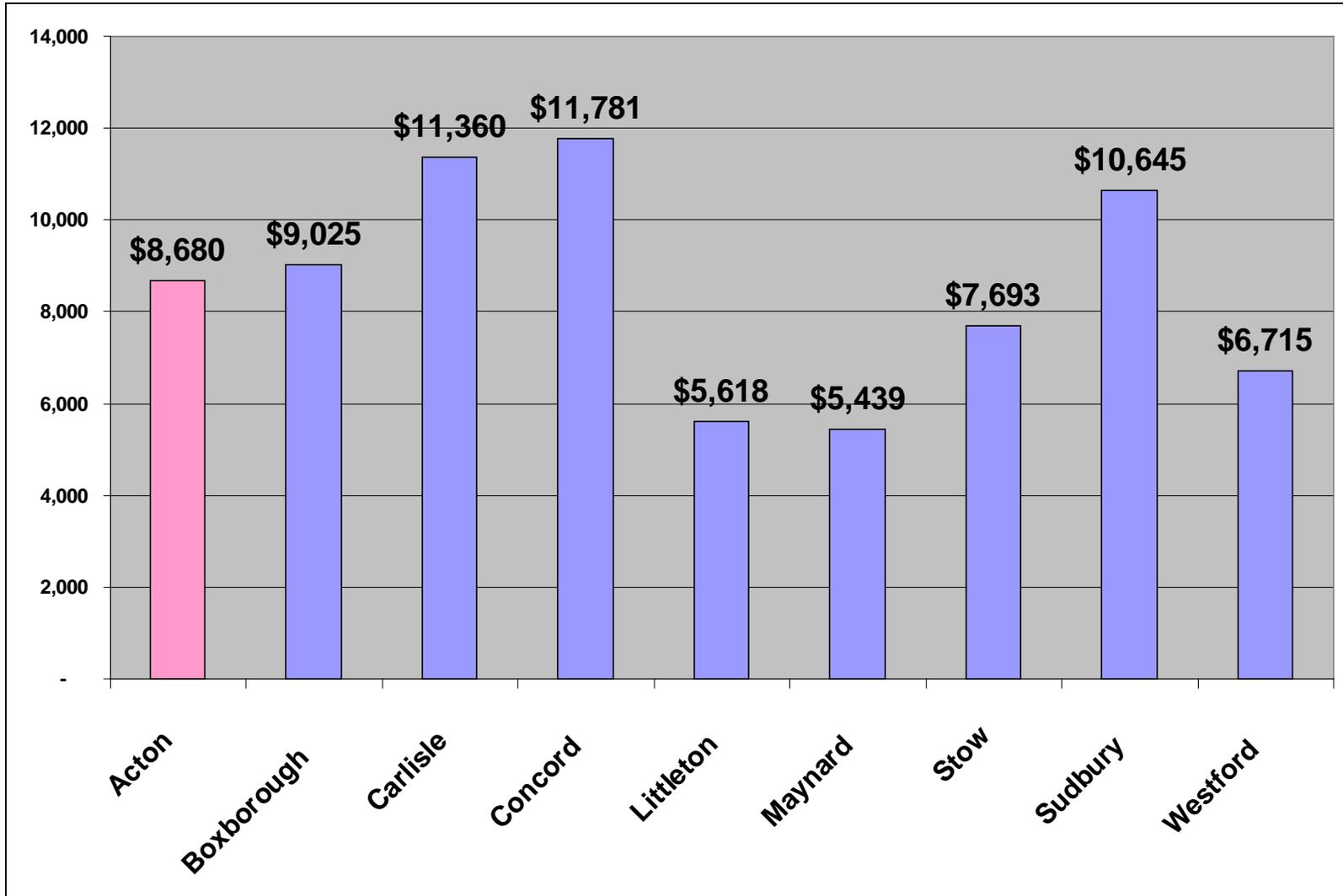




Residential Tax Rates, FY2011



Average SF Home Tax Bill, 2010

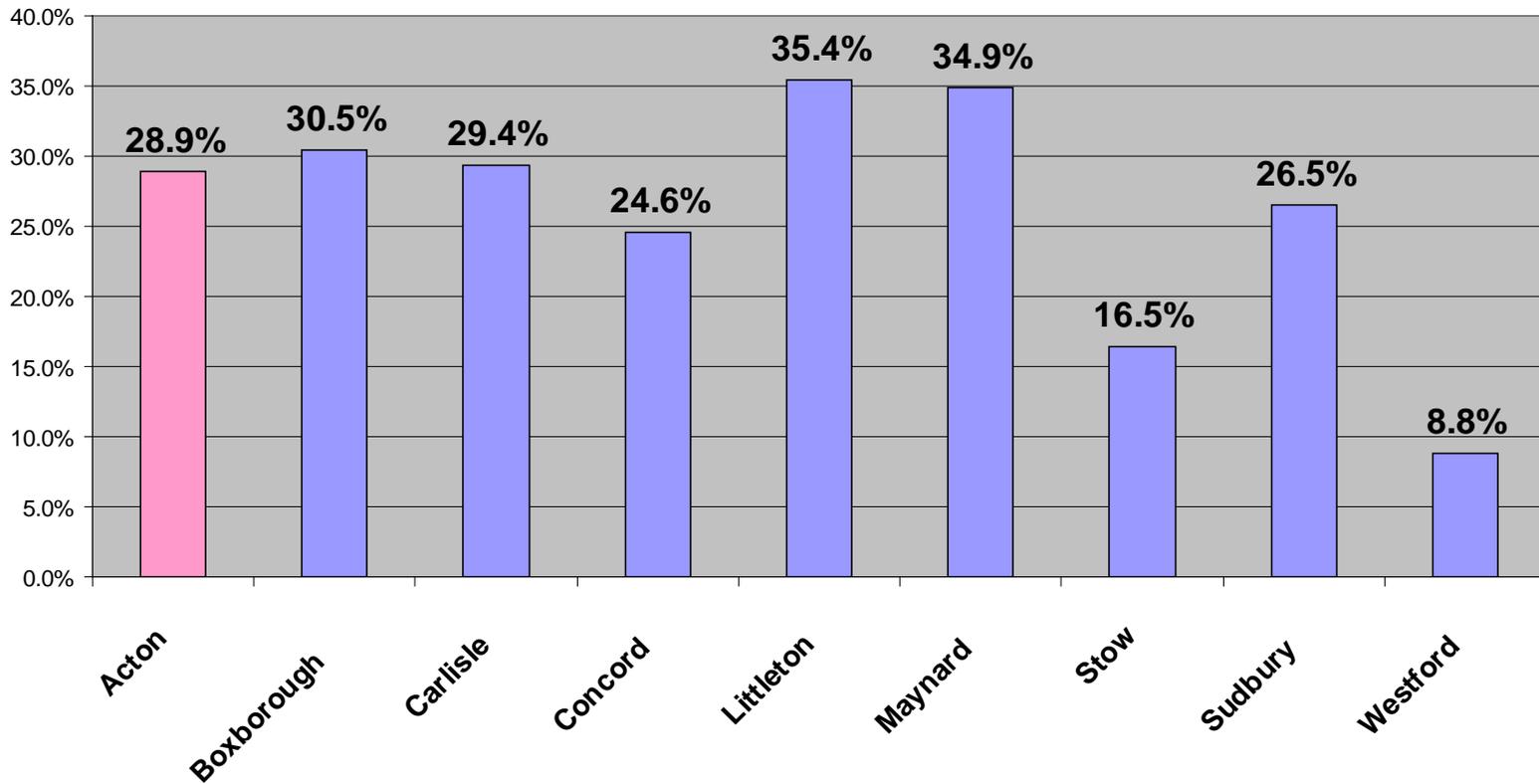


Source: MA Dept. of Revenue



Tax Rate Increase 2004-2010

Pct. Increase in Residential Tax Rate, 2004-2011



Source: MA Dept. of Revenue





Taxes and Economic Development

- Businesses generally cost the town less than residences because of school costs.
- Therefore, more economic development can relieve some of the residential tax burden.
- Need to consider how much and where.



Questions and Answers





Next

- Discussion of Hypothetical Scenario
- Small Group Discussions
- Reconvene to Compare Notes



Discussion of hypothetical scenario

- Role-play by Acton 2020 Committee (from point of view of five of the Planning Goals)
- Discussion of the scenario and related issues by all



Last: Group Discussions





Small Group Discussions

- Purpose: thinking together about your experience of the issue of economic development
- Mapping: what and where should goods, services, and jobs be located?
- Prioritizing: What one thing would you do to address economic development?

Re-convene at the end of the evening to compare notes



