

A photograph of the Georgetown Town Offices, a two-story yellow building with a white roof and two large chimneys. The building is surrounded by greenery and trees. An American flag is visible on the right side. In the foreground, there is a sign that reads "GEORGETOWN TOWN OFFICES" and a parking lot with several cars.

State of the Town

Selectmen Report

Matt Vincent, Chairperson

Board of Selectmen

- The executive arm of the town government.
- Three members who are elected for three-year terms.
- Appoint the Town Administrator, Fire and Police Chiefs, Building Inspection Services, and members to several town boards and committees.
- Issue the warrants for Town Meetings and make recommendations on the warrant articles.
- Hold public hearings on important town issues.
- Oversee traffic issues and traffic rules and regulations.
- Serve as the licensing board responsible for issuing and renewing licenses in more than 20 categories, including common victualler, food vendor, liquor, lodging house, open-air parking lot, inflammables, special events and entertainment.

FY2008 July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008

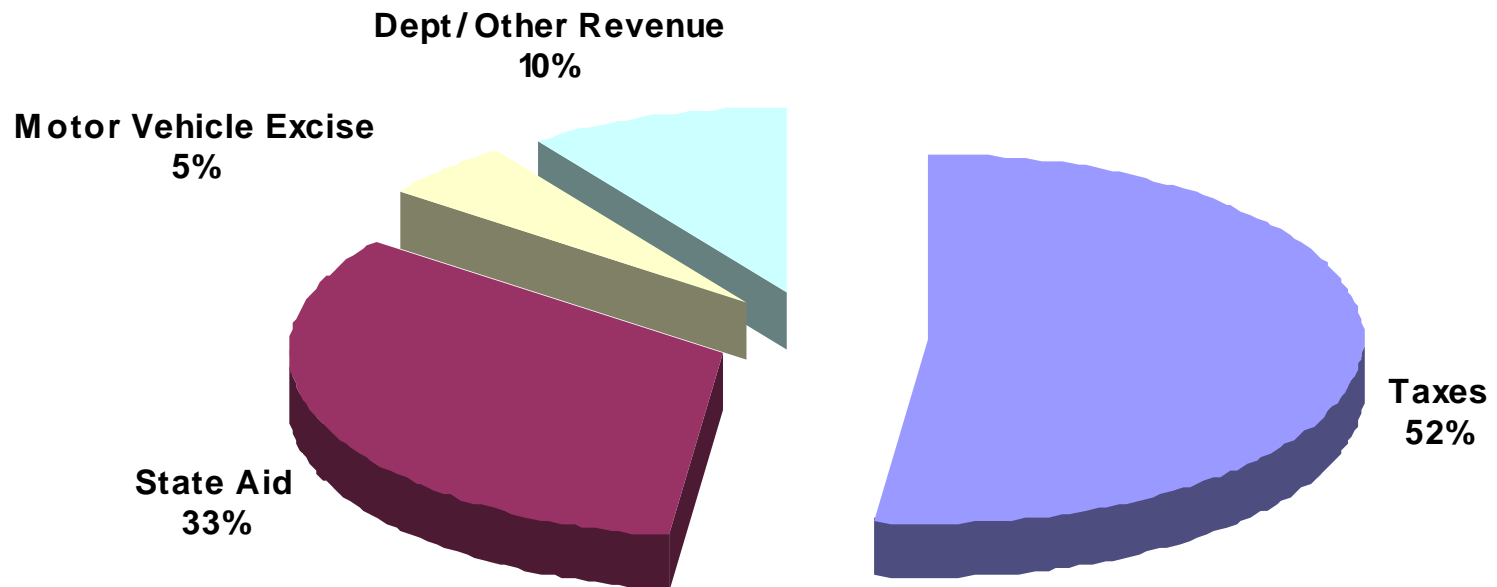
- Reorganization of Fire Department command structure.
- Analysis of Fire Department staffing needs.
- Rework Budget process timeline and data with FinCom.
 - Move up budget process by 6 weeks (Jan 15th, rather than Mar 1st)
 - Work with department heads to create draft budgets accounting for various revenue scenarios; establish budget priorities
 - Create state-of-the-town meeting
 - Close communication with state legislators
- Establish initial Standard Operating Procedures for BOS and TA office.
- Work with Board of Assessors to increase tax abatement and work-off programs for seniors.
- Restructure certain parts of the town's debt.
 - Create tax savings for residents, improve bond situation, and generate additional income (more than \$200,000) for town for FY2009.
- Reestablish Annual Report, generate reports for 2002-2007.
- Oversee CAI/Georgetown Group Land License.
- Auction properties town has received in tax title.

Goals for FY2009

- Continue to improve communication amongst boards, committees and town departments.
 - Improve knowledge management!
- Improve communications with town
 - Media Advisory Committee: expand web presence, provide additional content from meetings
- Develop long term plan for capital improvements and budget forecasting.
- Finalize standard operating procedures for BoS and Town Administrator.
- Focus efforts on economic development opportunities and grant writing.
- Find more ways “to make community happen”

FY2008

Source of Revenue



FY2008 State Aid

A. EDUCATION:

Distributions and Reimbursements:

1. Chapter 70	4,294,072
2. School Transportation <i>Chs. 71, 71A, 71B and 74</i>	0
3. Retired Teachers' Pensions <i>Ch. 32, s. 20 (2) (c)</i>	0
4. Charter Tuition Reimbursements <i>Ch. 71, s. 89</i>	5,885

Offset Items – Reserve for Direct Expenditure:

5. School Lunch <i>1970, Ch. 871</i>	9,087
6. School Choice Receiving Tuition <i>Ch. 76, s. 12B, 1993, Ch. 71</i>	314,368

Sub-Total, All Education Items	4,623,412
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B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Distributions and Reimbursements:

1. Lottery, Beano & Charity Games	838,575
2. Additional Assistance	52,998
3. Local Share of Racing Taxes <i>1981, Ch. 558</i>	0
4. Regional Public Libraries <i>Ch. 78, s. 19C</i>	0
5. Police Career Incentive <i>Ch. 41, s. 108L</i>	51,254
6. Urban Renewal Projects <i>Ch. 121, ss. 53-57</i>	0
7. Veterans' Benefits <i>Ch. 115, s. 6</i>	16,222
8. Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surviving Spouse <i>Ch. 58, s. 8A; Ch. 59 s. 5</i>	12,000
9. Exemptions: Elderly <i>Ch. 59, s. 5, Cl. 41, 41B, 41C</i>	6,024
10. State Owned Land <i>Ch. 58, ss. 13-17</i>	201,479

Offset Item - Reserve for Direct Expenditure:

11. Public Libraries <i>Ch. 78, s. 19A</i>	9,272
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Sub-Total, All General Government	1,187,824
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C. TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS, FISCAL 2008

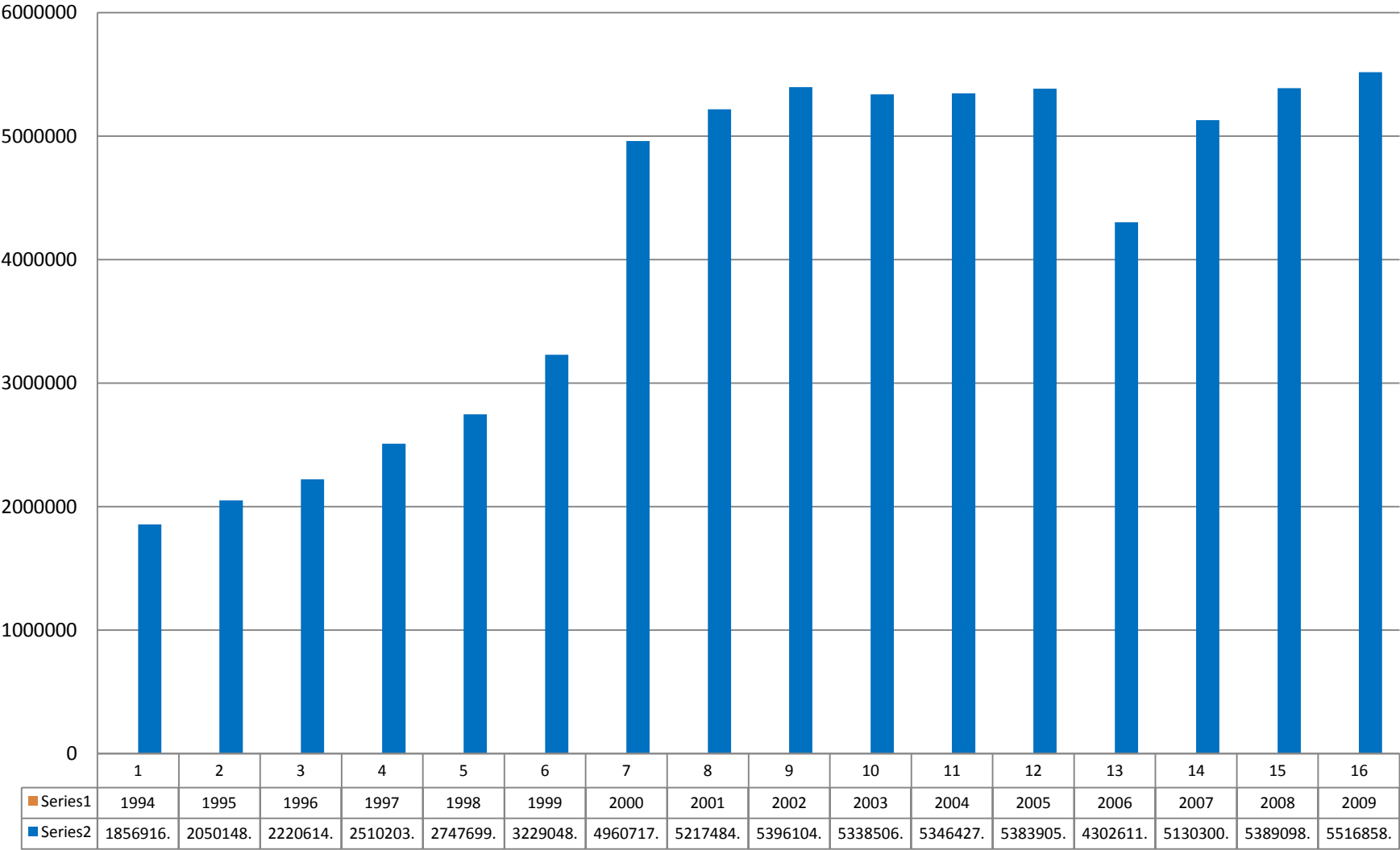
5,811,236

Assessments: 422,138

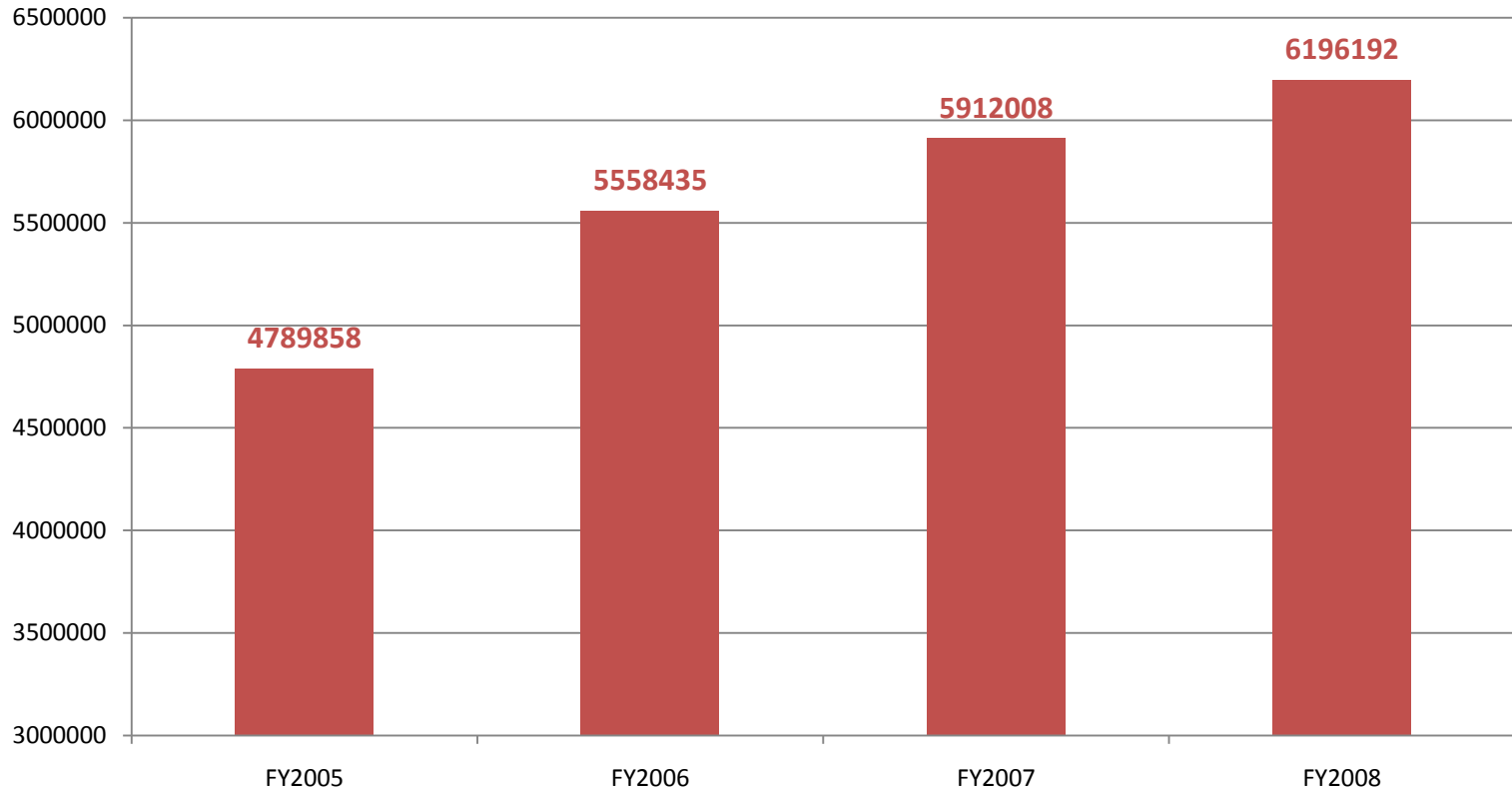
Net: 5,389,098

NET STATE AID (LESS ASSESSMENTS)

State Aid



Fixed Costs

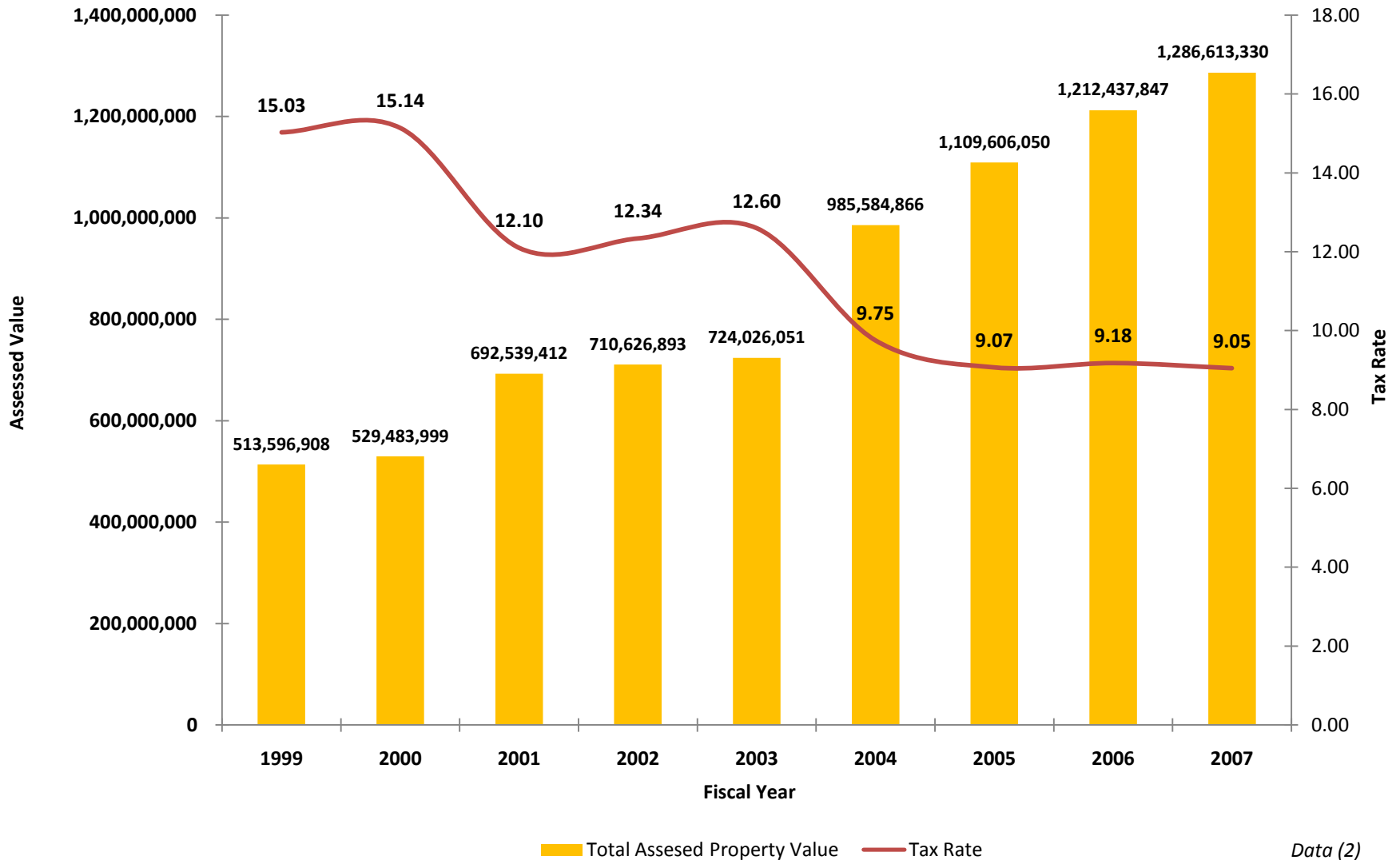


- Property Tax Receipts for FY2009 are expected to increase by \$295,498
- Fixed costs between FY2008 and FY2009 are expected to increase by \$284,184

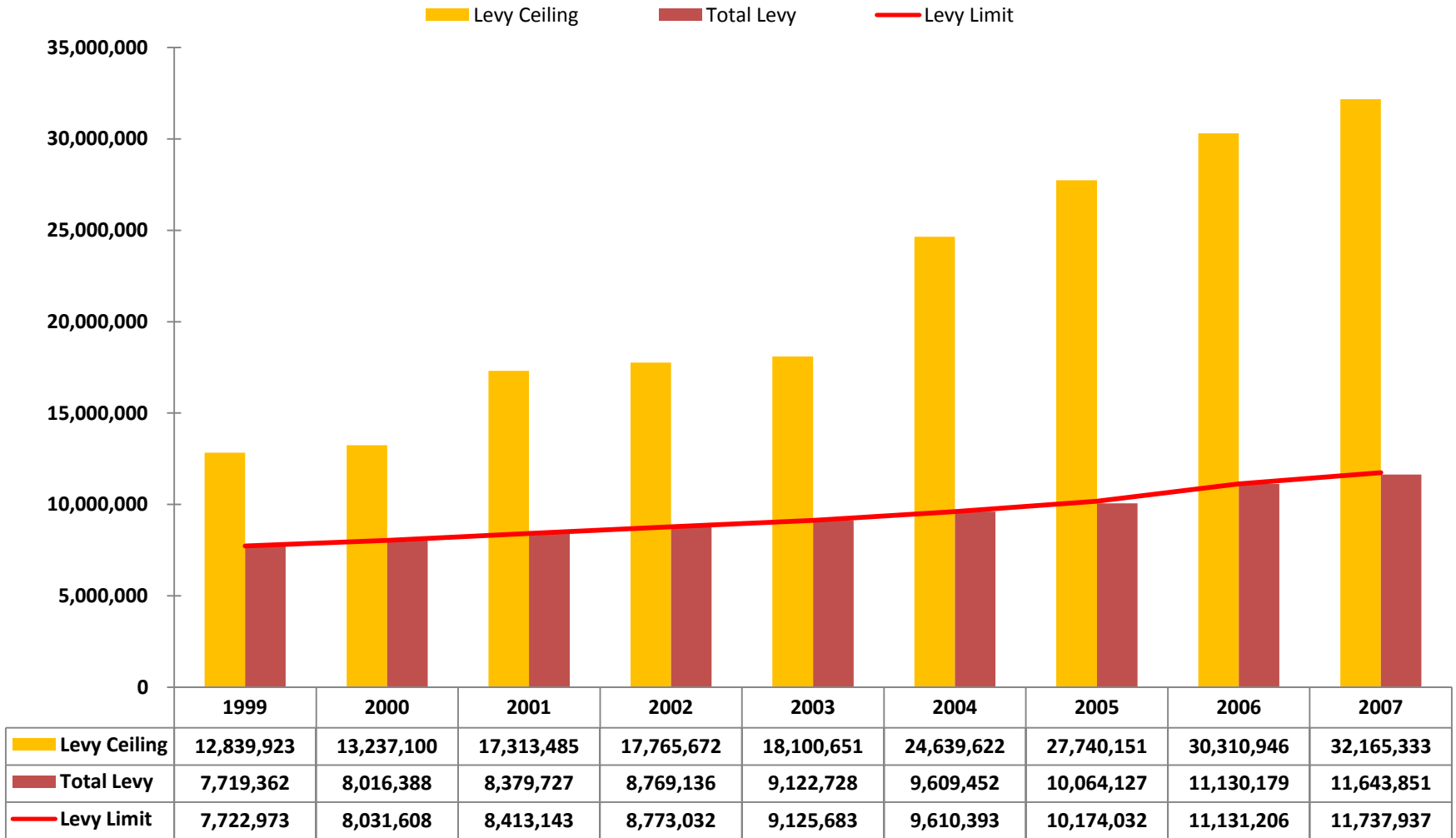
How do Property Taxes Work?

- A Common Misunderstanding:
 - The assessed value on my house has doubled in the last 5 years, so my taxes must be twice as much. >>> **Wrong!**
- Under Proposition 2-1/2
 - Levy Ceiling: a community cannot raise (levy) taxes exceeding 2.5 percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property in the community.
 - Levy limit: limits the rate of increase from one year to the next. The levy limit restricts levy *increases* to 2.5 percent above the previous year's levy limit, plus increases to account for new growth which comes from the addition of new homes to the town as well as the value of improvements made to existing homes.
- The average property tax bill has increased by about 2.5 percent a year for each year since 1980

Property Tax Base and Rate

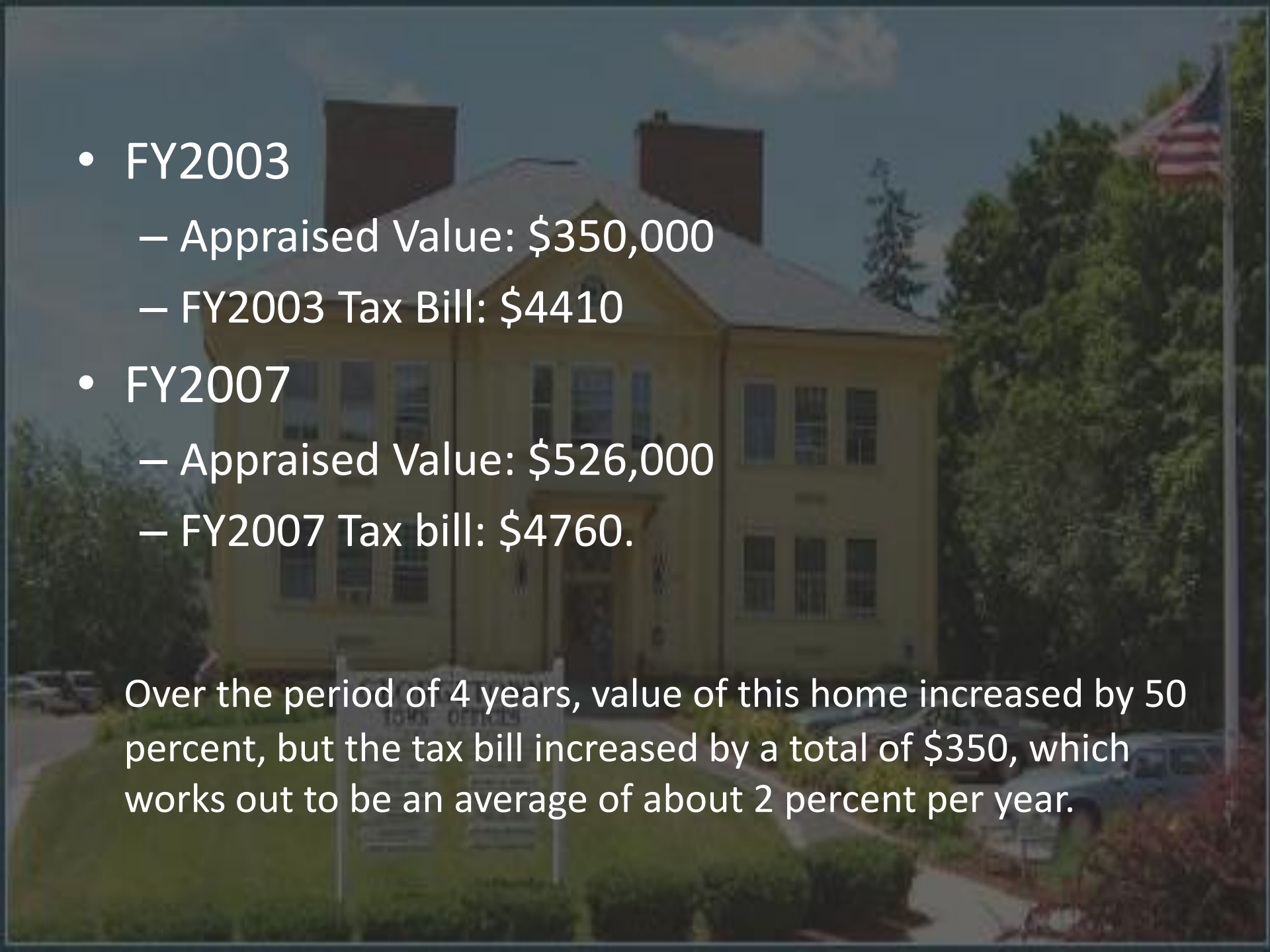


Levy Ceiling, Levy Limit, Levy



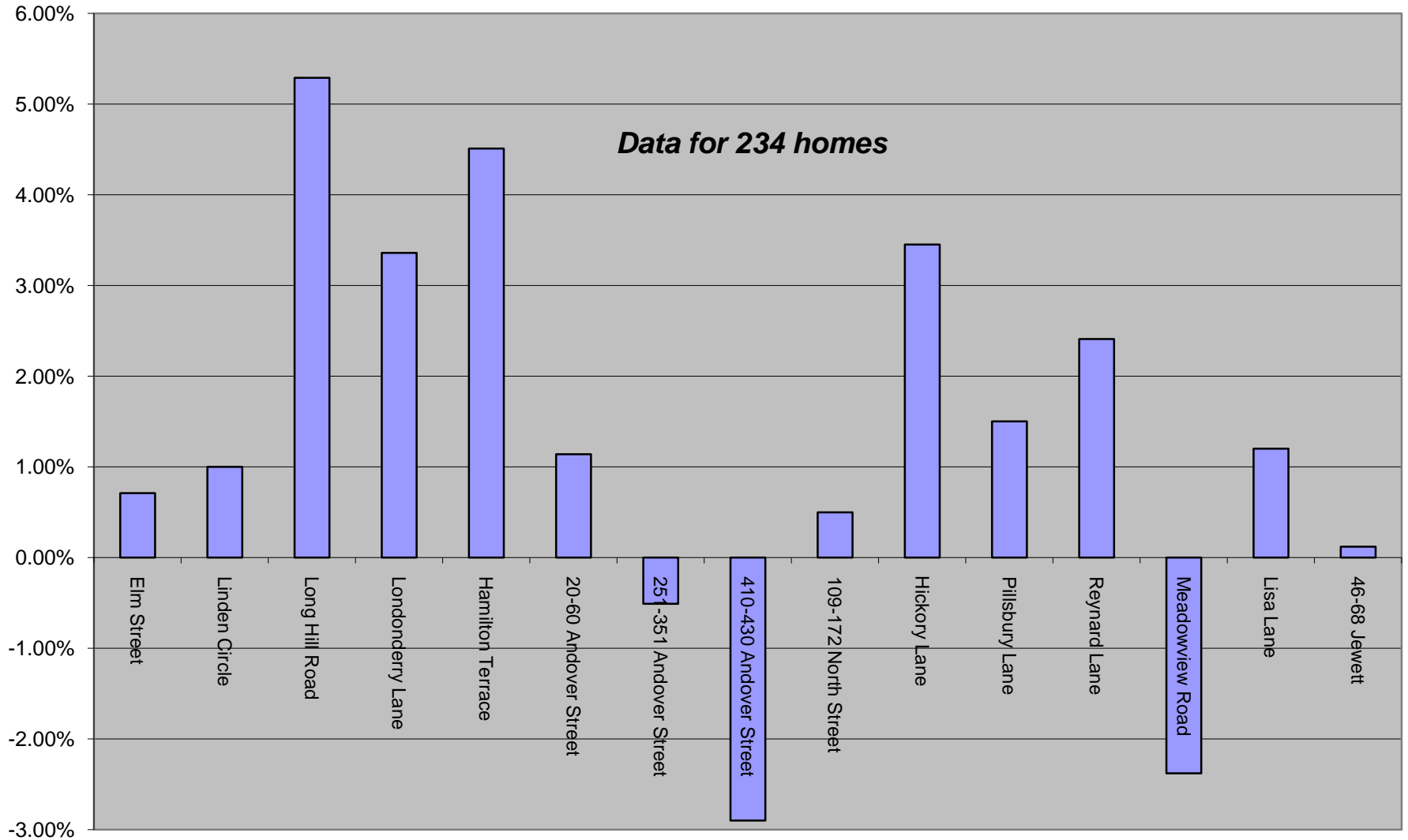
Fiscal Year

Data (2)

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- FY2003
 - Appraised Value: \$350,000
 - FY2003 Tax Bill: \$4410
 - FY2007
 - Appraised Value: \$526,000
 - FY2007 Tax bill: \$4760.

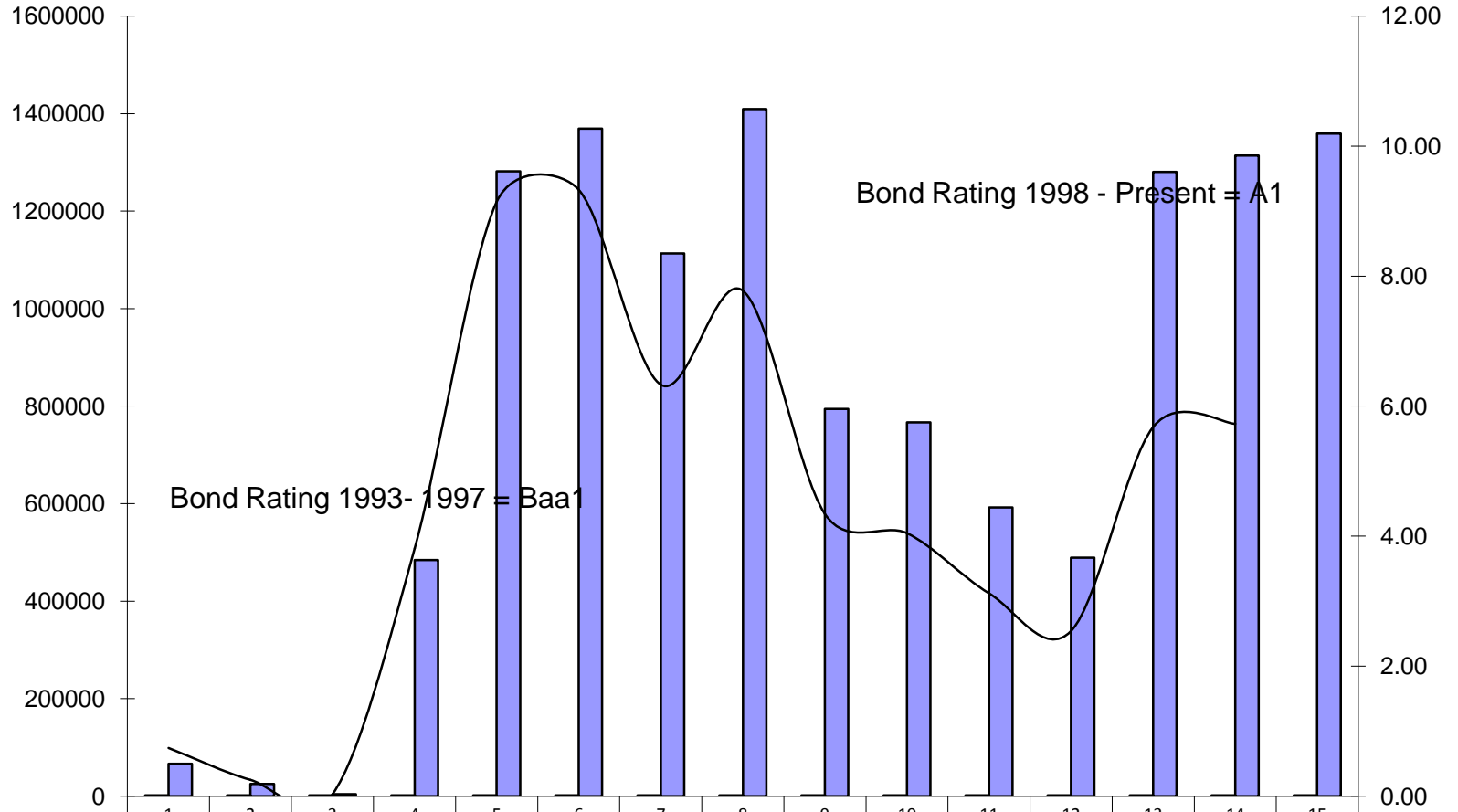
Over the period of 4 years, value of this home increased by 50 percent, but the tax bill increased by a total of \$350, which works out to be an average of about 2 percent per year.

Percent Difference: FY06 vs FY07 tax bill



Stabilization Fund

Stabilization Fund Balance



Fiscal Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Stabilization Fund Balance	66,726	25,304	3,931	484,138	1,281,62	1,368,73	1,113,26	1,409,09	793,979	766,481	592,331	489,299	1,280,17	1,313,89	1,358,84
As % of Budget	0.74	0.25	0.03	3.81	9.14	9.33	6.33	7.77	4.34	4.05	3.12	2.54	5.68	5.73	