



Town of Natick

FY 2012 Preliminary Budget

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Town of Natick

FY 2012 Preliminary Budget

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Demographics & Information

History

The Town of Natick is a suburban industrial center located on the upper basin of the Charles and Concord Rivers with an extensive complex of ponds. The town was from earliest Colonial days a prime target for development, possessing as it did good agricultural land, fish runs and water power. Established in 1650 on the Charles River, Natick had the first and the largest Indian praying town in the colonies, one that became a model for all other attempts to inculcate European standards into Indians. John Eliot, the great missionary, secured a charter of 6,000 acres for the Indians and converted them to Christianity. Unfortunately, Natick's Indian population was forcibly resettled on Deer Island during the King Philip's war and essentially never returned.



In Colonial days, Natick was an agricultural community with some orchards and some lumbering. Grist and sawmills were established and Indian ownership and control gave way to white dominance between 1676 and 1776. Local tradition claims that several loads of Natick men shipped out to the California gold rush in 1849 and 1850, returning with enough capital to start independent businesses in the town. The shoe industry dominated the community by the early 19th century, with the first shoe sole manufacturer established in 1827 and shoes shipped to the southern and western markets by 1830. The town's products, including baseballs manufactured in Natick, were shipped to Boston on the Boston and Worcester Railroad. The town saw rapid growth including an Irish, English, Nova Scotian, Italian and Armenian immigrant population which came to take jobs in the shoe plants and by the 1880's, Natick was the third largest shoe production community in the country.

Demographic & Geographic Information

Settlement Date: 1651

Incorporation Date: Natick was incorporated as a Town on February 19, 1781.

County: Middlesex

Location: Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Framingham on the west, Wayland and Weston on the north, Wellesley and Dover on the east, and Dover and Sherborn on the south. Natick is 18 miles southwest of Boston; 25 miles east of Worcester; 35 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island; and about 201 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 16.06 sq. miles

Land Area: 15.09 sq. miles

Population: 32,170

2008 Labor Force: 18,689

1999 Per Capita Income: 36,358

2007 Population Per Square Mile: 2,120.4

2007 Housing Units Per Square Mile: 886.5

2007 Road Miles: 154.29

Number of Registered Vehicles (January 2008): 32,991

Average Age of Vehicles (January 2008): 9.03

Government & Elections Information

School Structure: K-12

Form of Government: Town Administrator-Selectmen-Representative Town Meeting

Registered Voters: (as of December 31, 2007) 20,845

Democratic 7,338

Independent 3rd Party 9

Republican 2,709

Libertarian Party 58

Unenrolled 10,697

Working Families 6

Socialist 3

American Independent 2

Green Rainbow Party 21

Reform Party 2

Area: 15.99 sq. miles

Town Offices:

Town Hall, 13 East Central Street

US Senators:

John F. Kerry & Scott Brown

Representative in Congress:

Edward J. Markey

State Senators:

Karen Spilka, Precincts 1-5, & 8

Richard J. Ross, Precincts 6-7 & 9-10

State Representatives:

David Paul Linsky, Precincts 1-9

Alice Hanlon Peisch, Precinct 10

Voting Qualifications: Must be 18 years of age on or before Election Day, born in the United States or fully naturalized; a resident of Natick.

Registration of Voters: Town Clerk's Office, 13 East Central Street, daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where to Vote (Precinct Numbers):

Kennedy Middle School, 163 Mill Street (1)
Cole Recreational Center, 179 Boden Lane (2)
Kennedy Middle School, 163 Mill Street (3)
Wilson Middle School, 24 Rutledge Road (4)
Wilson Middle School, 24 Rutledge Road (5)
Lilja School, 41 Bacon Street at Oak Street (6)
Lilja School, 41 Bacon Street at Oak Street (7)
Morse Institute Library, 14 East Central St. (8)
Morse Institute Library, 14 East Central St. (9)
Memorial School, 107 Eliot Street (10)