

**SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE**

**INNER RING SUBURBS PUBLIC HEARING**

**Upper Darby, PA – July 21, 2011**

**Comments by John E. Pickett, AICP, Planning Director,  
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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Senators, staff, and guests. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to offer the perspective of a county planning director on issues facing Pennsylvania's inner ring suburbs, in particular those in the Philadelphia area. As the oldest of the four suburban counties, Delaware County is host to many of these communities and deals with their problems every day.

Based on information from the 2010 Census summarized in the attached table, I would like to offer the following observations:

1. During the last 10 years, the Philadelphia region as a whole continued to grow at a faster pace than the rest of the state. Even the City of Philadelphia grew slightly for the first time in several decades.
2. The 4 counties constituting the Philadelphia suburbs grew by 6.5%, gaining about 150,000 people. However, growth in the suburbs was not uniform.
3. The 119 older, developed communities (cities, boroughs, and first class townships) grew by only 1%, while the 119 second class townships grew by 12% (accounting for 92% of the growth).
4. While the overall loss of population in the older suburbs that occurred in previous decades appears to have been reversed, there are still individual communities (especially boroughs) in each of the counties that showed double-digit losses.
5. Loss of population (or comparative loss of population) also means loss of economic base and wealth.
6. In Delaware County, older suburbs that lost population in previous decades experienced an influx of immigrants from Asia and Africa during the last 10 years. The mix of cultures presents both a challenge and an opportunity for school districts and local governments.

# POPULATION CHANGE PHILADELPHIA REGION 2000-2010

Change: 2000 to 2010

Geographic Area	Classification		2000	2010	Number	Percent
<b>Pennsylvania</b>			<b>12,281,054</b>	<b>12,702,379</b>	<b>421,325</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Philadelphia Region</b>			3,849,647	4,008,994	159,347	4.1%
<b>Philadelphia</b>	First Class City		1,517,550	1,526,006	8,456	0.6%
<b>Philadelphia Suburbs</b>			<b>2,332,097</b>	<b>2,482,988</b>	<b>150,891</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
	Third Class Cities	2	47,692	47,072	-620	-1.3%
	Boroughs	89	437,367	444,252	6,885	1.6%
	First Class Townships	28	686,450	691,632	5,182	0.8%
	Developed Suburbs	119	1,171,509	1,182,956	11,447	1.0%
	Second Class Townships	119	1,160,588	1,300,032	139,444	12.0%

Prepared by Delaware County Planning Department

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 & 2010 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File.

The Pennsylvania Manual, Volume 119