

A photograph of a large fire burning in a parking lot. The fire is a tall, intense column of yellow and orange flames, reaching high into the air. In the foreground, several firefighters in full protective gear are working with hoses. The background shows a parking lot with several vehicles, including a white car and a dark SUV, and a line of trees under a clear blue sky.

# State of Anne Arundel County

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# State of Anne Arundel County

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## How does Anne Arundel compare with other Maryland counties?

- **Economic Status**
- **Tax Burden**
- **Quality of Life**
  - Education
  - Public Safety
  - Agricultural and Forest Preservation
  - Environment
  - Housing Affordability

# State of Anne Arundel County

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Analysis uses publicly available  
information

Primarily Federal, Maryland State and  
AA County sources

# State of Anne Arundel County

## Economic Status

In 2006, of the 13 largest MD counties,  
Anne Arundel County:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> highest per capita income (\$35,753)  
with Howard and Montgomery counties higher
- Low Unemployment Rate of 3.5 % (2005)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of persons 25+ with BA or >
- 3<sup>rd</sup> highest (77.6%) for owner occupied housing
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest for median housing value
- 4.6% of the population are below Federal poverty level (7.8% for State)

# State of Anne Arundel County

## Tax Burden

### Anne Arundel County:

- 3rd highest of the 13 largest counties in Tax Capacity in FY 2003-2001 (latest available)
- Tax effort is low—combined income and property taxes — 4 to 47% below similar jurisdictions in 2007
- Impact fee on detached single family dwellings is among the lowest for the 12 counties reported—Montgomery County's fees are nearly 3x higher

# State of Anne Arundel County

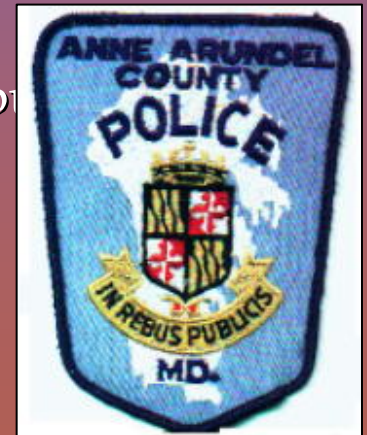
## Quality of Life

### Education

- About half of county budget is spent on schools
- Beginning teacher salaries are 13<sup>th</sup> from highest out of 24 counties. (Calvert County higher)
- Educational effort index is 16<sup>th</sup> from highest out of 24 counties
- Building maintenance backlog of over \$1.5 billion

### Public Safety

- Crime rate: 7<sup>th</sup> highest out of 24 counties
- (3993.5 crimes (violent and property) per 100,000 population (Howard and Montgomery over 1/3 lower.)
- Road maintenance backlog: \$124 million for roads below minimally acceptable rating of 55 out of 100.



# State of Anne Arundel County

## Quality of Life, Cont'd

### Agricultural and Forest Preservation

- In 2002, smallest average-size farm out of 23 counties
- 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 23 counties, i.e. next to the lowest, in the percent of land in farms



# State of Anne Arundel County

## Quality of Life, Cont'd

### Agricultural and Forest Preservation, Cont'd

- AA County preserved 9778 acres by February 2007, significantly fewer than 5 similar counties; Baltimore County preserved 5.7 and Calvert 1.9 times more acres. AA county has almost twice the land area of Calvert County,
- 41% of total county acreage forested in 2002. Less than Howard (44%) and more than Montgomery (29%) counties



# State of Anne Arundel County

## Quality of Life, Cont'd

### Environment

#### Air Pollution

- Air Quality Index 3<sup>rd</sup> worst out of 11 counties
- 5<sup>th</sup> worst of 24 counties for Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants
- 2<sup>nd</sup> worst of 12<sup>th</sup> counties in health risk from all criteria air pollutants



# State of Anne Arundel County

## Quality of Life, Cont'd

### Environment --Water Pollution

- Two thirds of catfish pulled from South River in 2005 had cancerous tumors
- All county rivers are biologically impaired
- Too much impervious surface in 13 watersheds  
5 watersheds greater than 20%; only 1 less than 6% with Patapsco at 31.7%
  - lose trout with over 4% impervious surface and some salamanders at 0.3%



# State of Anne Arundel County

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## Quality of Life, Cont'd

- Potable well water --- Aquia has reached maximum allowable yield; further draw-downs likely to impact central South County
- Projected backlog for watershed restoration (public and private) is \$5 billion; 1.3 billion for stream restoration alone.
- 4th longest miles of shoreline, but limited public access

# State of Anne Arundel County

## Quality of Life, Cont'd

### Housing Affordability

- The median minimum sales price (e.g. price with no upgrades) for a newly built home in a large development (10 or more homes) was \$425,990 in 2006. (single family, townhouse, condominiums, etc.)
- The median price for all homes sold in October 2007 was \$329,000 (single family, townhouse, condominiums, etc.)
- To purchase the median priced home with a 30 year mortgage at 5.65% requires an annual income of \$73,042 with 20% down or \$85,249 with 5% down (excludes points, fees and other closing costs)

# State of Anne Arundel County

- Quality of Life, Cont'd

## Housing Affordability, Cont'd

- The starting salary for a ten-month AA county teacher in public schools with a BA was \$36,339 in FY 2005-2006. The maximum salary for a teacher was \$76,726
- Estimates of fair market rent prepared by the National Low Income Housing Coalition indicate that a new teacher can, at most afford to rent a one bedroom apartment.

## Definitions of Selected Terms

**Tax Capacity**: reflects potential tax base of local government. Calculated by computing the hypothetical yield from each of several tax sources (income and property tax are two largest taxes) using the statewide average tax rate i.e. what county would have collected if it taxed at the statewide average tax rate

**Education Effort Index**: Calculated by dividing local education appropriation by local wealth and indexing to the State average. Local Wealth includes county assessable base for FY2006 and net taxable income for tax year 2004.

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## Data Sources

- U.S. Census Bureau: “American Community Survey” 2006
  - AA County Economic Development Corporation 2005
  - MD. Department of Legislative Services, 2005
  - AA County Report of Spending Affordability Committee FY 2008
  - MGT of America Inc.
  - MD Department Of Education Fact Book 2005-2006
- US Department of Agriculture: Census of Agriculture 2002

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## Data Sources, Cont'd

- US Department of Agriculture: Census of Agriculture 2002
- Scorecard: the Pollution Information Site
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- AA County Department of Public Works
- MD Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Geological Survey
- Comparisons Maryland: Maryland State Police/Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
- Harley Wood Market Intelligence
- Maryland Department of Health
- [WWW.finance.chc.com](http://WWW.finance.chc.com) for mortgage calculator



## Availability of Data

Contact Joan Turek at:

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