



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 5, 2015
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Gwen Rousseau, Planning & Community Development
Subject: Bellevue's Changing Demographics
(No Board action requested)

At your meeting on January 13, 2015, we will take a look at Bellevue's changing demographics. We will look at trends and projections of jobs and population, as well as at how Bellevue's age and racial distributions have changed over the decades and how those distributions are projected to continue to change in the future. Nationally, William Frey of the Brookings Institution says we are on the cusp of a "Diversity Explosion" as our older white population ages and our younger minority populations have children. Bellevue has already experienced a significant increase in racial/ethnic diversity over the past decades going from 15 percent minority in 1990 to 28 percent in 2000 and to about 42 percent in 2013. Will the rate of change continue at the same pace and will Bellevue achieve a plurality of race/ethnicities by 2020, 30 years ahead of the nation, or will the trend slow down?

Along with the explosion in cultural diversity will be an explosion in age diversity, often referred to as the greying of America, older adults (65+) are projected to comprise 21 percent of the state's population by 2040. In Bellevue, the proportion of older adults has climbed from 10.4 percent in 1990 to 13.4 percent in 2000 to about 13.7 percent in 2013. With the first baby boomers hitting 65 in 2011 the rate of growth in the older adult population is projected to increase significantly. Will Bellevue's older adults age in place or will they move away and be replaced by younger families. Will older adults immigrate to new development in Bellevue's more dense growth centers with amenities close at hand or will these centers be mostly populated by the young workforce?

How will Bellevue's growth and changing demographics affect our population's needs for housing, infrastructure, services and programs? How will future demographic changes and/or growth patterns impact recreation preferences and other community service needs, and how can we find synergistic solutions that meet multiple needs while using resources efficiently? These are some of the questions we will consider as we take a look at the demographic trends and projections for the future.

Attachments

None, but you may be interested in viewing the following links:
<http://www.brookings.edu/events/2014/12/15-diversity-explosion>
<http://www.pewresearch.org/next-america/#Two-Dramas-in-Slow-Motion>

