



# Gray Secession

***EVERYBODY LOVES GRAYMOND!***

# Pending Question For Representative Austin.

**State Representative  
Susan M. W. Austin**



**136 Yarmouth Road, Gray, ME 04039 ~ (207) 657-4100**

***Proudly Serving the Good Folks of District 67***

***Portions of Gray, Raymond, & Casco, as well as all of Frye Island***

# The LATE GREAT Jack Goosetrey!

- ▶ Town Councilor
- ▶ Community and Economic Development Committee
- ▶ Planning Board Member
- ▶ Gray Comprehensive Plan Committee
- ▶ Ordinance Review Committee
- ▶ Ad Hoc Tax Increment Finance Committee- The first one done in less than a year!
- ▶ Made Policy Decisions that still have a Positive Impact on Gray!
- ▶ Definitely one the most active Town Volunteers in the History of Gray.

# Peter Gellerson

- ▶ Town Councilor ( a couple of times) Served a Chair of the Town Council.
- ▶ Planning Board Member. Served as Chair of the Planning Board.
- ▶ Liaison Positions
- ▶ Library Expansion Committee
- ▶ Henry Pennell Municipal Complex-Leadership Role.
- ▶ Made and Continues to make Policy Decisions that have a Positive Impact on Gray.
- ▶ Definitely one of the most active Town Volunteers in the History of Gray.

Colin Mills

► Solid Waste Committee

Brian McDonnell

► Solid Waste Committee

# Ernie Rider

- ▶ Community Economic Development Committee.
- ▶ Active and Involved Citizen



# David Getchell

- ▶ Street Construction Ordinance Review Committee
- ▶ Coach for MSAD 15.



# Gail Walker

► Planning Board Member- Chair

# Doug Wilson

- ▶ Gray Community Endowment-Associated with Libby Hill Trails
- ▶ Zoning Board of Appeals.

# Are Residents less likely to be involved because of geographical separation?

- ▶ Summary of Volunteerism this Geographical Area of Gray, Maine.
- ▶ Three Planning Board Members-2 Chaired Planning Board
- ▶ Two Town Councilors-1 Chaired the Town Council
- ▶ Library Expansion Committee Member
- ▶ Zoning Board of Appeals
- ▶ Solid Waste Committee
- ▶ Street Construction Ordinance Review Committee
- ▶ Coaches and involved Parents.
- ▶ A Political Powerhouse!

Representative Austin, please point out a geographical area in District 67 that has as much active involvement with their Town as this area!

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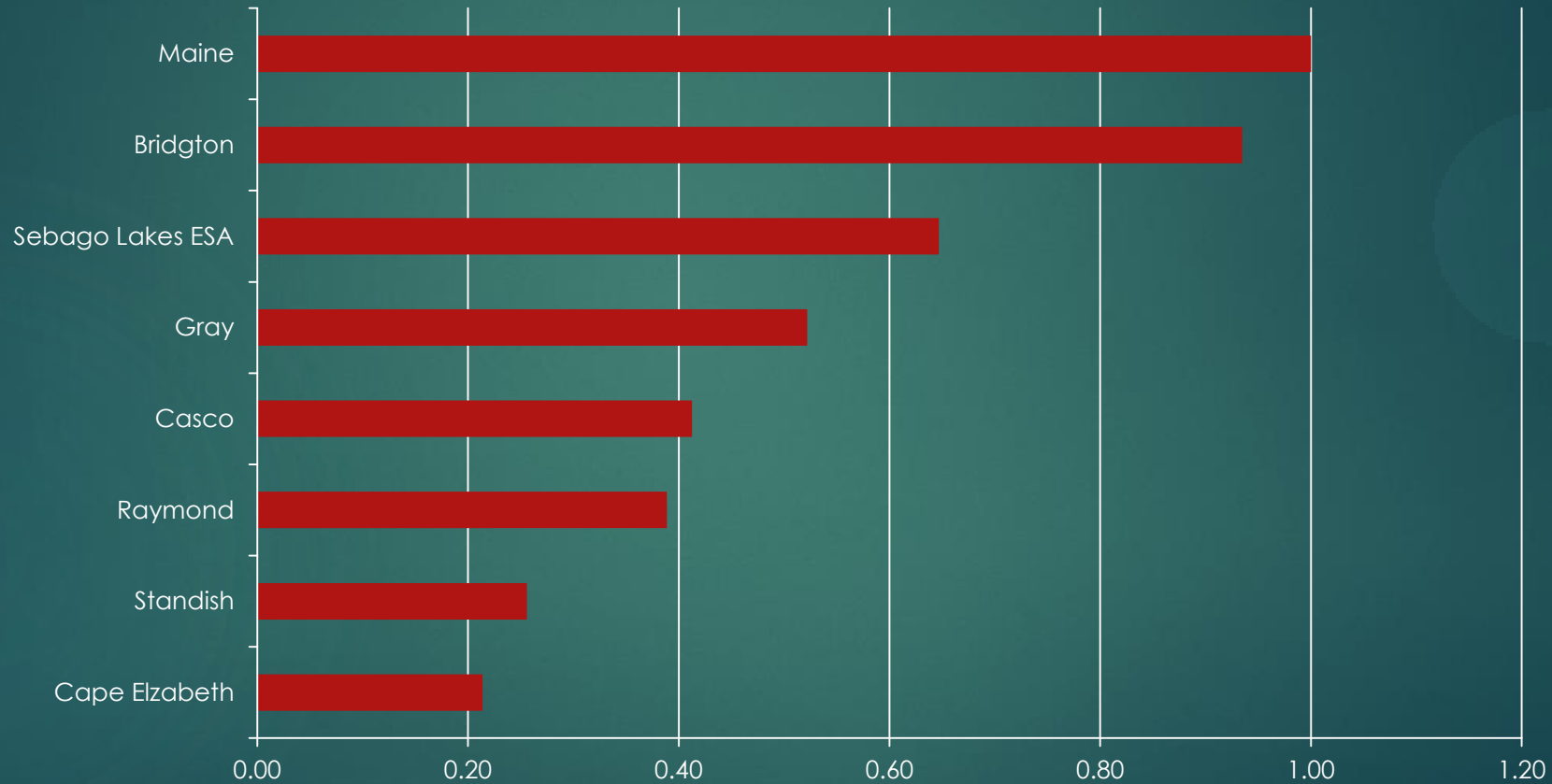
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# Economic Profile of Raymond, Maine

Prepared by the Greater Portland Council of Governments

October 12, 2012

# Consumer Sales Pull Factor





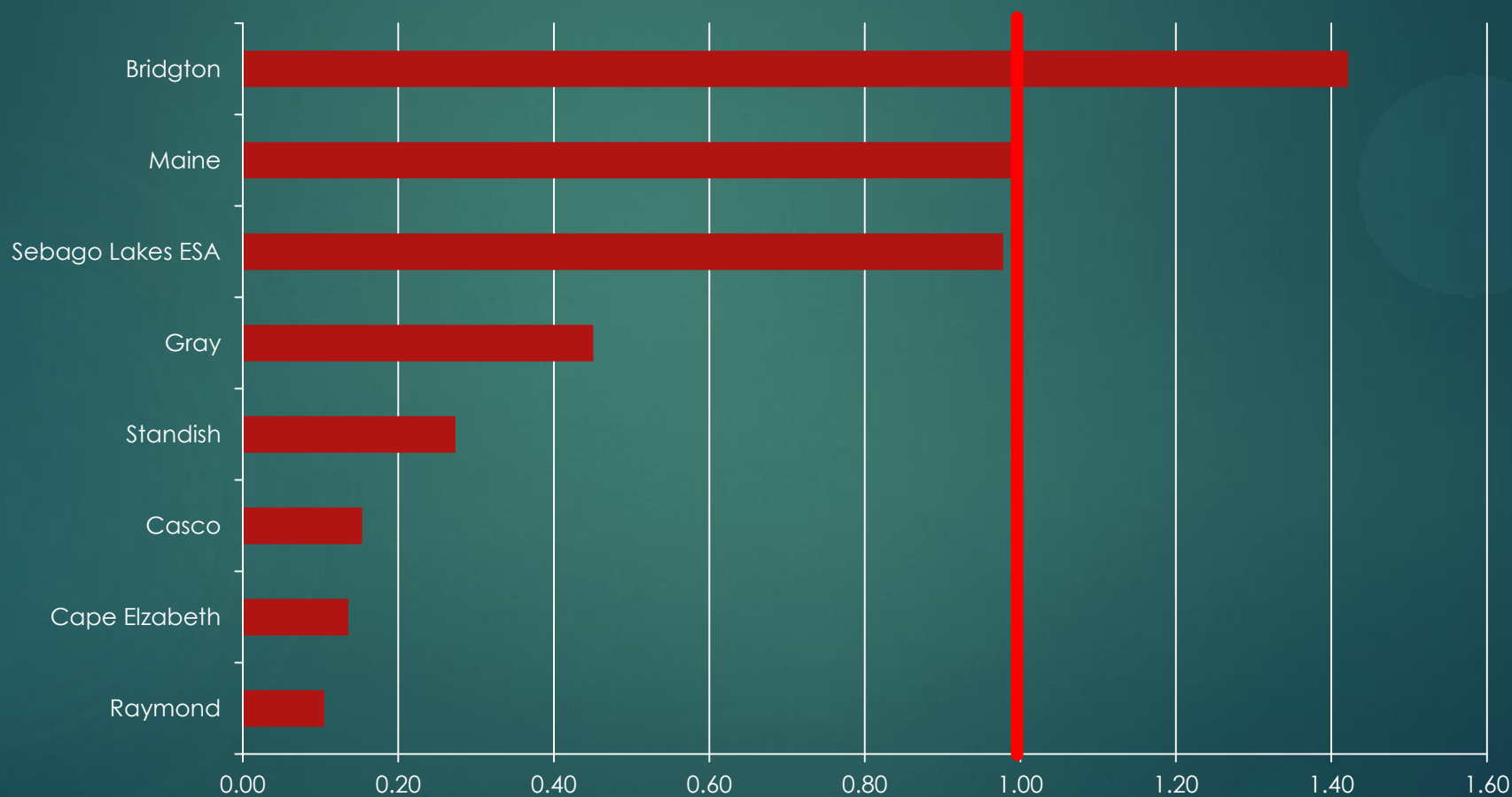
If I had a hammer versus if I need a hammer?





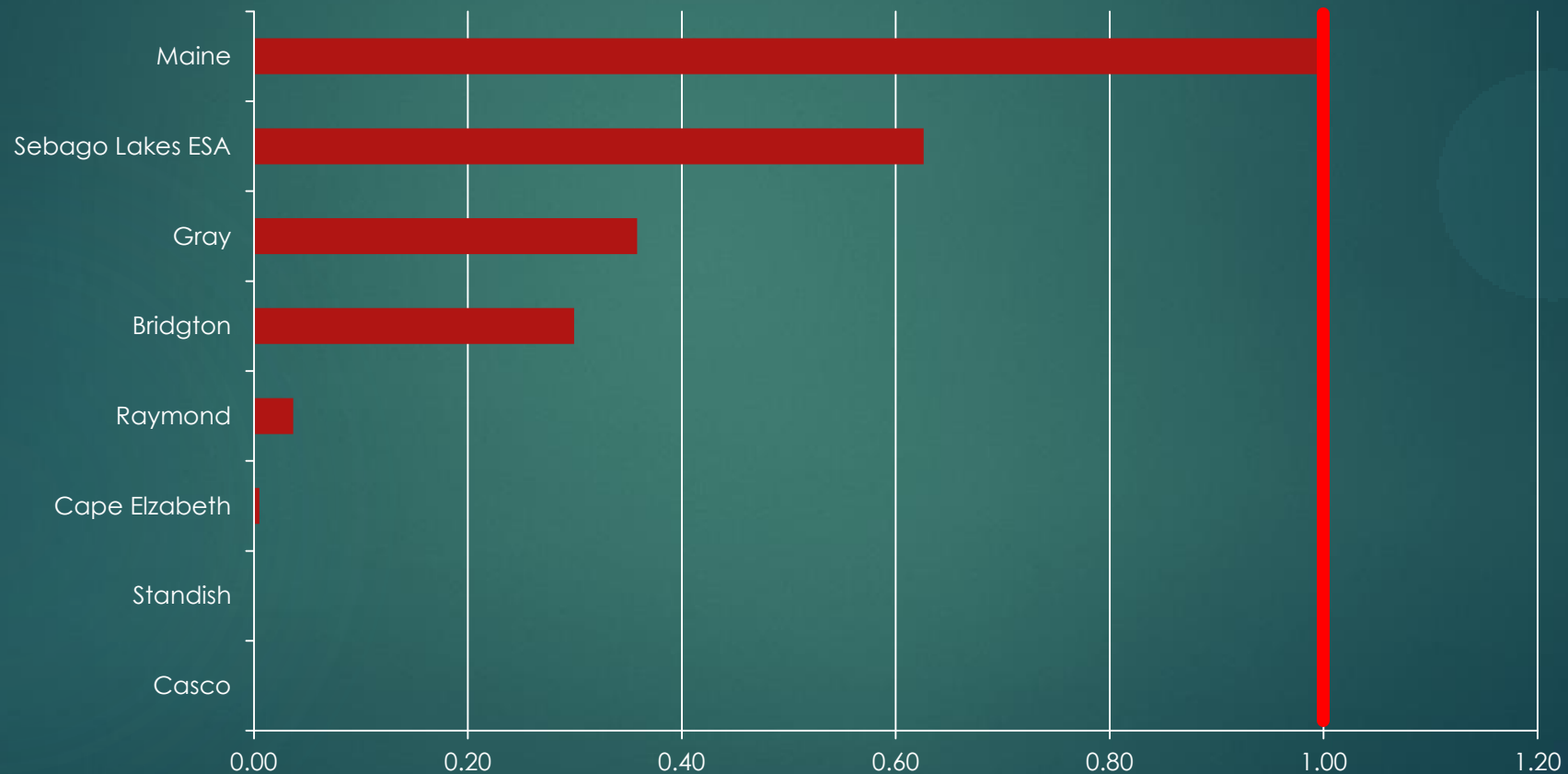
# Building Supply Pull Factor

Includes durable equipment sales, contractors' sales, hardware stores and lumber yards.



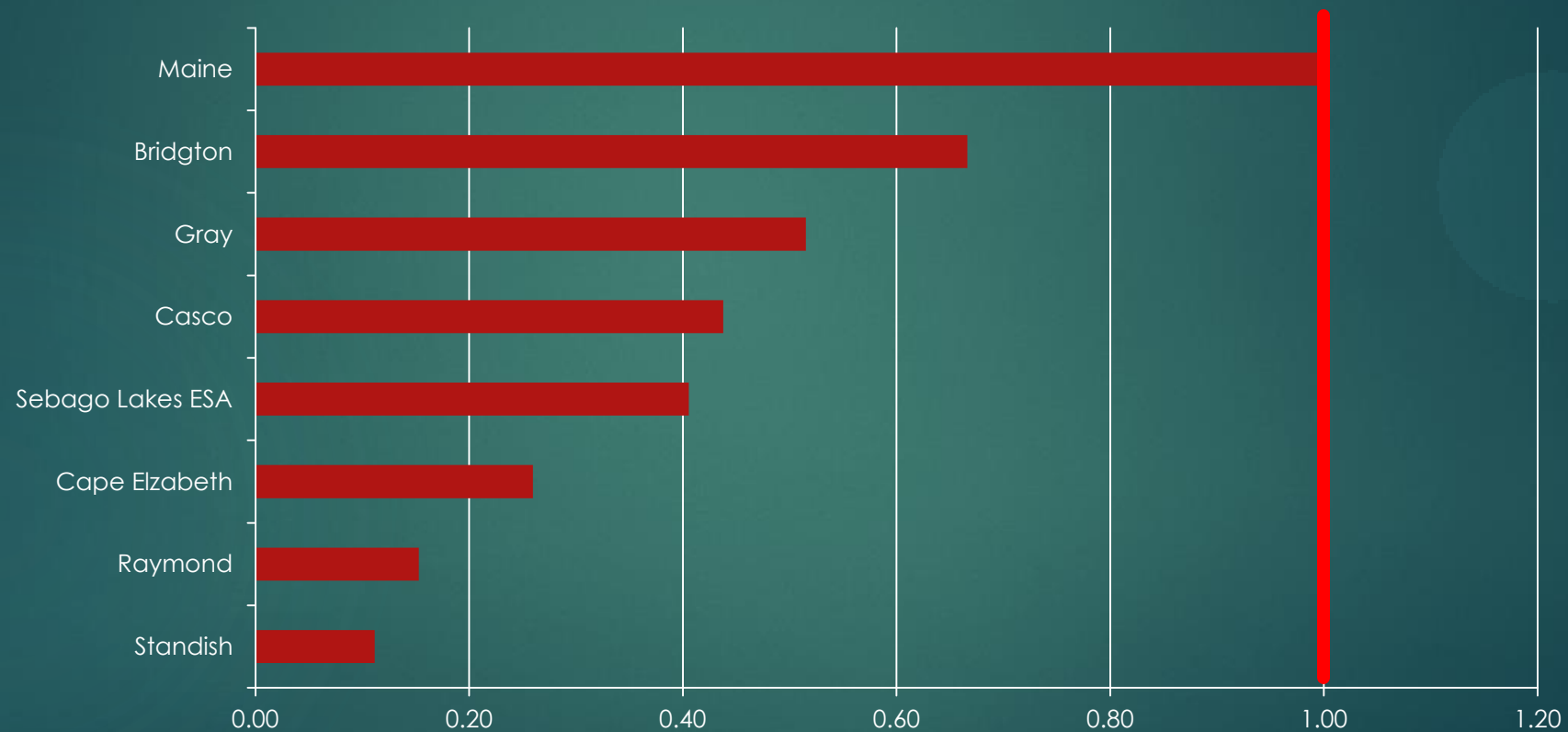
# General Merchandise Pull Factor

Includes product lines carried in large department stores, such as clothing, furniture, shoes, electronics, household goods, & home furnishings



# Other Retail Pull Factor

Includes stores selling dry goods, sundries, jewelry, sporting goods, antiques, books, and gifts



# Windham is a Service Center Community and Gray is becoming one.

- ▶ Windham is one of the roughly 70 Service Center Communities in Maine and many residents in Gray, Sebago, Standish, and Falmouth shop in Windham but that has changed.
- ▶ Gray is close to population threshold of a Service Center Community. (10,000) This evident by Hannaford's and the Gray Food Market. Further, Gray has specialty foods like the Fishermen's Net. Currently, Cumberland Farms is seeking a Contract Zone for a major expansion. Gray Physical Therapy, Gray Family Health Center, Fiddleheads, Howell's Gun Shop and Gray-New Gloucester Animal Hospital are all the types of businesses that are typical of Regional Service Center Communities.
- ▶ The Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, representing the towns of Casco, Gray, Limerick, Limington, Naples, New Gloucester, Raymond, Sebago, Standish and Windham, is one of the most active chambers in the State of Maine.

# Sebago Lakes: Economic Summary Area.

- ▶ Gray is Ahead in Retail Pull.
- ▶ Gray is over 50% of the Pull Factor for General Merchandise.
- ▶ Gray is about 50% for Building Supplies. Competing against Hancock Lumber, Lowes, and Home Depot.

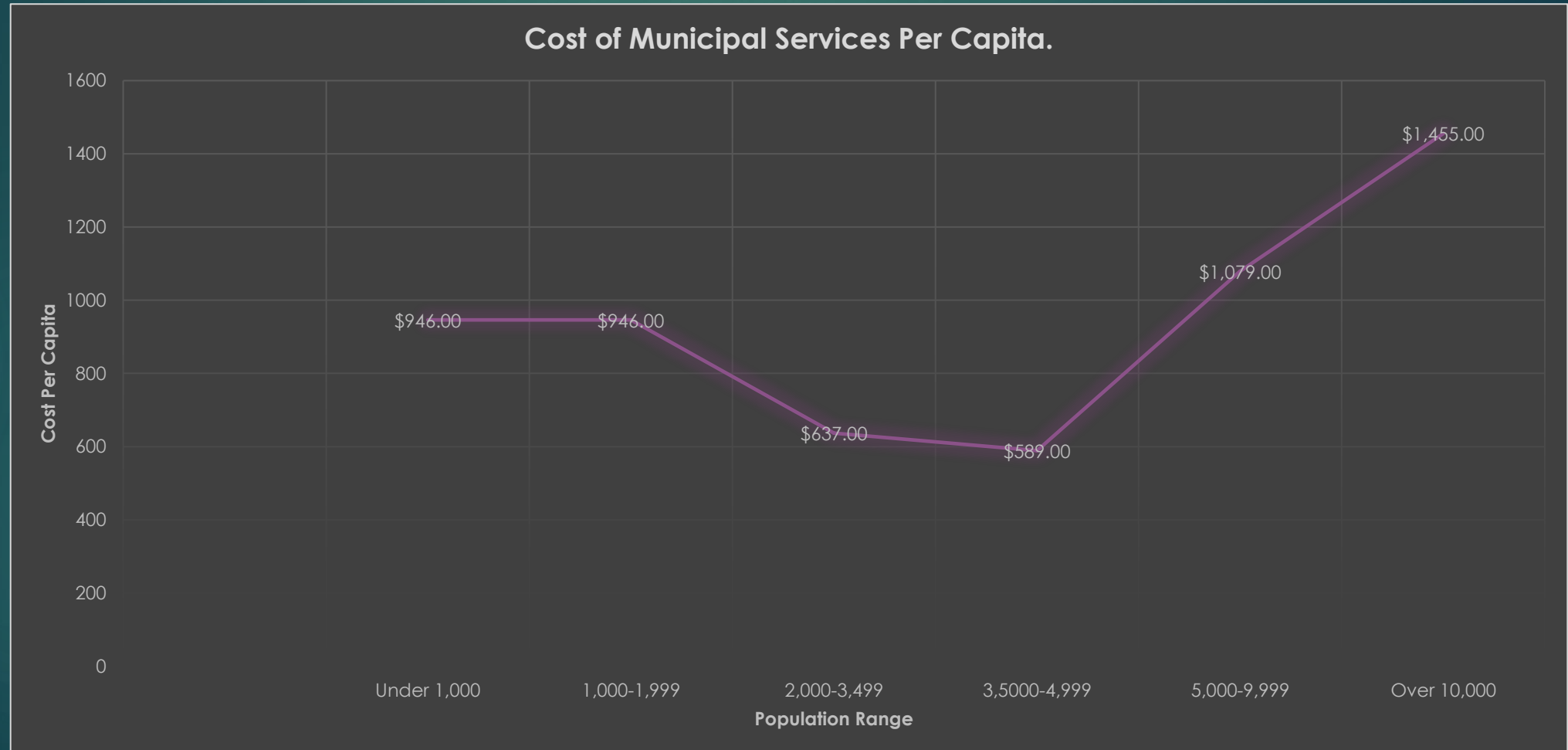


# 2015 Per Capita Spending on Municipal Services.

## 2015 Per Capita Spending on Municipal Services (by Population Group and Total)

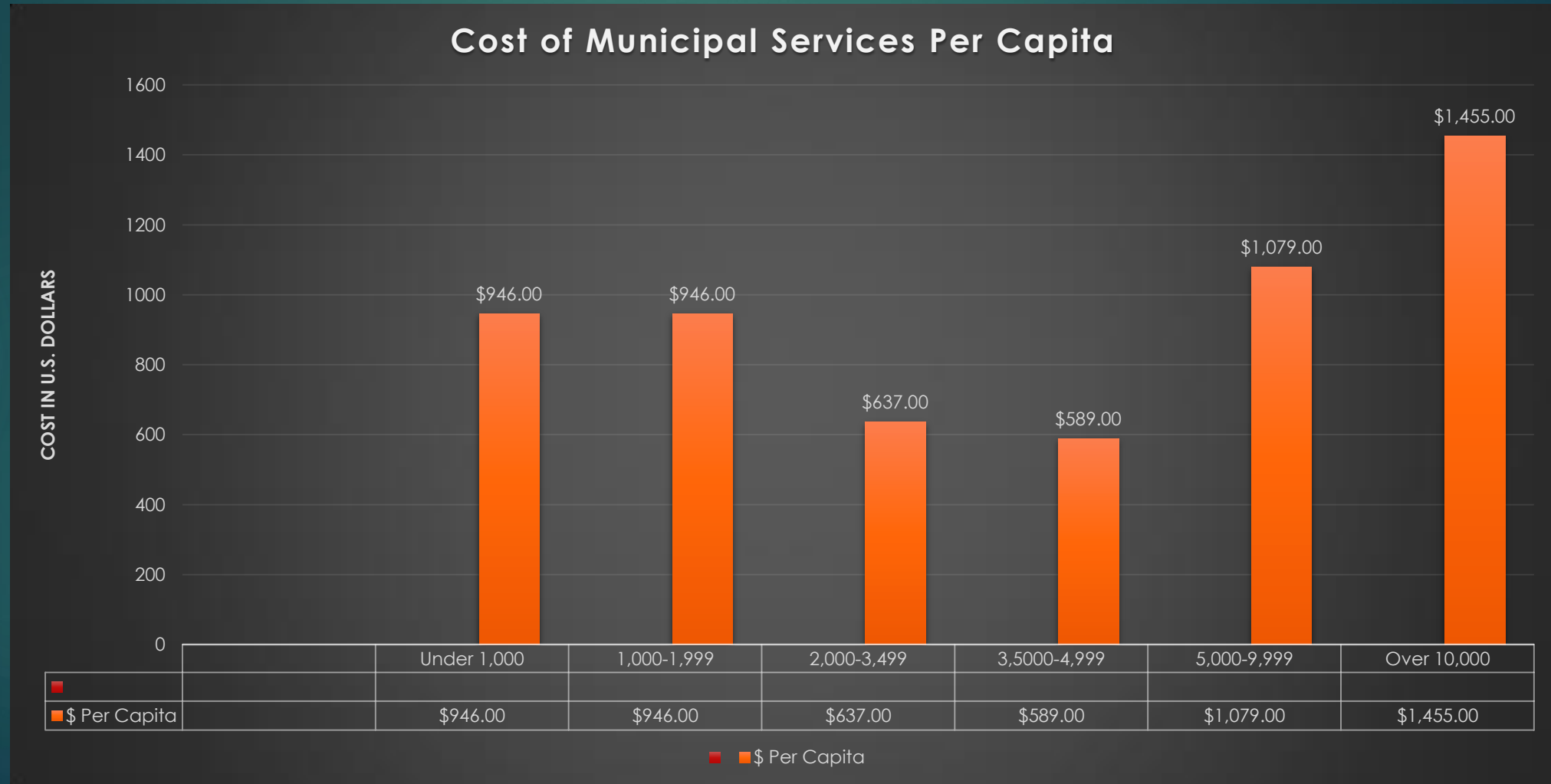
	Population Category						Total
	Over 10,000	5,000-9,999	3,500-4,999	2,000-3,499	1,000-1,999	Under 1,000	
Public Safety	\$394	\$284	\$137	\$137	\$110	\$169	\$253
Road Maintenance & Repair	216	205	161	220	248	372	222
Water/Sewer & Solid Waste	225	156	73	72	110	97	148
Employee Benefits	224	147	68	60	40	71	133
Administration	120	112	83	95	120	195	115
Parks, Recreation & Libraries	105	97	37	30	18	22	69
Economic Development	75	21	11	17	13	18	36
Codes/Human Services	97	57	19	6	32	2	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,455</b>	<b>\$1,079</b>	<b>\$589</b>	<b>\$637</b>	<b>\$692</b>	<b>\$946</b>	<b>\$1,026</b>

Source: 2015 Fiscal Reports Raymond-Gray

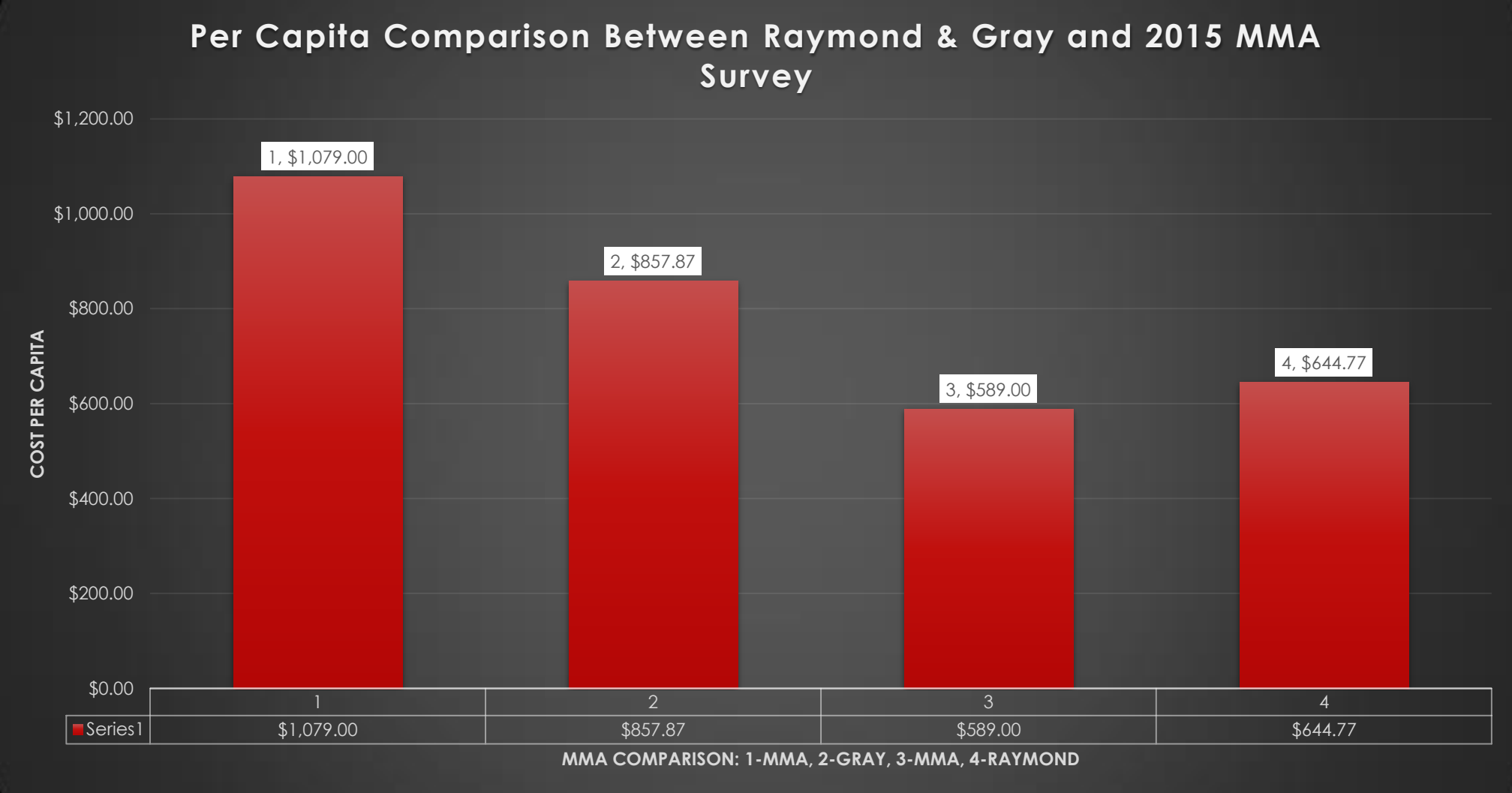




Raymond is moving toward the **\$1,079** Per Capita Category Average. Secession will help speed that up for the Citizens of Raymond.



Source: 2015 Financial Reports of Gray and Raymond. 2015 MMA Survery.



# Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Factor

- ▶ Does someone living on Gore Road that needs a hammer go to Windham or Gray?
- ▶ Whose to say? Data suggests Gray is a strong possibility.
- ▶ I know Gray residents who live in the Village Area that travel to the Good Life Market in Raymond for specialty food items. Key theme: Regionalism.
- ▶ The Idea behind the LRCC is the Regionalism because the Towns all have strengths and weaknesses.

# Time in Minutes from Raymond Town Hall to other Community Town Halls.

## **Travel Time in Minutes** (source: Bing/Google)

13 min.

**Raymond to Gray**

21min.

Raymond to Windham

12 min.

Raymond to Naples

13 min

Raymond to Casco

Time on The Bus is an issue in many communities. Forest Lake, West Gray, etc..





Fire & Rescue and Law Enforcement in Maine is best served by Mutual Aid. (Maine is a big state.)



# What is really causing secession effort?

Crying secession in Maine: How state policies fuel municipal division

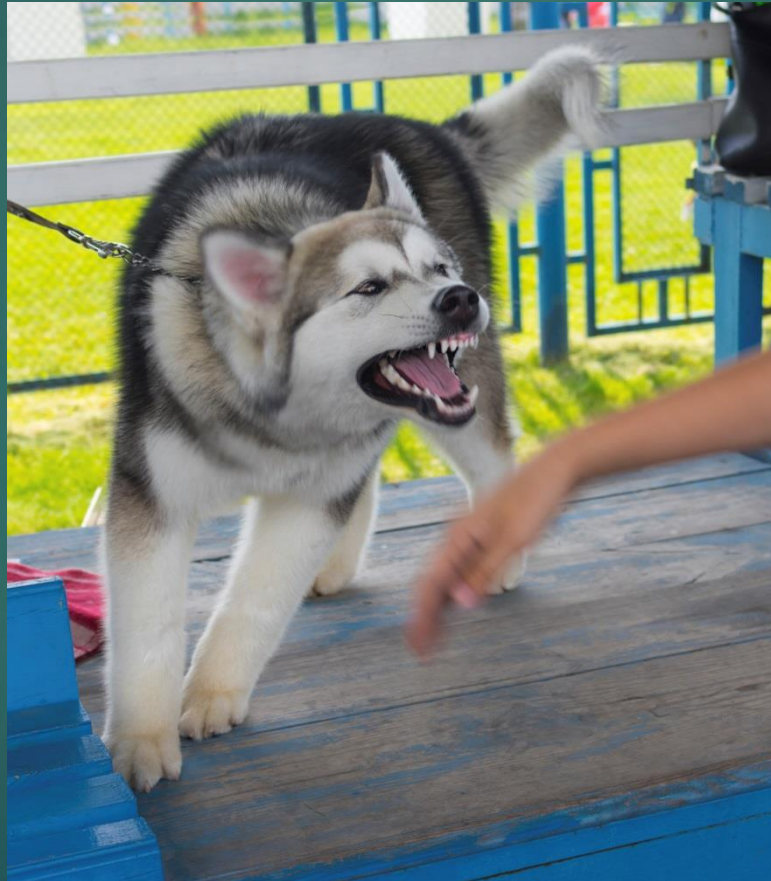
(<http://bangordailynews.com/2015/03/20/the-point/crying-secession-in-maine-how-state-policies-fuel-municipal-division/>)



Citizens want the services provided by Service Center Communities but do not want to Pay to for the service. State Funding Formulas provide the incentive.



State Policies cause citizens seeking secession to bite the hand that feeds them.



Representative Austin. is there geographic region in district 67 that has more active town volunteers in Political positions?

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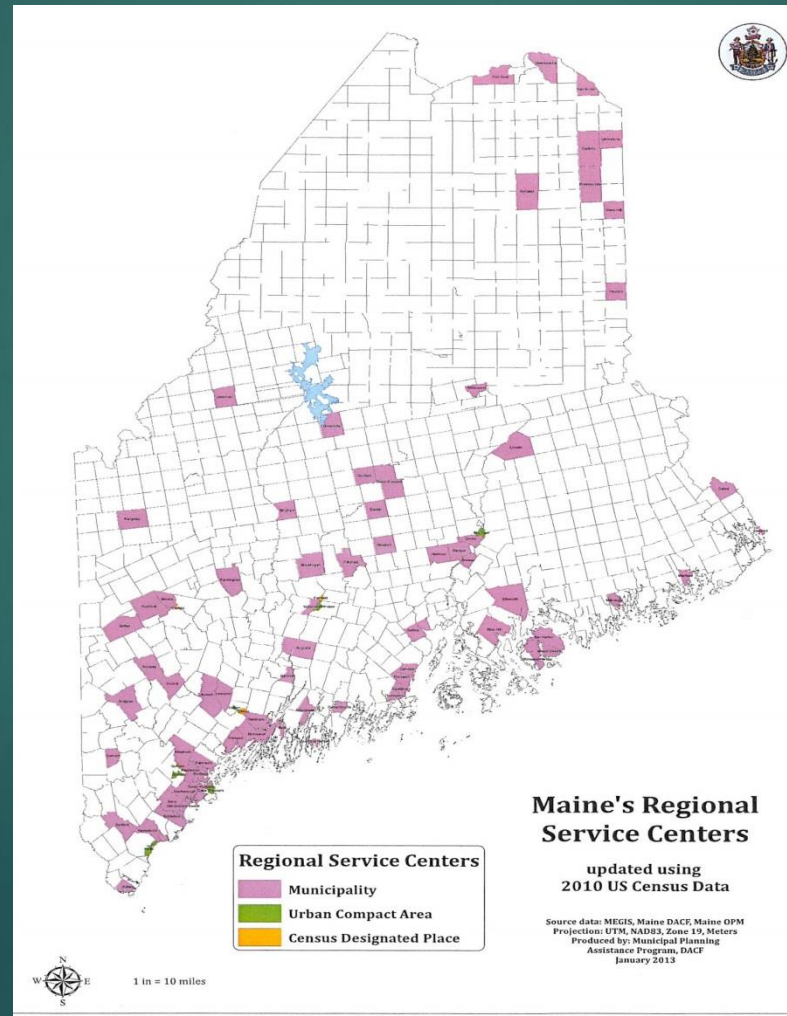
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# What does the Data say?

- ▶ Gray has a significant Pull Factor for Raymond Residents and Gray Residents in that area.
- ▶ The Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce recognizes regional challenges.
- ▶ The Economic Profiles of Raymond, ME done by GPCOG October 12, 2012 validates the points about Gray. It also implies Raymond has some concerns about growth.



There are 217 adjacent communities next to Service Center Communities. That is something the legislature should keep in mind! Which one will be next?



Identity crisis compared to....? It is a homogenous population it is not like they are Quakers or Native Americans that share cultural attributes.



Jackalope

# Key Point

- ▶ In any Town there will be citizens who think they are not getting the value out of their property tax because they live in a less densely populated section of Town. (Lack of convenience, the price of privacy.)
- ▶ In any Town there will be citizens who think they are not getting the value out of their property tax because they live in a more densely populated section of Town and deal with traffic, sirens, schools, and economic activity.

( The price of convenience.)

- ▶ Two Sides of the Same Coin!





Representative Austin, the evidence clearly does not support secession.

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