

# Maine Policy Review

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# FORUMS

## The Celtic Tiger: Ireland's Economic Success Story

*In his keynote address at the June 1999 Governor's Economic Development Conference, Kieran McGowan identified four key factors in Ireland's economic transformation: a young and highly-educated workforce, an aggressive and well-funded inward investment program, European Union transfers, and a partnership approach to economic planning. He points out that Maine has many of the right ingredients to foster similar economic growth, but also says achieving success requires coordinated action and the will to stay the course over the long-term. This article is an edited version of McGowan's remarks at last year's conference.*

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## The Irish Education System and the Economy

*The educational roots of Ireland's economic miracle stretch back more than thirty years. At last year's Governor's Economic Development Conference, Paddy McDonagh outlined Ireland's educational strategies and investments of the past thirty years; as he pointed out, Ireland recognized long ago that the development of the education and skills of people is as important a source of wealth as the accumulation of more traditional forms of capital. This article summarizes McDonagh's conference remarks and describes some more recent initiatives embarked upon since the conference.*

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## Whither Maine's Population

*Demographic changes affect many aspects of a state's economic and community well-being. In this article, the authors describe some of the potential impacts of Maine's changing population. In particular, they note that Maine's population is aging, the percentage of Maine youth is declining faster than in other New England states, and that rates of growth remain relatively slow throughout most counties in Maine. The authors describe each of these trends and discuss the implications for Maine's labor force, education and health care systems.*

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## Higher Education in Maine: A Conversation with Sally Vamvakias

*In 1999 Sally Vamvakias stepped down as chair of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, a position she held for the last four years of her ten-year tenure. In this interview, conducted for Maine Policy Review by Luisa S. Deprez, Vamvakias talks about the change that electronic forms of knowledge transmission are bringing to higher education, and lays out the challenges to the University of Maine System as we begin a new century.*

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## Chronic Disease: The Epidemic of the Twentieth Century

*When it comes to public health, we have much to celebrate but more to consider as we begin a new century. One hundred years ago only one-in-six people died of a chronic condition; today, three-quarters of Maine people die from four chronic, and mostly preventable diseases. Unfortunately, not only does Maine have one of the nation's highest death rates due to chronic disease, it also leads the nation in the three behavioral risk factors that cause or exacerbate chronic disease. In this article, Mills first chronicles Maine's chronic disease epidemic, and second, lays out a plan for strengthening the state's disease prevention and health promotion efforts.*

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## Maine Forests: A Century of Change, 1900-2000 ...and elements of a policy change for a new century

*At the close of the nineteenth century, the state's forest area was at an all time low; landownership was changing rapidly with the emergence of new paper companies; a growing number of wildlife species were threatened; widespread unease over the future of Maine's forests was evident. Today, a similar unease is evident. To help us reflect on where we've been, where we are today, and how we might proceed in the future, Lloyd Irland presents seven different images of the Maine forest; he argues for a pragmatic approach to managing Maine's forest that equally weighs each of these different images.*

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