

# The New Demographic Reality Raises the Priority on Education in California

*With support from  
the Haynes Foundation*

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**SPPD** USC SCHOOL OF POLICY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT

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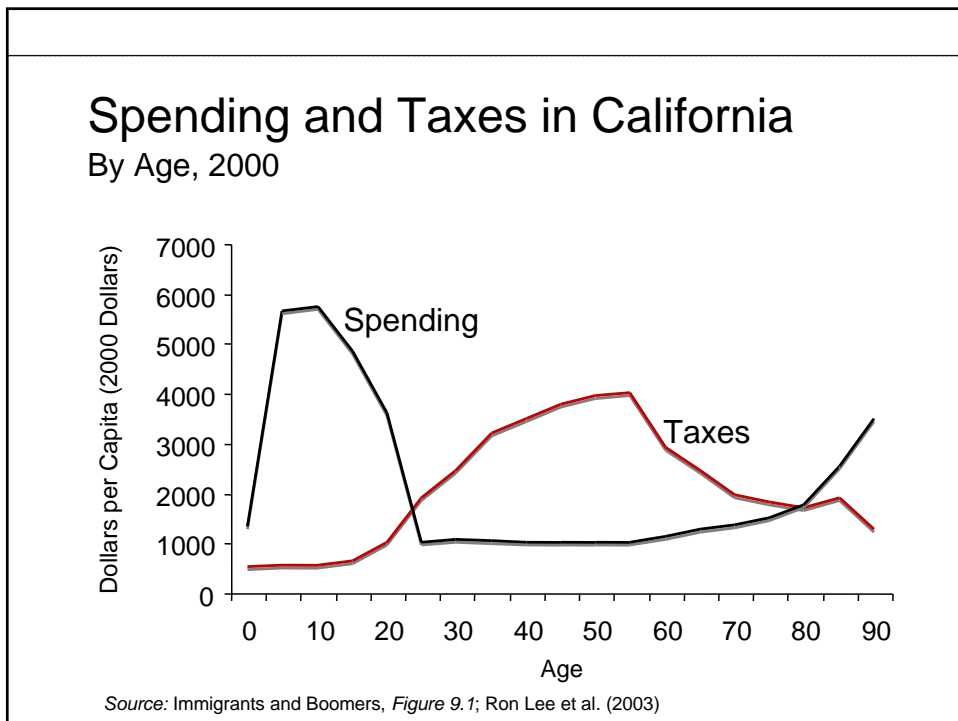
**Why the Breakdown of California?**

**The Intergenerational Solution**

**Getting People on the Same Page**

**Steps to the Repair of California**

# Why the Breakdown of California ?



| Two Narratives of Population Change   |  |
|---|--|
| DESPAIR   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whites Losing Their Majority</li> <li>• Accelerating Immigration</li> <li>• Not Invited</li> <br/> <li>• Not Assimilating</li> <br/> <li>• Not Needed</li> <br/> <li>• Too Much Population Growth</li> </ul> |  |

| Are Immigrants a Burden or a Benefit?                   |      |      |        |
|---|------|------|--------|
| Percent of White Voters who Believe Immigrants a Burden |      |      |        |
|   | 1998 | 2004 | Change |
| Liberals  | 40   | 29   | -11    |
| Conservatives   | 54   | 64   | +10    |
| Gap (L – C)   | -14  | -35  | +21    |

Source: Immigrants and Boomers, Chapter 7 & Table B.3; PPIC Statewide Survey

## Perceived Immigrant Burden Undermines Tax Support for All

Prop 55 Statewide School Bond Issue in 2004

If Conservative rather  
than Liberal 18% LESS support

*plus*

If believe taxes are  
wasted a lot 8% even LESS support

*plus*

If believe immigrants  
are a **burden** 9% even LESS support

Holding all other factors equal: controlling for differences in race, age, gender,  
children present in the family, nativity, education, income, and homeownership  
Source: *Immigrants and Boomers*, Chapter 7, Table B.5

## Rediscovery of Hope About Immigration....

The end of immigration acceleration

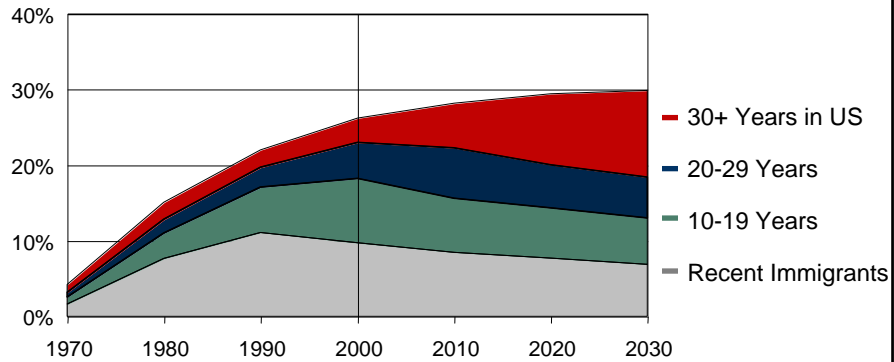
More **long-settled** immigrants

Upward mobility after longer residence

Rediscovery of immigrant contributions

## The Longer Settlement of California's Immigrant Population

Percent of Total California Population



Source: Decennial census to 1970-2000; CDF 5.0 California Demographic Futures

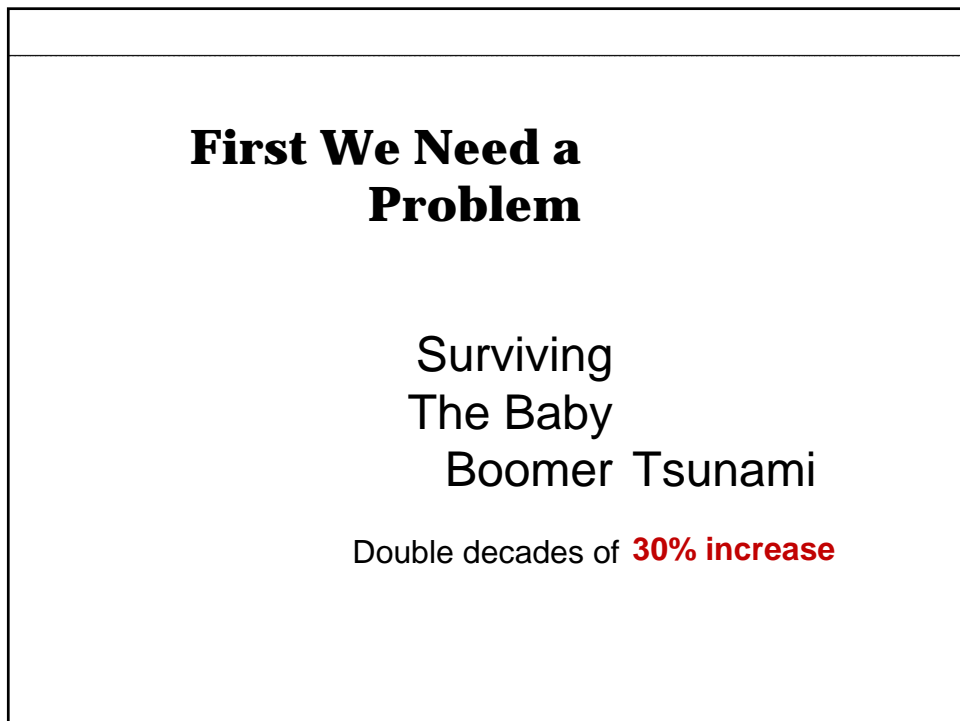
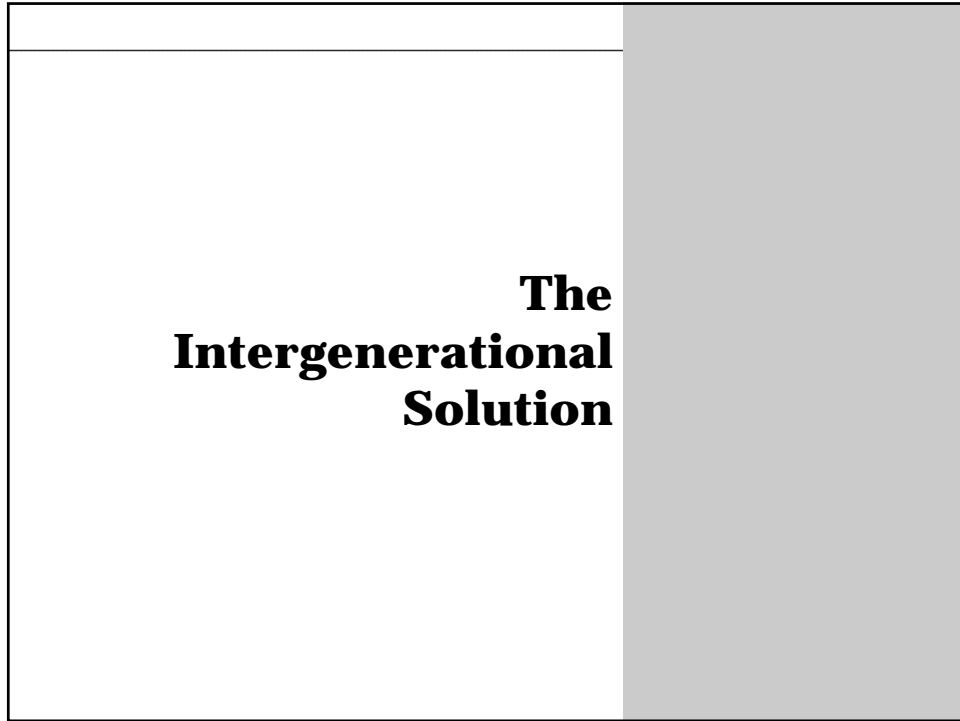
## Two Narratives of Population Change

### DESPAIR

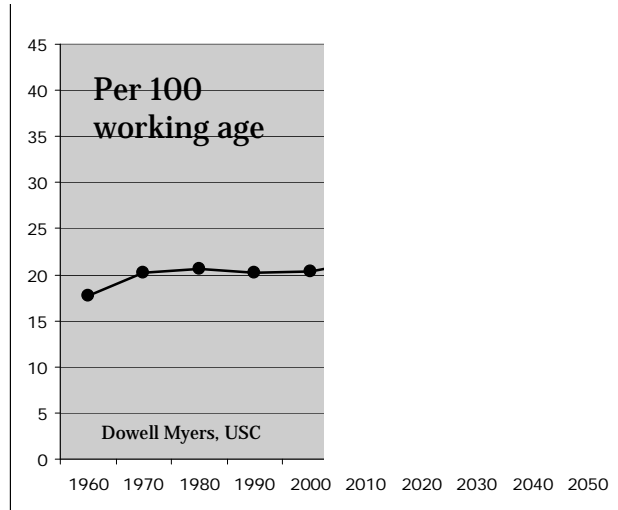
- Whites Losing Their Majority
- Accelerating Immigration
- Not Invited
- Not Assimilating
- Not Needed
- Too Much Population Growth

### HOPEFUL OUTLOOK

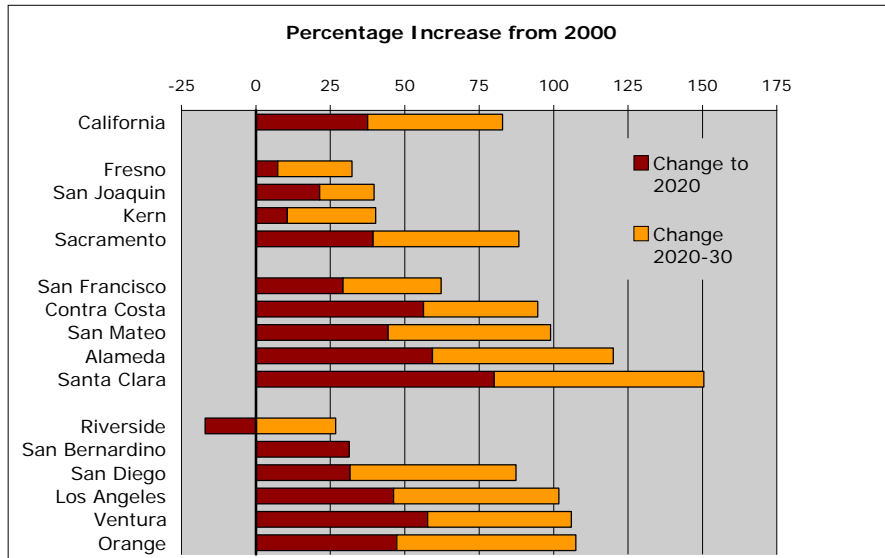
- Still Plenty of Whites, but with Aging Needs
- Steady Immigration
- Labor Volunteers
- Upwardly Mobile Immigrants
- Critical Impacts of Aging Baby Boomers
- Helps Balance the Senior Ratio



## Growing Weight of Seniors in California



## Percent Change in Senior Ratio to 2030



## The Trigger of Many Crises

- Social Security Crisis
- Medicare/Health Insurance Crisis
- Workforce Replacement Crisis
- Taxpayer Replacement Crisis
- The Home Seller Crisis
- Education and Infrastructure Crisis

## Likely Responses....

Reduced growth in GDP

Delayed retirement by seniors

Reduced or delayed senior benefits

Higher taxes

Greater reliance on immigrant workers

Rediscovery of neglected minority youth



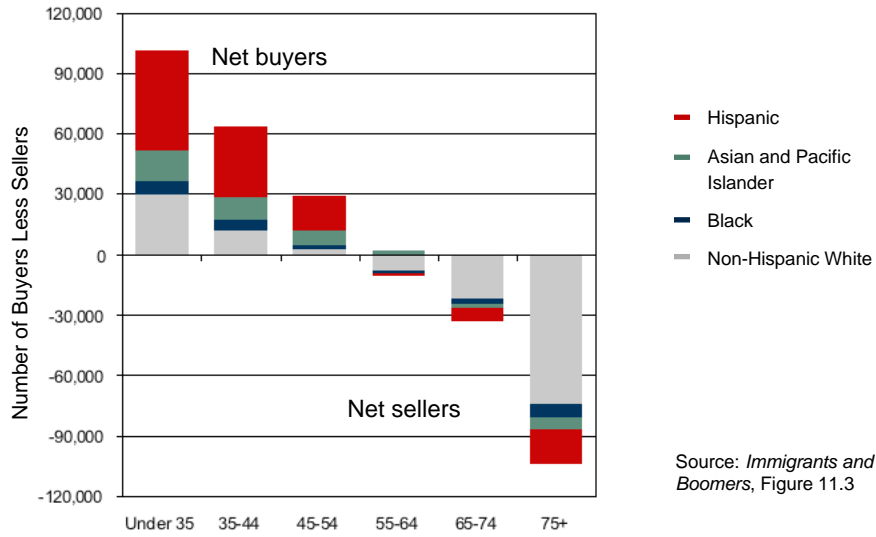
**Getting People  
on the  
Same Page**

**Instead of Older  
Folks Fighting to  
Get Back to 1970**

How Can We  
Rediscover Hope  
and Common  
Purpose Ahead ?

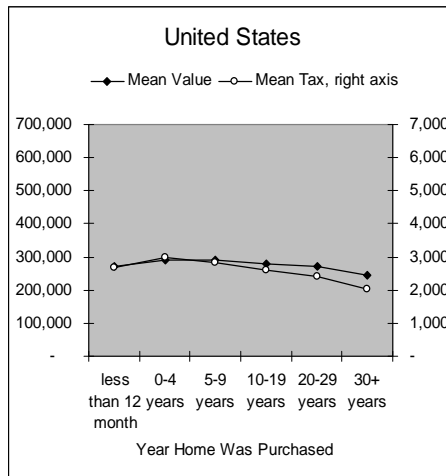
## Who's Going to Buy Your House?

Myers's Projection for California in 2020



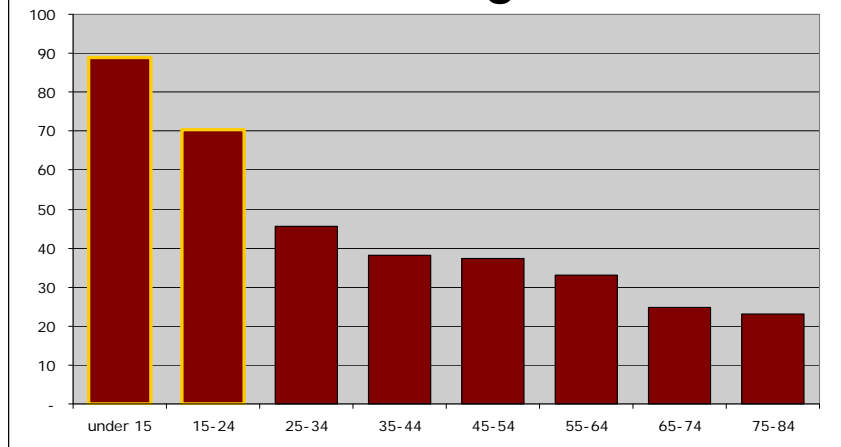
## Who's Going to Pay the Taxes?

House Values and Property Tax Payments by Acquisition Year



Source: *Myers analysis of American Community Survey 2007*

## Homegrown Share Highest for the Young

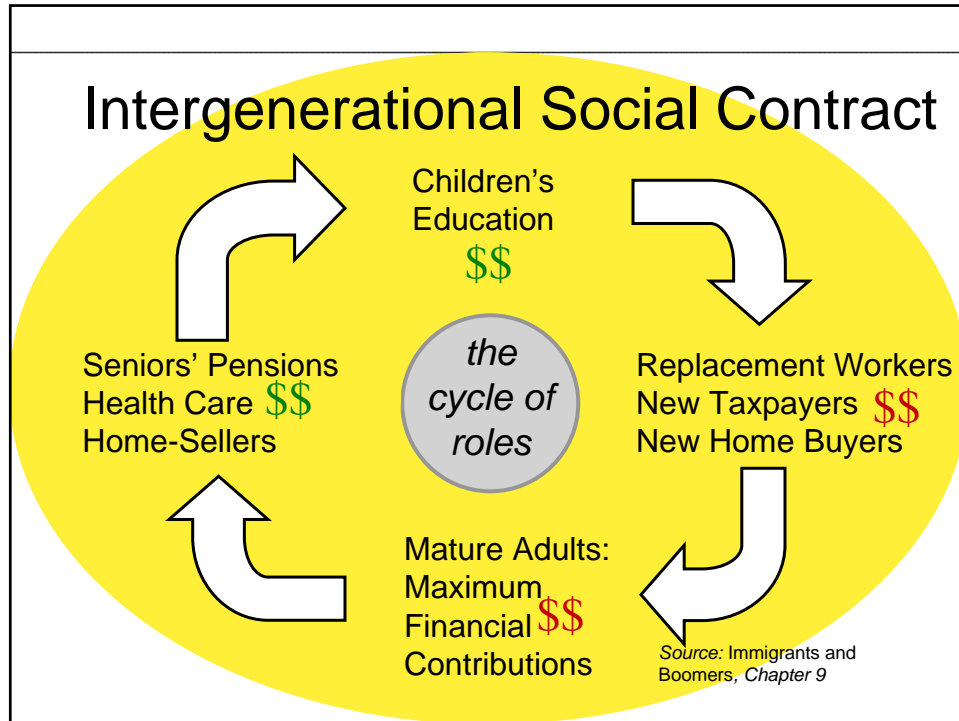


Source: Author's analysis of 1970 Census 2007 American Community Survey data

## California-Born Share of the College-Educated Workforce

|                |           |        |
|----------------|-----------|--------|
| Old pattern    | Age 55-64 | 26%    |
| New pattern    | Age 25-34 | 40%    |
| Future pattern | Age 25-34 | 70% ?? |

Source: Immigrants and Boomers, Table 10.2



## Barriers to this Shared Understanding

Education of other people's kids is not **felt** to be in voters' self-interest.

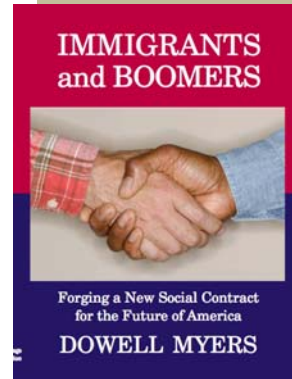
People cannot see change over time, especially not in the future, so we need to help them quantify and visualize.

## Thank You

For more information  
Google "popdynamics"

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2007  
Thomas & Znanecki  
Award