

New England Public Policy Center's 3rd Annual Conference

Speaker Bios

Richard Dye

Professor of Economics, Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago

Richard Dye is a professor with the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also a visiting fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Ernest Johnson Professor of Economics Emeritus at Lake Forest College in Illinois. His research and public outreach activities focus on state and local government finance and include studies of the impact of property tax limitations; the effects of tax increment financing on local economic development; residential housing teardowns and land values; the growth and stability of different state revenue sources; property tax responses to state aid cuts; and the impact of property tax classification on business activity. Dr. Dye has published in the *National Tax Journal*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Growth and Change*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *State Tax Notes*, and elsewhere. He also served for four years as chair of the Department of Economics and Business at Lake Forest College and a year as president of the Illinois Economic Association. Dr. Dye received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

Mary Clare Higgins

Mayor, City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Mary Clare Higgins is serving her fourth term as mayor of Northampton. She just completed a term as the president of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, a state-wide municipal organization that advocates on behalf of cities and towns in the Massachusetts legislature, the executive branch, regulatory bodies, and the courts. Mayor Higgins has extensive experience in early childhood education, having served as a teacher and daycare program director. She served as union representative for the United Auto Workers local, where she represented day care and human service workers in western Massachusetts. Mayor Higgins also served as a Commissioner on the Northampton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, and was a founding member of the Northampton Community Land Trust. She holds a B.A. in education and public policy from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Leslie Kirwan

Secretary, Executive Office for Administration and Finance, State of Massachusetts

Leslie Kirwan joined the Patrick-Murray Administration as Secretary of Administration and Finance with over 23 years of leadership and impact in state, local, and transportation finance. In her most recent job as chief financial officer at the Massachusetts Port Authority, Ms. Kirwan led the most significant financial recovery among U.S. airports in response to 9/11. Secretary Kirwan also served as Undersecretary and Chief of Staff of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance from 1995 to 1997. Prior to joining the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, she spent over ten years as a manager in the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services, where she led Division staff in execution of key responsibilities including: overseeing local budget management; local aid analysis and distribution; coordinating state response to local financial emergencies; supervision of local accounting and cash management practices; and municipal law assistance. Her work with cities and towns received recognition including two awards from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. Secretary Kirwan holds

an A.B. from Harvard-Radcliffe and a Masters of Public Policy degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

John Piotti

Representative, State House of Maine

Representative John Piotti serves in the Maine's citizen legislature, where he chairs the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and the Special Select Committee on Maine's Future Prosperity. He has been a strong advocate for sweeping changes in Maine's economic development and tax policies. Outside of the legislature, John is executive director of Maine Farmland Trust. He has 20 over years professional experience with economic development, natural resource, and environmental issues. His numerous board memberships include service as a founding director of GrowSmart Maine, an organization which commissioned the Brookings Institution to conduct a major study on Maine's future. In 2005, John was honored as one of only eight Americans to receive the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship, which he used to study sustainable development in Sweden and agricultural policy within the European Union. John holds three degrees from MIT: in engineering, public policy, and management.

Andrew Reschovsky

Professor of Public Affairs and Applied Economics, Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Andrew Reschovsky is a Professor of Public Affairs and Applied Economics at the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently serving as a visiting fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Reschovsky's research focuses on tax policy and intergovernmental fiscal relations. His current research projects include the design and evaluation of tax policies to increase the rate of home ownership for low-income and minority households, a pilot study on improving the fiscal health of Indian cities, the measurement of fiscal disparities in selected U.S. metropolitan areas, and an evaluation of fiscal decentralization in South Africa. His most recent articles have appeared in a number of academic journals, including *Public Finance Review*, *Public Budgeting and Finance*, *National Tax Journal*, *Comparative Education Review*, and *Education Finance and Policy*. Dr. Reschovsky has worked in the Office of Tax Analysis at the U.S. Treasury and at the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Eric Rosengren

President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Eric Rosengren took office on July 23, 2007 as the thirteenth chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, serving the First District. In 2007, he is a voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee. Dr. Rosengren has held senior positions within the Federal Reserve in both the bank supervision and research functions. In 2000, he was named Senior Vice President and head of the Supervision and Regulation Department. He assumed the additional title of Chief Discount Officer in 2003. While in the bank supervision function, he obtained significant domestic and international regulatory experience related to the Basel II Capital Accord. In his work as an economist, Dr. Rosengren has made the link between financial problems and the real economy a focus of his research, and he has published extensively on macroeconomics, international banking, bank supervision, and risk management. He has been an author on over 100 articles and papers on economics and finance, including articles in many of the top economics and finance journals. Dr. Rosengren received his B.A. from Colby College and his M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Gary Sasse

Executive Director, Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council

Gary Sasse has served as Executive Director of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council since 1977. In this position he has been responsible for the development, administration, and promotion of an applied research and public education program for a broad range of fiscal, public policy, and organizational issues. Prior to coming to the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, he served as Associate Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Memphis, Tennessee. He has served as the Staff Director of the Governor's Commission to Study the Financial Operations of State and Local Government; Fiscal Advisor to the former Governor of Rhode Island; Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Modernize the Rhode Island General Assembly; and Co-Chair of the Goals 2000 Panel, which developed a comprehensive education reform strategy for Rhode Island. Mr. Sasse received his M.P.A. from the University of Missouri, Columbia and has a B.A. in government from Florida State University.

David Sjoquist

Professor of Economics, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University
David Sjoquist is a Professor of Economics in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, and holder of the Dan E. Sweat Distinguished Chair in Educational and Community Policy. He serves as Director of Domestic Programs and Director of the Fiscal Research Center in the Andrew Young School. Dr. Sjoquist is a specialist in the field of public finance, particularly state and local public finance, and has an extensive interest in urban economics, especially local economic development and central city poverty, and in educational policy. He has written over 100 professional articles, book chapters and books, and published numerous reports. He is also a member of the American Economic Association, the Southern Economic Association, and the National Tax Association, of which he is a past member of the Board of Directors, and serves on the Board of Editors of the *National Tax Journal*. Currently, he is on the board of the Atlanta Regional Commission. Dr. Sjoquist received his B.A. degree in economics from the University of St. Thomas (formerly College of St. Thomas) in St. Paul, Minnesota. He holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Minnesota.

Robert Tannenwald

Vice President and Director, New England Public Policy Center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Robert Tannenwald is a Vice President of the Boston Fed and the Director of its New England Public Policy Center. Dr. Tannenwald has published extensively in the field of public finance. He is President of the National Tax Association, the nation's leading organization of tax professionals dedicated to advancing the understanding of the theory and practice of public finance. He also serves on the Board of the New England Economic Partnership. He has been a member and/or research director of four different state tax commissions, including the Massachusetts Special Commission on Tax Reform (1984-86); the Massachusetts Special Commission on Business Tax Policy (1992-1993); the New Hampshire Commission on Education Funding (2000); and, most recently, the Massachusetts Study Commission on Corporate Taxation. His B.A. is from Dartmouth College, and his Ph.D. is from Harvard University.

Bo Zhao

Economist, New England Public Policy Center, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Bo Zhao is an Economist in the New England Public Policy Center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He specializes in urban and regional economics and public economics. His research interests focus on state and local public finance, housing markets, and fair housing and lending. Dr. Zhao has been serving on the Municipal Aid Subcommittee of the Municipal Finance Task Force since 2006. He was selected by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as one of the 20 young scholars nationwide to participate in the 2005 Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Urban Economics*. Dr. Zhao earned a Ph.D. in economics and an M.S. in applied statistics from Syracuse University.