



AND

NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC POLICY CENTER  
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON

## Critical Issues for the Fiscal Health of New England Cities and Towns

*A small interactive seminar targeted to municipal officials in New England cities and towns with populations of 10,000 or more and to executives of municipal associations in the New England states.*

### **Thursday, December 1, 2016**

*Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA*

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Reception and Dinner for participants and faculty**

### **Friday, December 2, 2016**

*Lincoln House, 113 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA*

**8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Sign-in and Continental Breakfast**

**8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Introduction**

- *Joan Youngman*, Senior Fellow and Chair, Department of Valuation and Taxation, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- *Robert Triest*, Vice President and Director, New England Public Policy Center, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
- **Moderator for the Day:** *Daphne A. Kenyon*, Resident Fellow in Tax Policy, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

**9:00 – 10:35 a.m. Preparing for the Next Recession**

- *Robert Triest*, Vice President and Director, New England Public Policy Center, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, “Regional Economic Update”
- *Susanne Greschner*, Chief, Rhode Island Department of Revenue, Division of Municipal Finance, “Rhode Island’s Fiscal Stability Act and New Fiscal Transparency Portal”
- *Mary Murphy*, Manager, The Pew Charitable Trusts, “Detecting Local Fiscal Stress”

**10:35 – 10:55 a.m. Break**

**10:55 – 11:55 a.m. Property Tax Challenges**

- *Catherine Collins*, Senior Research Associate and Associate Director, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, “Recent Trends in Property Tax Base Erosion Across the U.S.: Are They Headed to New England?”
- *Adam Langley*, Senior Research Analyst, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, “Nonprofits, the Property Tax, and PILOTs in New England”

**11:55 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch**

**1:00 – 2:25 p.m. Financing Challenges, Innovations, and Reforms**

- *John Robertson*, Legislative Director, Massachusetts Municipal Association, “Best Financial Practices for New England Cities and Towns”
- *Ari Sky*, Chief Financial Officer, New Bedford, Massachusetts, “Best Practices for Funding Retirement and Benefits: Lessons from the Government Finance Officers Association and a Case Study of New Bedford”
- *Michael Ward*, Director of Municipal Services, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, “Identifying and Addressing Organizational, Operational, and Financial Challenges Facing New England Towns and Small Cities”

**2:25 – 2:45 p.m. Break**

**2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Promoting Economic Vitality: Helping Small Cities Thrive**

- *Yolanda Kodrzycki*, emeritus director, New England Public Policy Center, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, “What Research Shows about Resurgent Cities”
- *Tamar Kotelchuck*, Director, Working Cities Initiative, Regional & Community Outreach, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, “Working Cities: Lessons Learned and Plans for Expansion”

**3:45 p.m. Adjourn**