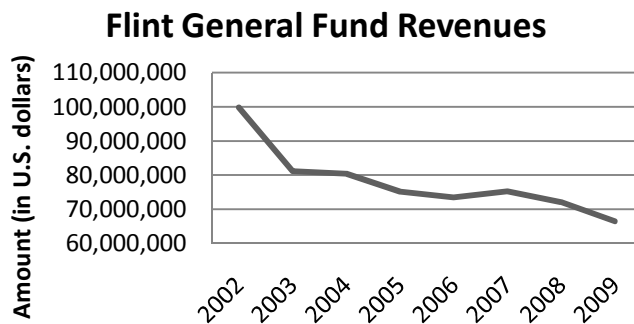


**The *people* of Flint get to decide Flint's future.** Today, Flint residents hope that in the future the city will have good jobs, exceptional public schools, and safe neighborhoods. We also see business innovation, better environmental practices, expanded universities, and more arts and culture in Flint's future. As citizens of Flint, we get to answer the question: what will be Flint's future? We might want safety, culture, opportunity, fun, innovation, beauty, prosperity. The list is limitless. Ultimately, it is *our* decision.

**We have to get the city out of its current decline.** Flint struggles today in terms of three of the biggest indicators of a city's vitality: crime, education, and economy. To create a better future for Flint, we must fully understand the extent of the city's decline. Then, we must choose not to accept it. Flint's crime level is higher than most Michigan cities. In 2006 Flint had more murders than Ann Arbor, Lansing, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, and Traverse City combined. Flint residents need better opportunities for advanced education. Only 11% of adults in our community have a bachelor's degree or higher.

**Flint's tax base is eroding to an unprecedented low.** Income and property taxes paid in Flint go to the city's General Fund. The General Fund pays for important city services, including the police and fire departments. General Fund revenues are derived mostly from taxes. Flint's General Fund revenues have declined steadily since 2002. This trend is expected to continue in the future:

- By 2011, General Fund revenues will be below \$50 million, half of what they were in the 1980s and 1990s
- By 2016, General Fund revenues will fall to half of what they are today



The devastation of the city's tax base is a result of Flint's marginal economic activity. The city's economy does not support job creation. Almost 14% of Flint residents are unemployed, a number double the U.S. average. Economic activity has left the city at an accelerated pace since 2002:

- Flint has lost \$1 million in economic activity every day since 2002
- Roughly 5 jobs have been lost and 5 houses have been foreclosed in Flint every day since 2002

Without having plans in place to change course, the city's decline will continue.

**Yes, we *can* choose another path.**

**The time to change Flint's future is now.** Bringing economic activity back to the city is critical to creating an improved Flint in the future. Creating a strong 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy in Flint will give Flint residents jobs and expand the city's tax base. As citizens of Flint, we must push our elected officials to establish policies which will encourage investment in the city.

We've developed an agenda to create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Flint economy:

- **Diversify the Flint economy**
- **Make Flint the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economic Core of Genesee County**
- **Take a fresh approach to job development by concentrating on emerging industries**

Flint's difficult decline can be stopped by moving quickly to create a city of economic opportunity. As citizens of Flint, we have the power to create a city that we and our children can know as a success, not a failure. If we work together with a common sense of urgency to create change, the city can bolster unemployment, improve education, and guarantee safety for all of its residents. Together, let's change Flint's future.

**Democracy and economic prosperity are linked.** Regional economic stability requires successful local level democracy built on trust. One of the best ways for citizens to create change is to participate in the local democratic process. Join Flint's Future Now in advocating for a sustainable and prosperous Flint economy.

### ***3 Ways to Take Action Now***

1. Communicate with your municipal, county, and state representatives about the importance of sustainability, with specific attention to the city's potential for improved energy efficiency, a transition to the use of renewable energy sources, and the development of emerging green industries.
2. Urge County Commissioners to direct the Metropolitan Planning Commission to put together a Strategic Community Committee to work on the federally required Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy with a focus on diversification and innovative approaches.
3. Direct the Flint City Council to require monthly reports from the City of Flint's Department of Community and Economic Development on the use, performance, and balance of all federal and state grants and loan funds.

The effort starts by bringing in new ideas and a fresh perspective, giving residents a way to be involved in the planning process and focused on the accountability of public funds. **Please contact Flint's Future Now at [info@flintsfuturenow.org](mailto:info@flintsfuturenow.org) to get involved in our dialogues and advocacy.**



Main Office: 940 South Grand Traverse Street  
Flint, MI

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 350  
Flint, MI 48501

Email: [info@flintsfuturenow.org](mailto:info@flintsfuturenow.org)

Please visit our website at  
[www.flintsfuturenow.org](http://www.flintsfuturenow.org)

Download our full report on Flint's  
economic profile and future potential at  
[www.flintsfuturenow.org](http://www.flintsfuturenow.org)