



# Beyond Megalopolis: Exploring America's New “Megapolitan” Geography

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# Main Findings

- 200 Million Total Residents—Or France, Germany, and the UK Combined
- Two in Three People—Just a Fifth of the US Land in Lower 48 States
- Ten Megacities—Six in East/Four in West
- Northeast the Most Populous with Over 50 million People



# Megapolitan Area Criteria

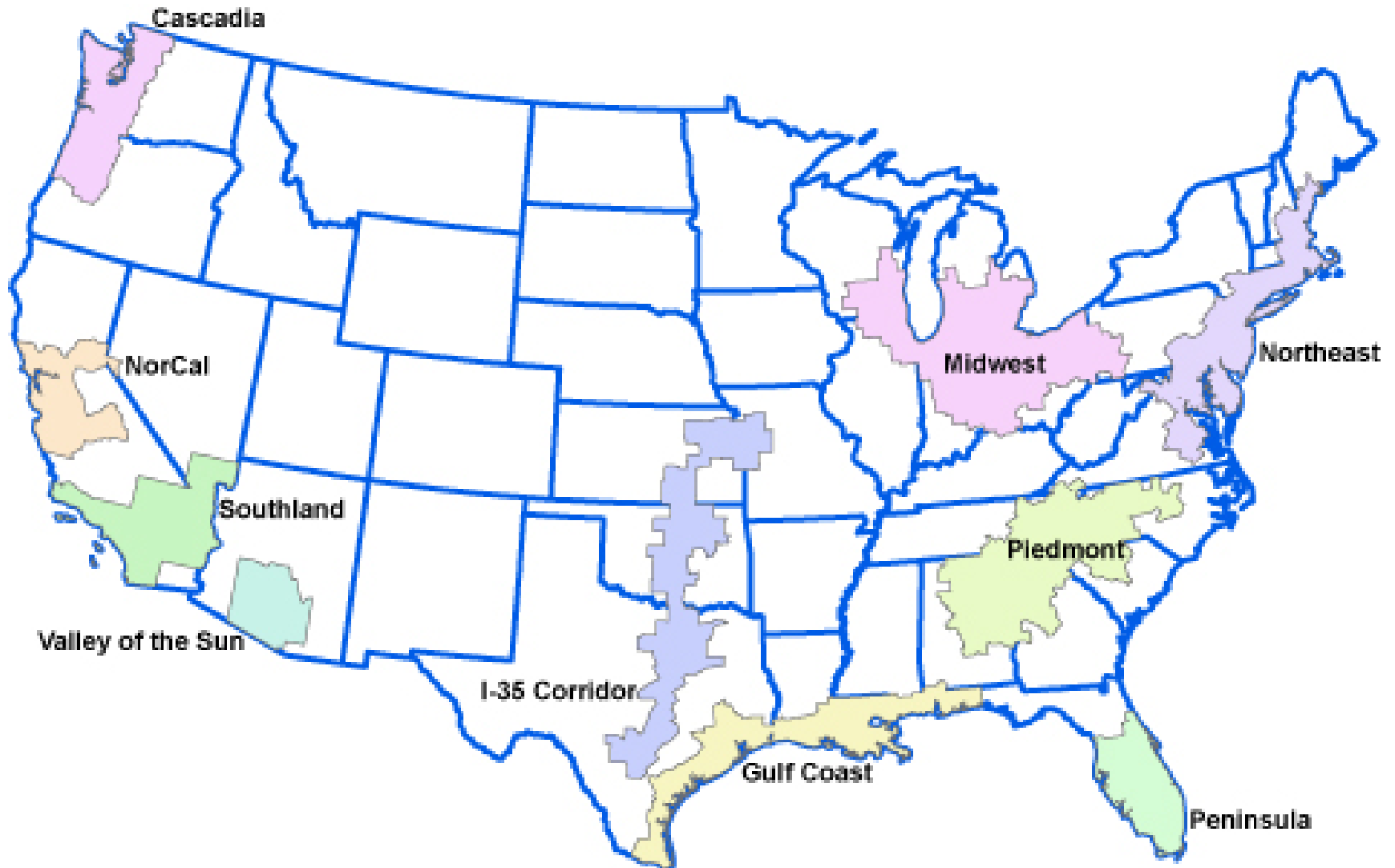
- Based on Census Bureau geography
- Each one projected to have more than 10 million residents by 2040
- Derive from economic, physical, and cultural characteristics
- Produces a usable geography for large-scale planning



# Mega Counties

- Megas are Made Out of Counties
- Counties Give You (For Example):
  - Census Long-Form Data
  - Construction Projections
  - Historical Analysis
  - Election Results

# Megapolitan Areas







# Megapolitan Populations

<b>Megapolitan Areas</b>	<b>2003 Population</b>
Northeast	50,427,921
Midwest	40,082,288
Southland	22,173,291
Piedmont	19,318,992
I-35 Corridor	15,315,317
Peninsula	13,708,165
NorCal	12,024,173
Gulf Coast	12,064,600
Cascadia	7,412,248
Valley of the Sun	4,486,206
Megapolitan Total	197,013,201
United States	290,788,976

# Mega-Politics Presidential Vote

Megapolitan	Total Votes	Percent Bush	Percent Kerry
Cascadia	3,245,083	43.1%	56.9%
Gulf Coast	4,267,490	59.0%	41.0%
I-35 Corridor	5,853,855	60.1%	39.9%
Midwest	18,052,289	48.9%	51.1%
NorCal	3,583,677	39.0%	61.0%
Northeast	28,483,196	44.7%	55.3%
Peninsula	5,923,213	50.1%	49.9%
Piedmont	7,779,005	59.6%	40.4%
Southland	11,390,357	41.8%	58.2%
Valley of the Sun	1,296,845	55.0%	45.0%
<b>Megapolitan Total</b>	<b>89,875,010</b>	<b>48.4%</b>	<b>51.6%</b>
<b>US Total</b>	<b>121,068,715</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>

# Mega-Politics Congress

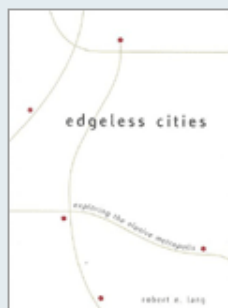
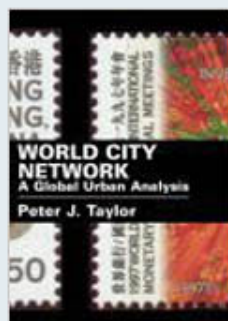
<b>Megapolitan Area</b>	<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>Number of Republican Seats</b>	<b>Number of Democratic Seats</b>
Cascadia	12	2	10
Gulf Coast	22	10	12
I-35 Corridor	31	18	13
Midwest	71	42	29
NorCal	22	7	15
Northeast	87	33	54
Peninsula	22	16	6
Piedmont	39	24	15
Southland	35	16	19
Valley of the Sun	8	6	2
Megapolitan Total	343	169	174
US Total	435	227	205

# Megapolitan vs. National Growth

	<b>2005-2040 Megapolitan Growth</b>	<b>2005-2040 National Growth</b>	<b>Megapolitan Percent Share of Growth</b>
<b>Demographics</b>			
Population	83 Million	118 Million	70.34
Housing Units	32 Million	45 Million	71.11
Jobs	64 Million	93 Million	68.82
<b>Construction</b>			
Residential Expenditures	10 Trillion	14 Trillion	71.43
Non-Residential Expenditures	23 Trillion	29 Trillion	79.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>33 Trillion</b>	<b>43 Trillion</b>	<b>76.74</b>



## New Publications



## ■ MOST RECENT RESEARCH

### "New Metropolis Counties: Suburbs of Suburbs"

Authors: Meghan Zimmerman Gough and Robert Lang

One of the key trends in the nation's urban spatial structure during the second half of the 20th century has been the shift toward decentralized growth. Much of this growth and change occurs in fast-growing counties near the edges of their metropolitan areas, in what the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech calls "New Metropolis Counties."

[- read full paper -](#)

### "Edgeless Cities: Examining the Noncentered Metropolis"

Authors: Robert E. Lang and Jennifer LeFurgy

Edgeless Cities, a form of sprawling office development that never reached the scale, density, or cohesiveness of Edge Cities, now account for the bulk of the office space found outside downtowns. This article looks at the evolving geography of office space in 13 of the

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February 24, 2004

## ■ IN THE NEWS

### 2/24/2004 - This whole "boomburb" thing - *San Diego Magazine*

The groundwork for Chula Vista's "boomburb" status was laid years ago, when the city bet on the future and annexed thousands of privately owned acres to the east. The city's growing pains have been eased because it learned from the experiences of its northern neighbors about how to work with developers. All sides learned there's a cost to planning to ensure that traffic, commerce, schools, water and amenities are taken care of before the homes go in.