



Mayor Ray Bowen 918.366.0418
Doug Enevoldsen, City Manager 918.366.4430
Trish Richey, Director of Economic Development 918.366.0444

CENSUS COUNT CONFIRMS BIXBY'S STATUS AS A HIGH GROWTH COMMUNITY WITH A VERY POSITIVE DEMOGRAPHIC

The recently released 2010 Census counts contain some very interesting information, confirming the city of Bixby's reputation as a very high growth community with a very positive demographic. These facts, along with Bixby's high quality of schools, status as a very safe community with a stable, progressive government, a strong chamber of commerce, and very attractive quality of life, continue to make Bixby a top choice for people and businesses looking to relocate to the Tulsa metro area in NE Oklahoma.

1. Bixby was one of the fastest growing cities in the state of Oklahoma this past decade, and second fastest growing in the Tulsa metro region, having grown by 57%.
2. Bixby's population is estimated to be approaching 22,000, now the 20th largest city in the state, having moved up from 32nd.
3. Bixby has a very positive demographic, and features a very attractive quality of life. Its excellent school system is one of its major attractions, along with its quality neighborhoods, friendly small town feel, with many community amenities, and significant commercial development potential, including along the Arkansas River.
4. Bixby participates in the diversified Tulsa regional economy and labor market, which is recognized nationally for its performance:
 - a. Greater Tulsa selected No. 1 place to live in the U.S. (Relocate America 2009)
 - b. No. 1 state for entrepreneurship (Kaufman Foundation 2010)
 - c. No. 1 metro for cost of living (Business Facilities 2010)
 - d. No. 3 state for corporate tax environment (Area Development 2010)
 - e. No. 4 state for employment (Business Facilities 2010)
 - f. No. 4 state for workforce development (Area Development 2010)
 - g. No. 7 Strongest U.S. metro economy (Business Week 2009)
5. Bixby's percentage of citizens holding B.S. degrees or higher is very high, (at 38%, more than 2/3rds higher than statewide average). Earlier this year, Bixby was pleased to become home to Southern Nazarene University's new Northeast Oklahoma branch campus.
6. Bixby has the highest median home values in the Tulsa Metro Region (at \$168,500, is 70% higher than the state as a whole).

7. Bixby has the highest Per Capita Income in the Tulsa Metro Region, (at \$34,004, is 51% higher than state as a whole).
8. And the growth continues! Last year, while most cities saw declines in # of building permits, Bixby's grew by 22%, the highest growth rate of any city in the Tulsa metro region.
9. The Bixby Public Schools district is one of the fastest growing in the state. In 2010, voters approved by an overwhelming majority a multi-year \$62,000,000 bond issue for the construction and renovation of school buildings. Two new schools are now under construction, an elementary school on 131st between Garnett and 129th, and a new middle school on Mingo between 151st and 161st.
10. This award-winning school system boasts excellent state test scores, outstanding activity programs, such as is state champion marching band, and high achieving athletic teams, all lending credence to its slogan as "Simply the Best".
11. Featuring a stable, progressive city government, Bixby has a very low crime rate – a recent report confirmed that Bixby was again the safest city in Oklahoma for communities its size.
12. City voters this spring approved by overwhelming majorities a \$10 million General Obligation bond issue designed to address critical traffic safety, quality of life and public safety needs of our growing community, without raising taxes. Standard & Poor's assigned an "AA" rating with stable outlook to the Bixby bonds. Only one city in Oklahoma has a better G.O. bond rating.
13. Bixby has a dynamic Chamber of Commerce which has experienced a very high growth rate. Recently recognized as one of the top 10 chambers its size in the nation.
14. Bixby's new 100 acre Bentley youth sports park, just recognized for top design in the state by the Oklahoma Recreation Sports Society, connects to an extensive trails system.
15. The new 4,500 seat Spirit Bank Event Center regularly hosts world-class entertainment and numerous events which attract visitors from throughout the region.
16. A new 92 room Holiday Inn Express hotel opened in April, the second hotel to open in recent years.
17. A new \$20 million Class-A 248 unit apartment complex, Encore on Memorial, is now leasing.
18. Reasor's is currently constructing a new \$15M state-of-the-art grocery store to be located at 111th Street and Memorial in Bixby and is scheduled to open the Fall 2012.
19. Jim Butler Construction Co. is currently developing a \$3M mixed use project located on 121st Street east of Memorial.
20. In 2009 CNN Money.com selected Bixby as one of its Best Places to Live in America, designating it one of America's best small towns.