Honest Questions Honest Answers

Some people are saying no new taxes are necessary because "the town has survived just fine."

Are we fine?

Are we fine that our property values (most likely your largest asset) are in jeopardy because of reduced town services, under-funded schools, and the polarization of our community?

Are we fine that without the override, **67%** of our elementary classes will be over the recommended state class size limits?

Are we fine that our senior center, town library, public safety departments and youth center are operating on a shoe string budget, unable to keep up with even the most basic of services?

Are we fine that the elementary schools and middle school libraries are **CLOSED**?

Are we fine that the dramatic cuts in electives and related arts are making it difficult for our high school seniors to meet their graduation requirements?

Are we fine that our inter-library borrowing privilege is at risk due to under-staffing and under-funding?

Are we fine that a great town with enormous potential is struggling compared to our neighbors and comparable communities?

Let's redefine "fine".

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE ☑ YES FOR THE OVERRIDE...

- ☑ to protect the value of your home
- ☑ to restore some of the services to our seniors, library, police and youth
- ☑ to return class sizes in our schools to manageable levels
- ☑ to support our new proven superintendent, committed teachers and schools
- ☑ to support our town leaders in their joint resolution "to actively cooperate…addressing the long term financial issues impacting our community"
- ☑ **to rebuild pride in our community!**

UNITED we can restore some of our most needed services now!

Vote ☑ YES June 19

For more information or to subscribe to our email distribution list, go to **www.northandover.org**

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Do you honestly believe everything you are hearing?
It's time to get the facts!

- Using the same "comparable communities" as chosen by the North Andover Taxpayers Association (NATA), North Andover compares unfavorably to the average:
  - 11% lower annual revenues and 11% smaller operating budget – per capita
  - 42% lower in state aid
  - 11% lower spending per capita on town services such as fire, police and public works
  - 10% lower spending per student
  - Residential tax rate is 1% higher but our commercial rate is 14.5% lower

- North Andover's average property values are currently 39% higher than the state average; naturally our single family tax bill is correspondingly higher.

- School budget increases in the last four years have averaged 1.85% each year, significantly less than the current inflation rate, and not sufficient to cover rising enrollment (+290 students since Oct. 02), state-mandated programs and rising inflationary costs.

- The proposed FY07/08 school budget includes a 4.4% salary increase for teaching staff, not 7-9% as suggested by some. North Andover teachers on average make less than those in comparable communities; that combined with the current town environment is driving a high teacher turnover rate.

- The town library has been placed on warning status by the Massachusetts Library Association 3 out of the last 4 years. Loss of certification means loss of state grant monies and borrowing privileges at other local libraries.

- North Andover is currently ranked 348 out of 351 Massachusetts communities in student-to-teacher ratio.

- In 1998 Town Meeting voters approved the purchase of Foster Farm for $1.9 million, preventing unwanted development and providing a future building site for the town – a wise investment decision.

- There have been 9 approved overrides in North Andover in the last 25 years, of which only 4 were for the operating budget, accounting for only 12% of all approved override dollars.

Make your decision based on the FACTS.

to subscribe to our email list, go to

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June 19 7am - 8pm
North Andover High School

ABSENTEE VOTING until Noon June 18
Town Clerk's Office 978-688-9501

UNITED we can restore some of our most needed services now!

Vote ☑ YES June 19

Paid For By North Andover United