

Article 29/Fair Share Amendment – Spring 2022 Natick Town Meeting Resolution

WHEREAS, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery;

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation including safe, well-maintained roads and bridges, quality public transportation, and convenient ways to walk and bike around town; and

WHEREAS, Natick has miles of deficient roads, notwithstanding millions of dollars in local investment; and

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math, music, art, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, state funding for Natick public schools has not kept pace with expenses, and

WHEREAS, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, forcing students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; and

WHEREAS, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training, and make public higher education affordable again, and

WHEREAS, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that Natick Town Meeting supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment on the November 2022 State Election Ballot that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation, and furthermore, that Natick Town Meeting urges the legislature, pursuant to passage of said amendment, to annually authorize or appropriate funding to maintain Natick roads in a state of good repair and to increase funding for public education consistent with the cost increases for the Natick public schools.

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