

## Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

### Section III – Questions with Response Boxes – To Be Completed By Petition Sponsor

Article #29	Date Form Completed: 3/25/2022
Article Title: Non-Binding Resolution to Support Fair Share Amendment	
Sponsor Name: Joshua Ostroff	Email: joshua@ostroff.net

Question	Question
1	Provide the article motion exactly as it is intended to be voted on by the Finance Committee.
Response	(Type response here) See attached, thank you.
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the required Motion?
Response	The purpose is to allow Natick Town Meeting to take a position on a state constitutional amendment that would help support public education and transportation, chronically underfunded areas of need in Natick.
3	What does the sponsor gain from a positive action by Town Meeting on the motion?
Response	No personal gain.
4	Describe with some specificity how the sponsor envisions how: the benefits will be realized; the problem will be solved; the community at large will gain value in the outcome through the accompanied motion?
Response	If passed, the Fair Share Amendment would add approximately \$1.5 to \$2 billion in state revenue dedicated to transportation and education. Subject to legislative appropriation, Natick stands to benefit in the annual state funding for K-12 education through Chapter 70, our Chapter 90 allocation, funding for the MBTA and RTA service to Natick, and other programs, services and investments that benefit the community.
5	How does the proposed motion (and implementation) fit with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plan, comprehensive plan, and community values as well as relevant state laws and regulations
Response	This article does not directly relate to our Bylaws. The intention of this Article is to encourage state actions (both the passage of the Amendment and urging the legislature to target funds as

## Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

	<p>of FY 2024 to cities and towns) that support the Town’s plans and values by providing additional resources, and not increasing local taxes or other assessments on residents of limited means.</p> <p>The Fair Share Amendment would change <a href="#">Article 44 of the State Constitution</a>, which relates to the income tax, and would increase state revenue accordingly. Article 44 currently reads as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Full power and authority are hereby given and granted to the general court to impose and levy a tax on income in the manner hereinafter provided. Such tax may be at different rates upon income derived from different classes of property, but shall be levied at a uniform rate throughout the commonwealth upon incomes derived from the same class of property. The general court may tax income not derived from property at a lower rate than income derived from property, and may grant reasonable exemptions and abatements. Any class of property the income from which is taxed under the provisions of this article may be exempted from the imposition and levying of proportional and reasonable assessments, rates and taxes as at present authorized by the constitution. This article shall not be construed to limit the power of the general court to impose and levy reasonable duties and excises.</p> <p>The amendment would add the following paragraph:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To provide the resources for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation, all revenues received in accordance with this paragraph shall be expended, subject to appropriation, only for these purposes. In addition to the taxes on income otherwise authorized under this Article, there shall be an additional tax of 4 percent on that portion of annual taxable income in excess of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) reported on any return related to those taxes. To ensure that this additional tax continues to apply only to the commonwealth’s highest income taxpayers, this \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) income level shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases in the cost of living by the same method used for federal income tax brackets. This paragraph shall apply to all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.</p>
6	<p>Have you considered and assessed, qualified and quantified the various impacts to the community such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Town infrastructure (traffic, parking, etc.)</li><li>● Neighbors (noise, traffic, etc.);</li><li>● Environment and green issues (energy conservation, pollution, trash, encouraging walking and biking, etc.);</li></ul>

## Warrant Article Questionnaire Citizen Petitions Articles

Response	This article has the potential to support the Town's infrastructure, walking, biking, etc. While the Town has documented the needs, the envisioned benefits may not be quantified for purposes of this article.
7	Who are the critical participants in executing the effort envisioned by the article motion?  To this point what efforts have been made to involve those participants who may be accountable, responsible, consulted or just advised/informed on the impacts of executing the motion?
Response	As a non-binding resolution there are limited executional steps. It is likely that Natick, along with other cities and towns, will be cited as communities whose legislative bodies and elected officials urge support for the Fair Share Amendment in the coming months.
8	What steps and communication has the sponsor attempted to assure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Interested parties were notified in a timely way and had a chance to participate in the process, that</li> <li>● Appropriate town Boards &amp; Committees were consulted</li> <li>● Required public hearings were held</li> </ul>
Response	The Sponsor intends to request the Select Board and School Committee to support a similar resolution in the coming weeks.
9	Why is it required for the Town of Natick AND for the sponsor(s)?
Response	This article is not required, but it is beneficial to the public interest.
10	Since submitting the article petition have you identified issues that weren't initially considered in the development of the proposal?
Response	No.
11	What are other towns and communities in the Metro West area, or the Commonwealth of MA doing similar to what your motion seeks to accomplish
Response	Other communities are considering this, and Town Meeting will be advised of the status of those efforts when the article is before TM.
12	If this Warrant Article is not approved by Town Meeting what are the consequences to the Town and to the sponsor(s)? Please be specific on both financial and other consequences.
Response	It is not possible to specify the consequences, however, as Finance Committee and Town Meeting members are aware, our roads are in difficult condition for lack of funding, and we face a structural deficit that is significantly based on the increasing costs of providing quality public education and our limited options for revenue. So as a body, Town Meeting has a unique

Warrant Article Questionnaire  
Citizen Petitions Articles

	opportunity to make a statement in support of an equitable solution to these issues, which of course affect communities across the Commonwealth.
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