

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

April 11, 2022

Newburyport City Council Resolution in Support of the Fair Share Amendment

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and build a strong economy for 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, as we recover from the pandemic and in the future, new state revenue is necessary to improve our public schools and pre-K programs; rebuild crumbling roads, bridges, sidewalks, and bike paths; make high-quality public higher education affordable; and invest in fast and reliable public transportation; and

WHEREAS, student mental health concerns are on the rise, requiring schools to expend more resources ensuring the well-being of all students; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of students receiving special education services is growing, requiring schools to expend more resources ensuring all children can access the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, 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, the City of Newburyport's Capital Improvement Program projects \$16,405,947 in capital expenditures for schools over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the disrepair of Newburyport's streets and sidewalk is of concern to our residents and the City of Newburyport's Capital Improvement Program projects \$14,309,000 in capital expenditures for road and sidewalk repairs over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue estimated in 2019 that the tax increase would generate \$1.9 billion of new revenue and affect just half of one percent of all filers; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021, with a vote of 159 in favor to 41 opposed, the Legislature's Constitutional Convention voted to place the Fair Share Amendment on the November 2022 statewide ballot, where it is now set to be decided on by the voters; and

THEREFORE, be resolved that the Newburyport City Council supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Edward C. Cameron Jr.

Councillor Jennie L. Donahue

In City Council April 11, 2022:

Motion to refer to General Government and COTW by Councillor Cameron, seconded by Councillor Vogel. Roll call vote. 7 yes, 4 no (MW, SZ, BL, JM). Motion passes.