

# Honest Questions Honest Answers

**Get the facts before you vote.**  
[www.northandover.org](http://www.northandover.org)



**June 19 7am - 8pm**  
**North Andover High School**

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

**Police – Seniors – Library – Youth – Schools**  
**& protect your property value**

Do you *honestly* believe you have nothing at stake  
in the June 19 override outcome?

**The stakes are HIGH for all of us.**



Vote *Yes* for our Police

Vote *Yes* for our Seniors

Vote *Yes* for our Library

Vote *Yes* for our Youth

Vote *Yes* for our Schools

Vote *Yes* for our Future

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

**Vote  YES June 19**

# Honest Questions Honest Answers

- Q REVENUE: Why doesn't North Andover have enough money to pay for services? Is it a revenue or cost problem?**
- A** It is a revenue problem. When compared to *similar communities*, North Andover spends *less* to provide police, fire and education services to our community. We receive less in state aid and have a significantly lower commercial tax base to help support town services.
- Q LOSS OF SERVICE: What are *some* of the municipal and school services that have been lost in the last 4 years?**
- A** Our town has grown 8% since 2002 and we have decreased the number of sworn police officers, reduced Senior Services by 25% and reduced the Youth Center operating budget by 100% and its personnel by 25%. We have reduced library services to the point that our inter-library loan service is at risk of being terminated. We have reduced teaching staff in our schools, causing us to be ranked 348 out of 351 Massachusetts communities in teacher-to-student ratios. We have had a major loss of academic and related arts programs in our middle school and we have insufficient teaching staff to address the 29% population increase in the high school. We have closed the elementary and middle school libraries, imposed significant athletic fees and significantly reduced curriculum and professional development.
- Q OVERRIDE RESTORATION: What does the \$1.65 million override fund?**
- A** The override restores a full-time program coordinator to Senior Services, a full-time program coordinator at the Youth Center, a full-time librarian to the Steven's Memorial Library and one sworn police officer. It provides teaching staff to address overcrowding in the elementary classrooms, partially restores related arts programs and library services in the middle school and begins to restore some curriculum initiatives. It also provides funding for special educational programs to help reduce our reliance on high cost out-of-district placements.
- Q OVERRIDE COST: How much will the \$1.65 million override cost me?**
- A** The override will cost approximately \$34 for every \$100,000 of *assessed* property value. For an assessed home value of \$500,000 it will cost \$170 per year or 46 cents a day – less than a cup of coffee.
- Q OVERRIDE HISTORY: Has North Andover "constantly" used Proposition 2½ overrides to balance the budget?**
- A** No. North Andover has passed 9 Proposition 2½ overrides in 25 years. Five have been debt exclusion overrides not operational overrides. Debt exclusion overrides fund specific building and land purchase projects like the high school. These one time debt exclusions have accounted for 88% of all dollars approved for overrides in North Andover and once the projects are paid for the tax is removed. The last override passed by North Andover was in June 2000.
- Q REAL ESTATE VALUE: If the override does not pass, could it affect my property value?**
- A** Yes. *The National Association of Realtors 2006 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers - Massachusetts Report* found that "37% of buyers require and focus on the quality of the individual school district when selecting a home". People instinctively understand the relationship between good schools and home prices.
- Q NORTH ANDOVER LEADERSHIP: Does the town leadership support this override?**
- A** Yes. The Board of Selectman, the School Committee and the Finance Committee not only support the override, they have collectively pledged to cooperate and support each other in addressing the long term financial issues impacting the community.
- Q CHANCE FOR VOTER APPROVAL: Can this override pass?**
- A** Absolutely! The amount of support for the override has been overwhelming! This time it is different – it's for all of us. All it takes is a simple majority vote. **Every vote in your household counts.** Remember, the recent Georgetown override ballot failed by just 17 votes. We need you to vote in person on June 19th or by absentee ballot before June 18. Go to [www.northandover.org](http://www.northandover.org) or call the Town Clerk at 978-688-9505 for more information on absentee voting.

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

**Vote  YES June 19**