

Easthampton City Council Resolution In Support of the Fair Share Amendment

Sponsors: Koni Denham
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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: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, and safe ways to walk and bike around town¹; and

WHEREAS, Easthampton has 4 structurally deficient bridges, the Glendale Road Bridge requires three million dollars in repair, and bridges at Wonderlich, Torrey, and Fort Hill roads require 750 thousand dollars in improvements, in addition to ongoing needs in road and sidewalk repair; and

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; 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, which is significant for Easthampton students as 41% are considered economically disadvantaged; and

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

1. Boston Globe, [Mass. still short on transportation funding, report says](#)

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Easthampton City Council supports the proposed ballot question on the Fair Share Amendment to the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This amendment 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.

Approved by the Easthampton City Council on June 1, 2022.

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