

# BUDGET OVERRIDE

In September, the City Council will consider a Council Bill proposing a Budget Override ballot question as part of the November 4, 2025 City Election (totaling \$6M) for voter consideration. A majority vote of the City Council and approval by the Mayor is required to place the question on the ballot.

A number of factors have led to a structural deficit in our operating budget, including: increasing student needs/costs, inflationary costs, unfunded mandates, declining state and federal aid and expiring Covid-related funds.

## Proposed Ballot Question

Shall the City of Amesbury be allowed to assess an additional \$6,000,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the City and the Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?



### OVERRIDE PASSES

- Restore essential instructional staff and programs eliminated in FY25 and FY26 at our Public Schools
- Retain critical positions across all city departments including Police and Fire Departments, Council on Aging, and Public Library
- Stabilizing city and school budgets for upcoming years
- Maintain high quality local emergency services



### OVERRIDE FAILS

- Elimination of 27 teaching positions at our Public Schools
- Elimination of staff positions in city departments including the Police and Fire Departments, Council on Aging, and Public Library
- Increased response times and dependence on Mutual Aid for 911 calls
- Potential closure of Amesbury Innovation High School (AIHS)
- Inability to provide city support for community events
- Reduction of lawn mowing services at athletic fields and recreational areas

**Tax Bill Impact:** The expected cost of the proposed override would increase property taxes for the average single-family home in Amesbury (assessed value of \$626,318) by approximately \$964.53 per year or \$80.38 per month, IF we use all \$6,000,000 in one year.\* That would be far above the average annual budget increase and is not our intention.

\*The actual increase for each homeowner is based on the most up to date assessment for the home and the current fiscal year's budget

To stay informed, view the public forum schedule, and submit questions, visit:  
[www.amesburyma.gov/override](http://www.amesburyma.gov/override)

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