

Arguments For & Against Ballot Question #1 to Establish and Fund a Town Road Repair and Maintenance Stabilization Fund

Annual Town Election June 11, 2019

Town of Hubbardston

Question 1: Shall the town of Hubbardston be allowed to assess an additional \$350,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the municipal road repair and maintenance fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019?

IN FAVOR:

A YES vote will provide needed funding to rebuild our roads. For decades, Hubbardston had not invested in significant road repair and replacement. Our roads were in such disrepair, in 2010 MassDOT estimated almost \$20 million was needed to rebuild our road infrastructure! Since 2013, the Town has invested heavily in road repair and reclamation, leveraging millions of dollars of State and Federal funds. Still, much work needs to be done.

What stands in the way of timely reconstruction of our roads is funding. Hubbardston simply does not have the revenue needed to rebuild roads on a timely basis. Grant money is difficult to obtain for many of our secondary and neighborhood roads. This proposed override raises needed revenue which will be put directly into rebuilding our roads.

No one likes to pay more in taxes. But, we also don't like driving on crumbling roads. We don't like repairing our vehicle suspensions. We don't like suppressed home values because of terrible roads in front of our house. We don't like hearing money is not available to do anything but patch and fill potholes.

Combined with Chapter 90 road money, this additional tax revenue will allow Hubbardston to spend over \$700,000 yearly to rebuild our roads. A 5 year road plan has been developed and available to view which lays out the sequence of road reconstruction.

Vote YES to fund needed road repair. Vote YES to keep Hubbardston moving forward. Vote YES to make Hubbardston well positioned for the future.

Written by Michael Stauder, Board of Selectmen

AGAINST:

Proposition 2½ imposes limitations on the amount a city or town may raise by taxation. Approval of the ballot question will allow the Town to exceed that limit. For example, an increase of \$350,000 in real estate and personal property taxes is estimated, in turn, to increase the tax bill for an average single family residence assessed at \$257,471 by \$193.10.

Written by Town Counsel

The Town of Hubbardston is required by the provisions of Chapter 370 of the Acts of 2010, entitled, "An Act Authorizing the Town of Hubbardston to Send Certain Information to the Voters Relative to Ballot Questions", to provide to voters for each question presented to the voters on a Town ballot, arguments prepared by the principal proponents and opponents of the question. While efforts have been made to ensure that the factual assertions set forth herein are not inaccurate, please be advised that the statements do not reflect any endorsement by the Town generally, and the Town does not certify the truth or accuracy of any statement made.

In accordance with chapter 370 of the Acts of 2010 "An Act Authorizing the Town of Hubbardston to Send Certain Information to the Voters Relative to Ballot Questions," the Board is required to make certain information available to voters. Arguments "for" and "against" will be published at least 10 days prior to the Election on the Town's website, at each polling place, at the post office, and at the Town office building. Any resident wishing to receive a copy of the arguments by mail should notify the Town Clerk by calling 978-928-1400, x202 or sending an email to tclerk@hubbardstonma.us.