

NEWTON OVERSPENDS



NO OVERRIDE
VOTE **NO** ON MARCH 14TH

A message from No Override Newton

Again, thank you all for helping to defeat the override vote this past March.

Today the Massachusetts Department of Revenue certified that Newton has yet another \$27.9 Million in free cash after closing it's books for FY 2023 on June 30. This comes in addition to the \$5 Million found two weeks ago, on top of the already announced \$44+ Million that was reported by Mayor Fuller a month ago.

In the last six months since the property tax override failed, Newton has:

- **“Found” free cash of approximately \$80 Million,**
- **Maintained our AAA bond rating,**
- **Maintained a strong school system, and**
- **Declared in the state of the city address, that “Newton is fiscally sound”.**

The Mayor and City Council can spin this all they want in an attempt to not look bad. At the end of day, those in power who pushed for passage of the override vote were at best premature and should have waited a few months till they had a clearer picture of the city's financial standing. At worst, it was either incompetence or political gamesmanship.

The saddest part is that we just “found” \$80 Million dollars and our schools are only getting a minuscule portion of it. If the Newton Public schools are in true crisis - **we can do better.**

The results of the override election plus the revelation of all this “found” money, coupled with the lack of planning and attention to what truly matters proves that current city leadership has lost the confidence of the community. Our residents continue to feel profoundly disenfranchised, as neighbors sense political division and alienation throughout our community. Independently-minded city councilors are feeling silenced and marginalized.

In short, our current city leadership has created an unhealthy political environment in which it is impractical to nurture thoughtful, creative, solutions to the challenges we face as a community today such as **zoning reform**.

The political gamesmanship needs to end. Newton needs leaders, not politicians. We need leaders to unite our community and create a partnership with everyone in their constituency, not just those who wield the most political power. We need honest conversations between the current city leadership and our neighborhoods.

Our hope is that Newton's current political leadership takes a long, hard, thoughtful look in their collective mirrors, resisting the urge to avoid self-awareness by justifying their past behaviors, and take responsibility for their actions. We hope that as they take that proverbial look in the mirror, they reflect honestly and say “maybe there is something to what these residents are saying? Let’s build a relationship of trust so I can learn more”.

We believe there is hope. We strongly urge a renewed sense of cooperation and collaboration amongst our city leaders and with our residents and business owners. We call on our city leaders to honor our differences in order to unite us. Our leaders need to be fiscally responsible, strategic in their planning, reasonable in deliberations, practicing mutual respect, strive for excellence and promote equity for everyone in Newton.

The residents of Newton deserve better.