

TOGETHER FOR NATICK SCHOOLS

YES
#9

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NATICK CHAMPIONSfor**EDUCATION**

3 Rathbun Road, Natick, MA 01760

Dear Voter:

As Natick seniors, we are writing to ask you to join us in voting yes on Ballot Question 9 on November 7. We feel a profound sense of responsibility for the youngest generation of Natick citizens, and we urge you to vote in favor of the override to build a new Wilson Middle School and renovate Kennedy Middle School.

None of us has children in the Natick public schools, but we endorse the override. Why?

1. The middle schools are overcrowded, and Wilson Middle School is deteriorating to the point where most of its major systems and structures are failing.
2. The school committee, the selectmen, and town meeting have extensively studied the issue, and independent experts have determined that the Wilson Middle School should be replaced.
3. If we do not vote to build a new middle school, Natick children will be taught in trailers – a short-term solution that just postpones the need to construct a new school.
4. Like you, we are concerned about property taxes for senior citizens who live on modest incomes. However, we know that recent changes in state law will mean that middle-class seniors will pay less in taxes next year, even if the override passes.
5. Natick children deserve quality public schools, and we feel an obligation to take care of this generation.

Please take the time to read the reverse side of this flyer to learn about the tax cut that you may be eligible for in 2001. Thank you for your serious consideration of the middle school override, and we hope that you will decide to join us in voting yes on Ballot Question 9.

Sincerely,

Jay Ball

Erica Ball

Walter T. Burke

Marie Burke

Rev. Janet Crain

Dight Crain

Doris Davidoff

Bob Eisenmenger

Elizabeth Fancy

Frank Fessenden

Maureen Fessenden

Milton Gilbert

Mary Gilleran

Joe Keefe

Barbara Keefe

Rabbi Harold Kushner

Peter Lane

Eleanor Lane

Charlotte Lebowitz

Marshall Lebowitz

Harold Rosen

Tax Relief is on the Way

Eligible seniors will pay less in taxes

The Massachusetts State Legislature passed a new law that will provide up to \$750 in property tax relief beginning in 2001. As a result, **seniors with low or moderate incomes will pay less in taxes** even if the override for Wilson and Kennedy Middle Schools passes on November 7, 2000.

Who is Eligible?

- **Seniors** who make less than \$40,000, or \$60,000 for a couple, if their home is assessed at less than \$400,000.
- Senior **homeowners** whose property taxes and MWRA bills exceed 10% of their income.
- Senior **renters**, if 25% of their rent exceeds 10% of their income.

The Tax Credit targets seniors who live in homes that have greatly appreciated in value, and offers an **income tax refund of up to \$375 in 2001 and \$750 in 2002.**

Why Does This Matter to the School Override Election?

Most senior citizens will pay less in taxes next year. For seniors on a fixed income, it is reasonable to be concerned about local property taxes. However, on average, Natick homeowners will only see a \$78 increase on their property tax bills if voters approve the construction of a new Wilson Middle School and renovation of Kennedy Middle School. **That potential increase is dwarfed by tax relief in the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.**

Representative David Linsky said, “We fought hard to lower the tax burden for middle class seniors because we know they are struggling to pay property taxes on houses that are worth so much more than when they bought them. The cost of the override is less than the money seniors will save with this tax cut. **We need to build a bridge between the generations, not pit them against one another.**”

For more information about the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, contact the office of Representative David Linsky at (617) 722-2210.