

## 2013 Newton Override Proposal Information Sheet

Mayor Setti Warren has proposed, and the Board of Aldermen (BofA) has approved, a series of three overrides totaling \$11.4 million for the residents of Newton, with the election to be held on March 12, 2013. The last override vote in 2008 for \$12 million failed by a 55%/45% split. The previous, and only successful, override in Newton was approved in 2002. The Mayor has said that if these overrides are approved, he will not be asking for another one for 5 years.

The City has created a calculator to determine how residents' tax bills will change if this proposed override were approved. The cost is \$.50 per \$1000 evaluation, or \$343 per year for the median home, valued at \$686,000. To use the calculator, please click here: [Override Tax Calculator](#).

Below is a table outlining the specifics of the overrides, with the departments receiving the increased resources and the needs that they will be addressing.

Amount			
<b>\$8.4 million Operating Override</b>			
	\$4.5 million	Newton Public Schools	Increase in teachers, professional development, and technology to meet the growing enrollment needs of the schools <sup>1</sup> ; \$1.0 million for bonding to meet the short-term space needs in the first year—basically funding modulars in the most crowded schools.
	\$2.4 million	Newton Public Schools; Fire Department	Debt service for either the expansion or construction of a new Zervas Elementary School, relocation for Fire Wire Division, renovation and reconstruction of Newton Centre Fire Station #3 and Fire Headquarters
	\$1.0 million	Public Works	Sidewalk and road repair, representing a 60% increase in annual funding [NOTE: With this new money annually, the city will have no roads considered deficient in 15 years.]
	\$.5 million	Police Department	Four new police positions, new cruisers and technology to address increased number of burglaries and bike/pedestrian accidents <sup>2</sup>
<b>\$3.0 Million Debt Exclusion Override</b>			
	\$1.3 million	Angier Elementary School	Debt service for new school, estimated to last for 30 years and cover the total cost of \$35 to \$37 million with a 25% reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)

<sup>1</sup> FY2013 enrollment has increased by 257 students. Over the next three years, student enrollment is expected to increase by 570 students.

<sup>2</sup> The current number of police officers (139) is the lowest number in decades. While overall crime is down, the number of burglaries and break-ins has increased.

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	\$1.7 million	Cabot Elementary School	Debt service for new school, estimated to last for 30 years and cover the total cost of \$45 to \$47 million with a 25% reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)
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### NOTES:

- The operating override funds must be spent in the first year as specified by the Mayor. After that first year, there is flexibility.
- Construction costs for Zervas are included in the operating override because the MSBA will not fund three schools in Newton at once, and because Zervas is not one of the worst schools in Newton. The construction is needed to alleviate overcrowding conditions in the elementary schools, with Zervas in a key geographic role and one of the smallest schools in the system with the ability to add substantial space. By adding this project to the operating override, the project can begin much sooner.
- MSBA requires separate debt exclusion override votes on the two school construction projects to which it would contribute and oversee.
- The override does not include any funds for pension obligations.
- Changes to the senior tax relief program are currently in the Finance Committee of the BoA. The proposals would use the CPI (Consumer Price Index) to annually increase the asset limit for exemptions (currently \$40,000) as well as the exemption amount.