

**TAX OVERRIDE VOTE
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OF 12%-14%**

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS NOTICE

The Town of Holland is planning to surprise the voter on February 5, 2008 as they vote for the Presidential Primary. The Town shall issue a town ballot seeking to raise the tax levy limit by either **\$475,000.00** or **\$565,000.00**, if approved your property taxes shall increase **12 % or 14%** respectively.

The most disturbing issue is the fact that the Town doesn't need these funds, * ***“our intent is not to spend all this money...”*** This is a plan to have the voter give the town permission to raise the levy limit as they, (the Selectmen) see fit. It is the Board of Selectmen (B.O.S.) and Finance Committee's ***idea*** of long term planning. The 475,000 dollar increase would help the town for 3-5 years and the 565,000 dollar increase would help the town for 5 - 7 years, only if these funds are not spent by the Town Meeting this year. ***Further these extra funds shall not create new services for the Town or will not increase any current services to the Town.*** The B.O.S. states that ****“this is a one-time increase to the tax levy limit.”*** However if passed it becomes **a permanent tax increase** that will grow by 2.5% compounded each year thereafter.

As the town plans for the upcoming budget they have found that to fund all the increases sought by the various Department Heads that the budget would be **\$270,000.00** over revenues collected by the town. **If the town put together a balanced budget it would have to cut \$270,000.00 or 4.8% of the total budget of \$5,521,348.00.**

During the public meeting(s) that were held on Thursday evenings at the Town Hall and shown on public access T.V. I had brought up the question of when the B.O.S. would inform the public of these facts I was told that the newspapers, (*The Worcester Telegram, and the Springfield Republican*) had the information and would be reporting the news. This did not happen further the sound on the cable public access channel was turned off to many subscribers.

The real question to the voter should be;

Do you want to increase your property taxes by 12% or 14% or would you rather have the Town cut its budget by 4.8%?

To increase the levy limit and your property taxes vote YES on either amount.

To vote against the property tax increases vote NO on both questions, (1) \$475,000.00 and on question (2) \$565,000.00.

VOTE ON FEBRUARY 5th

Also vote in the Town Elections in June as these questions shall appear on that ballot.

Handout Prepared by: Jim Foley,
Former Selectman and Finance Board Committee Member

**** Quotes by Messers Wetlaufer, Johnson and Members of the Finance Committee on 1-17-08 at a Finance Committee Public Hearing.***