

Tax Override Win on February 5 Would Raise Holland Property Tax 12% - 14%

Please take the time to read this notice

The Town of Holland is planning to surprise voters on February 5 as they vote in the presidential primary. The town will issue a town ballot seeking to raise the tax levy limit by either **\$475,000** or **\$565,000**. If approved, your property taxes will increase **12 % or 14%** respectively.

The town doesn't need these funds: "Our intent is not to spend all this money..." said Mr. Wettlaufer, chairman of the Board of Selectmen at a Public Hearing on January 18. This is a plan to have the voter give the town permission to raise the levy limit as the selectmen see fit. It is the Board of Selectmen's and Finance Committee's idea of long-term planning. The \$475,000 increase would help the town for 3 - 5 years and the \$565,000 increase for 5 -7 years — assuming these funds are not spent by the Town Meeting this year.

The Board of Selectmen also stated: "Further, these extra funds shall not create new services for the Town or will not increase any current services to the Town" and "this is a one-time increase to the tax levy limit." But if passed, it becomes **a permanent tax increase** that will grow by 2.5% compounded each year.

To fund all increases sought by the various department heads, the budget has a shortfall of \$270,000 despite the 2.5% annual increase.

The alternative would be to **balance the budget** and increase spending by the lawfully allowed 2.5% instead of the 7.8% proposed by the Board of Selectmen. The difference between the 7.8% and the 12% - 14% are the funds the Board of Selectmen does not need and intends not to spend . . .

The real question is:

Do you want a permanent increase of your property taxes by 12% or even 14%?

**If not, vote NO against the property tax increases.
Vote NO on Question 1 and Question 2 on February 5!**

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