



Support Arlington's Future

Arlington selectmen voted unanimously to place a \$6.49 million override before voters as part of a three-year fiscal stability plan to address the town's structural deficit. The override would maintain services in 2012 and add to reserve funds to meet deficits in the next two years as well. If it fails, the town will have to make immediate cuts to address a \$4 million deficit. State and federal aid is declining. It's up to us to make sure Arlington is a great place to live. Here's what's at stake if we don't pass the override.

Public Safety. Our police department currently has the lowest staffing level per capita in the metropolitan area. We will lose two police officers and three fire fighters, likely resulting in longer response time for fires and other non-medical emergencies, fewer investigations and the deactivation of an engine company at certain times.

It's up to us to maintain safe levels of police and fire staffing.

Schools. This year the school department cut 32 teachers or 7.5% of its faculty. If more teachers are cut next year, elementary class sizes will average 27 and be as high as 33; at the secondary level, there will be an average of 31 students per class. The high school will have some classes with 40 students and will not be able to provide sufficient assistance to students who need extra academic support. Art, music, health, phys ed, reading and math support, and electives will be reduced or eliminated at all levels.

It's up to us to make sure Arlington students receive a good education.

Public Works. The DPW's staffing has been reduced by *two-thirds* since 1990 and another nine positions will be lost next year. There will be less road and sidewalk repair, less street sweeping and reduced park, field and cemetery maintenance. Eight of the positions we will lose would have been available for snow removal operations.

It's up to us to maintain roads and parks, trash and snowplow services.

Libraries. Staff and materials will be cut leading to reduced hours and fewer books, cds, databases, newspapers and periodicals. Deep cuts will jeopardize the library's certification, risking a loss of borrowing privileges through the Minuteman Library Network.

It's up to us to support excellent library services for all.

Health, Youth and Seniors. A part-time health inspector and funding for youth counseling will be lost. The Council on Aging will lose its half-time social worker, and the town may not be able to fund transportation programs that are threatened by the loss of federal grant money.

It's up to us to protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

It's up to us. Vote Yes on June 7.