



Sticking to the FACTS

Many people in Arlington received an email or a flyer requesting you vote “no” on the override. Yes for Arlington has a different perspective on the information provided in those documents. For more information about the override, please visit www.YesforArlington.org.

They say: Why do we need a \$6 million override when the Town Manager said we would save \$3 million by forcing town employees onto GIC?

The savings from changing health plan coverage are already built into the override proposal. In order to avoid cuts, the town must both bring down the cost of health care and pass the override.

They say: If teachers chose a temporary pay freeze and more reasonable benefits, we wouldn't need an override.

The teachers' contract has NO raises for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. They have also agreed to pay a larger percentage of their health insurance. However, this is not enough to balance the budget. The citizens of Arlington will also have to do their part and pass the override.

They say: The town is not living within its means.

The town is living within its means and has balanced its budget every year by economizing and making cuts. The cuts required to balance next year's budget are so severe that town leaders want to give Arlington a choice – raise taxes or make the cuts.

They say: If the override passes, we'll be asked for another override in 2 years.

If the override passes, Arlington's leaders pledged not to place another override before voters for at least three years.

They say: The superintendent and CFO misplaced \$1.5 million.

The schools ran an operating deficit because grant and other revenues were less than expected. Changes to accounting procedures and increased reporting have been implemented to prevent issues such as these in the future.

They say: The sky did not fall when the Override was defeated in 2003.

After 2003 the town lost 41 positions and the school department lost over 50 positions. Services were impacted in many significant ways, including the loss of the police traffic unit, school librarians and reading specialists. Last year the town lost 8 positions and the schools lost 30 teachers. If the override doesn't pass, an additional 31 positions will be cut by the town, and the schools will cut 60 more - most of them classroom teachers. These losses will be even harder on Arlington than 2003. The override will prevent the cuts and return several positions cut last year.

They say: Two family homes will experience much higher tax increases.

The override will increase taxes equally according to the valuation of the property. If a two-family home is more expensive, taxes will be higher. However, if the taxes are shared by two households, the increase per household could well be less than for a single family home.

Calculate your tax at our website: <http://www.yesforarlington.org/faq/taxpayer/>

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