

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, BIT BY BIT,
 the Town of Reading has eliminated most of our discretionary services in an effort to live within the constraints of Proposition 2 1/2. We have eliminated all capital improvement programs, cut employees, eliminated programs and spent all of our reserves. If this override fails, the cuts required to balance the budget will come directly from our most vital core services. Once we make these devastating cuts it will take years to recover.

Peter Hechenbleikner,
 TOWN MANAGER
 "After three consecutive years of cuts, I have serious doubts about our ability to continue to operate a Town Government without these additional funds. State Aid has been drastically cut leaving Reading on our own to fund essential services."

Harry K. Harutunian, Ph.D.,
 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
 "Without an override, the proposed cuts would devastate the school system and reverse the academic progress we have made in the past decade."

VOTE YES
 Tuesday, April 8 • 7AM-8PM
 RMHS Field House
 VOTE YES with Pride, Reading Pride

PLACE LABEL HERE

RESORTED
 STANDARD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT 343
 N. READING, MA

READING
 PRIDE
 24 Smith Avenue
 Reading, MA 01867

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Devastating cuts ahead.

Look inside for details



www.readingpride.org

Vote *YES* with Pride

“The Town can no longer make budget cuts seamless to the taxpayer. Our financial reserves have been depleted. Our credit rating has been lowered. I am very concerned about Reading’s financial health.”

—Beth Klepeis, TOWN FINANCE DIRECTOR



Greg Burns, READING FIRE CHIEF

“The last 3 years of cuts have already forced reductions in firefighters; additional cuts will drastically reduce our capability to respond to medical calls, fires and other emergencies. Loss of personnel will mean taking the ladder truck out of service resulting in loss of mutual aid; other towns will not answer Reading’s call in emergencies.”



Karen Callan and Joseph Finigan, READING SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

“The loss of classroom teachers will be huge. Cuts to curriculum, materials and essential specialists will be devastating to every child in the Reading School System. Both the K-12 remedial reading program and middle school foreign language will be eliminated. Sixth grade social studies and science instruction will be reduced to half year programs. The cumulative cuts will wipe out the progress our schools have made over the last ten years.”



Robert Silva, POLICE CHIEF

“Reductions in police officers, dispatchers, and crossing guards compromises public safety and increases the liability to the town. Our ability to implement Homeland Security measures is also compromised.”



Kimberly Lynn, READING PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR

“The Library is open fewer hours now than it has been in its entire history. If the override doesn’t pass, the Library will lose State certification and you can forget “business as usual” at the Reading Public Library.”



Ted McIntire, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

“Our roads are in terrible shape. After this winter they will be even worse. The override provides funds to give us a start in fixing them.”

A YES vote on Question 1 will provide an additional \$4.5M operating funds necessary to keep essential services in place.

No is not a *SOLUTION*.

READING
PRIDE



www.readingpride.org

PAID FOR BY READING PRIDE, MATTHEW WILSON, CHAIR