

Top 10 reasons to Vote YES

on Question #1 on April 8th

“Over the past three years, 50 municipal and school positions have been eliminated. Without a general override, an additional 110 out of 800 town-wide positions will also be eliminated.”

—Beth Klepeis, TOWN FINANCE DIRECTOR

- 1. Firefighters eliminated**
down from nine to seven per shift

Loss of mutual aid—no other community will respond to Reading’s multi-alarm or simultaneous fires;
all response times will be delayed
- 2. 32 Elementary School Teachers, librarians and tutors cut**

Class size expands up to 33 students;
all computer labs and libraries un-staffed;
reading/writing program compromised;
no reading or math tutorials
- 3. Reading Public Library**
reduced staff, hours, resources

Loss of State certification;
no inter-library loans; reduced programs
- 4. 18 Middle School Teachers**
eliminated

Gr.6 sci. & social studies reduced to ½ year each;
no Middle School foreign language;
class size balloons up to 40 students
- 5. 911 dispatchers** reduced to one per shift

Unable to stay on the phone until help arrives if another call comes in.
- 6. “Jaws of Life” apparatus restricted**
due to ladder truck removal

Significantly reduced ability to rescue victims from car accidents within the critical “golden hour” necessary to save lives
- 7. 17 High School Teachers and guidance counselors**
eliminated

Elimination of K-12 remedial reading program affecting MCAS and graduation;
AP courses in jeopardy; Latin eliminated;
guidance staff load up to 450 students, affecting college applications
- 8. Two Police** positions eliminated

Decreased ability to provide public safety, including:
limited or stationary patrols
limited criminal investigations
non-compliance with sexual offender law
- 9. Ladder truck removed from service**
due to reduced staffing

Compromised ability to:
extract victims
reach upper floors
vent roofs
- 10. Seven DPW** positions lost

No mosquito spraying;
reduced pothole repair & street sweeping;
park maintenance limited to mowing—
no equipment repair or trash removal.

Vote YES! NO is not a solution



A YES vote raises \$4.5 million in additional revenue to maintain current services. The cost to the average assessed property (\$355K) is \$562/year or \$47/month.

A NO vote cuts VITAL services. The net cost could be in the \$1000s in decreased property values, increased insurance rates and increased fees. Reading will be a severely diminished community.

To volunteer or ask questions, call Elaine at 944-1817

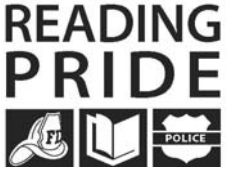
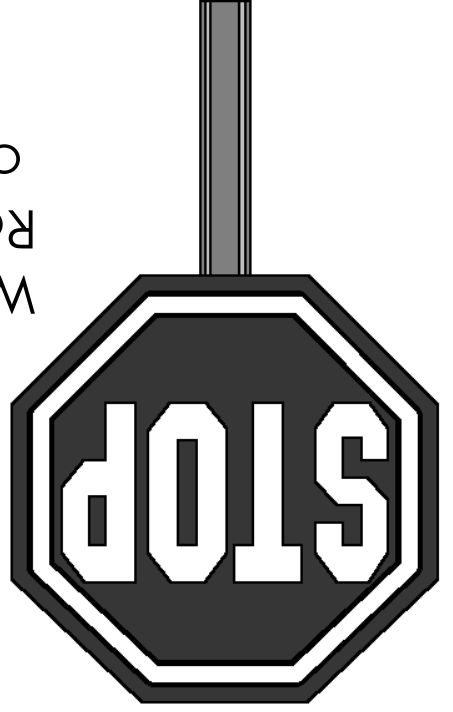
Paid for by Reading Pride, Matthew Wilson, Chair

www.readingpride.org

Look inside for details ⇐

Without your YES vote on April 8th, Reading will be a diminished community on July 1st.

Devastating cuts



24 Smith Avenue
Reading, MA 01867

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 75
READING, MA

**Vote YES
On #1**

**Tues., April 8
7AM—8PM
RMHS Field House**

**Public Forum
April 3rd, 7:30PM
Parker Middle Sch.**

PLACE LABEL HERE

Public Forum — Thurs., April 3rd, 7:30PM @ Parker — ask your questions!

How did we get to this point? Over the past three years, the town of Reading has cut firefighters, police officers, teachers, library staff and capital expenditures. No department has been spared.

Reading has spent nearly all of our reserves, over \$4 million, in an effort to maintain services while living within Prop. 2 1/2 from the current crisis at the state level. The state has cut our local aid by \$1M and will continue to reduce aid. Reading must come up with the money for local services. No one else is going to bail us out. It is up to us!

Doesn't Reading spend more than other towns already? Reading has a revenue problem, not a spending problem. Our per capita spending ranks 108th lowest out of 351 communities in the state, yet our schools rank close to 20th on the MCAS, and our police, fire, library and other town services are all top notch. In every category we spend less than many surrounding communities.

Reading has a revenue problem, not a spending problem. The Jordan's/Home Depot developments will not solve this crisis. The cash from the sale of the landfill will not be available to the town until the landfill is capped, and even then the money is restricted by law and cannot be used to fund operating (day-to-day) expenses. In addition, tax revenues from all these projects will not be realized this fiscal year.

Why don't we use the money from the landfill? Folks on a limited income may avail themselves of the MA "Circuit Breaker" program which provides property tax relief to low and moderate income senior citizens. For more info call Representative Brad Jones (R) at 617-722-2100 or visit: www.dor.state.ma.us/help/guides/Abate_Amend/personal/issues/realstate.htm

How does this tax increase effect folks on a fixed income? The override is set at the amount necessary to maintain the current level of services.

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Does the override have to be so large?

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