

Resolution on the TABOR II Question:

Where As, the Town Council opposes the so-called TABOR II question that will appear on the November ballot and which would significantly modify current limits on State spending and on the municipal property tax levy:

Where As, the spending and levy limits established in LD 1 have been achieving their stated goal of reducing the tax burden on Maine citizens;

Where As, the requirement that state spending above the spending limit and most tax increases be subject to approval at a statewide referendum will increase both state and local expenses and move toward a system of budgeting by referendum which, as shown by experience elsewhere, is an ineffective way to make budgetary and service level decisions;

Where As, By establishing the current year as the basis from which future state spending increases are to be calculated, state spending, particularly for the highway fund, will be starting from a depressed level reflecting the impact of the current recession;

Where As, Tax policy, budgets, and service levels are best decided through the core processes of representative government where the people elect individuals and charge them with the responsibility of making decisions based on data, analysis, debate, and public opinion while balancing the need for services and expenditures that address the common good with the ability of citizens to pay for such services.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CUMBERLAND TOWN COUNCIL THAT

We urge all citizens to become fully informed on this proposal prior to the November election by becoming familiar with the language of the proposal and reviewing materials provided by those supporting and opposing this measure.