

OVERRIDE TO HIRE 8 FIREFIGHTERS

- **Proposed by Board of Selectmen to improve effective response to entire Town and improve safety of Firefighters**
- **Addressed at public forums**
 - **January 21, 2020, High School Auditorium**
 - **February 25, 2020, Hermann Room of Main Library, joint Finance Committee/Board of Selectmen**
- **Normal practice is to hold Town Meeting vote before Ballot Vote**

OVERRIDE TO HIRE 8 FIREFIGHTERS

- **Question # 1: Town Election Ballot, May 19, 2020**
 - Authorizes additional taxes to pay for wages and benefits of 8 Firefighters
- **Article #14: Spring 2020 Town Meeting Warrant, Date TBD**
 - Originally April 13, 2020, Deferred due to COVID-19
 - Authorizes expenditures for wages and benefits of 8 Firefighters contingent on approval of override on the ballot.

ELECTION BALLOT QUESTION #1

- **Shall the Town of Falmouth be allowed to assess an additional \$971,507 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the salaries and benefits of eight (8) firefighters for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020?**

PROPOSITION 2½ BALLOT QUESTION FORMS

The form of each type of Proposition 2½ question is prescribed by [G.L. c. 59, § 21C](#). To properly present a question to the voters, the following statutory language must be used:

Levy Limit Override ([G.L. c. 59, § 21C\(g\)](#)):

Shall the (city/town) of _____ be allowed to assess an additional \$ _____ in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of (state the purpose(s) for which the monies from this assessment will be used) for the fiscal year beginning July first _____?

Yes _____ No _____

SOURCE: MA Department of Revenue, Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Questions: Requirements and Procedures August 2017

TOWN MEETING ARTICLE #14

RECOMMENDATION (Finance Committee): That the Town will vote to appropriate \$971,507 for the purpose of funding the salaries and benefits of 8 firefighters for Fiscal Year 2021 contingent upon voter approval of the passage of a proposition 2 ½ override ballot question under General Laws Chapter 59 Section 21C.

WHY DO WE NEED 8 MORE FIREFIGHTERS?

- Provides 2 additional Firefighters for every shift 24/7
- # Calls nearly doubled over past 20 years
- Implementing new requirement that every engine/ladder deployed must have at least 2 Firefighters
- Improves effective response for entire town

WHAT WILL IT COST?

- **The tax impact of the proposed override would be 8 cents on the tax rate. The increase in the tax bill for a home with a median assessed value of \$378,000 would be \$30.24 per year.**



QUESTIONS?

5/12/2020

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- <http://www.falmouthmass.us/> – Government – Current Town Meeting
 - Town Meeting Warrant Booklet – Article #14
 - Article #14 Information Sheet

- **Question 1:** Assess additional \$971,507 in property taxes to fund salaries and benefits of 8 firefighters – AKA Prop 2 ½ Override;
- **Question 2:** Non-binding Resolution regarding safer storage and heightened security for spent nuclear fuel at Pilgrim;
- **Question 3:** Charter Amendments – General Provisions;
- **Question 4:** Charter Amendments – Town Meeting Membership

- **Question 5:** Charter Amendments – Finance Committee
- **Question 6:** Charter Amendments – Board of Selectmen and Policy Leadership
- **Question 7:** Charter Amendments – Board of Selectmen Powers
- **Question 8:** Charter Amendments – Planning Board Recommendations

- **Question 9:** Charter Amendments – Appointed Town Boards
- **Question 10:** Charter Amendments – Revision of Bylaws
- **Question 11:** Charter Amendments – Housing Authority
- **Question 12:** Charter Amendments – Board of Assessors