

Proposition 2.5 Resolution

WHEREAS, the stated policies of the Malden School Committee require that “All decisions made by this Committee will be made with priority given to the purposes set forth, *most crucial of which is the optimal learning of the children enrolled in our public schools.*” (emphasis added).

WHEREAS, the stated policies also require that the School Committee will encourage the administration to seek and secure all possible sources of state, federal, and other special funds that will enhance the educational opportunities for the children in our schools.

WHEREAS, an initial budget, released in January 2026, from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) indicates that the state will require Malden to increase school funding from local revenue by \$3.933 million for fiscal year 2027.

WHEREAS, state aid for Malden schools is expected to increase by only \$501,000 in fiscal year 2027, which is \$5.3 million less than Malden received in increased aid during fiscal year 2026

WHEREAS, the state also expects Malden to provide an additional \$1.6 million to cover a school spending deficit from fiscal year 2025, and city officials anticipate that number may double when the new budget year begins in July 2026

WHEREAS, local revenue growth is unable to keep pace with both the increase in required local contribution

WHEREAS, state law, known as Proposition 2.5, prevents municipalities from generating additional local revenue by limiting tax increases to 2.5% over the previous year, plus revenue from new construction

WHEREAS, an override of Proposition 2.5, as will be presented to Malden voters on March 31, 2026, will provide additional local revenue of up to \$8.2 million to help Malden meet the school spending requirements set by the state

WHEREAS, additional revenue from a Proposition 2.5 override will help Malden fund its schools without compromising important city services essential to student safety, such as police and fire response

WHEREAS, additional revenue from a Proposition 2.5 override will help Malden provide access to well-funded parks, public recreational opportunities, and public libraries, each of which

provide key wraparound supports that promote the “optimal learning experiences of the children enrolled in our public schools” (as quoted above)

WHEREAS, cuts to City services if the Prop 2.5 override fails could be in the range of 40-60 positions, significantly reducing services from the fire department, police department, library, teen center, recreation department, public facilities department, and other departments that directly support Malden Public Schools and our students, families, and staff

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee supports a local revenue increase to benefit students and families in Malden Public Schools both in terms of the services they receive in district schools as well as the services they receive as residents of Malden

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee declares that a local revenue increase of \$5.4 million is necessary to prevent dramatic budget cuts – affecting Malden Public Schools as well as city services – and that a local revenue increase of \$8.2 million is necessary to fully fund Malden schools at the requirements set by the state without the dramatic budget cuts outlined above.